

Hartest Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held at The Institute on Wednesday 5 October 2011 at 7pm.

Present: Cllrs Chris Browning (Chairman), David Burr, Howard Hirst, Jo Pask, David Turner and Scilla Turner
In Attendance: Dist Cllr J Long, Mrs S Turner, PCSO 3169 L Chapman and Mrs P M Lamb (Parish Clerk) and Mrs A Warren-Thomas

ACTION

11/082 Cllr Browning welcomed Mrs Scilla Turner to the Parish Council as a new co-opted Member. Mrs Turner signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

11/083 Apologies for absence: Co Cllr R Kemp, Dist Cllr J Long and PCSO H Partington

11/084 Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the 7 September 2011 were approved and signed.

11/085 Matters Arising: Cllr Burr advised that the field he had suggested as a possible site for a Jubilee bonfire has now been cultivated and will therefore be unavailable as a bonfire site. It was agreed this matter would be reviewed early next year.

11/086 Declarations of interest: None

11/087 Public Forum: No matters raised.

11/088 Police report for the period 6 September to 4 October 2011

During this time no crimes had been recorded within the parish. Historically, at this time of year, there is an increase in heating oil thefts. We would be happy to distribute crime prevention advice via the village oil consortium, or some other means.

We are currently reviewing our engagement events in the villages and welcome any suggestions you may have for engaging with the local community to identify their concerns.

If you have any information regarding any offences, please let Babergh West SNT know, or contact Crimestoppers anonymously.

11/089 County Councillor's Report:

Full Council: 22 September dealt with constitutional amendments and the handling of petitions. SCC responded to a petition from a member of the public, regarding Place Court the Older Persons Home in Haverhill.

The petitioner and signatories objected to any proposals by SCC to transfer the management or ownership of this home to a third party, or to close the facility. This petition is a result of the CC's policy to divest itself of care homes. The petition was heard by Full Council. The last two items covered both the appointment of Lucy Robinson as County Council interim Chief Executive, and the appointment of the Independent Community Member to Suffolk County Council's Standards Committee. Both items were passed.

Next Full Council meeting: 15 December at 2pm.

Cabinet and Scrutiny Meetings: Scrutiny Committee - 6 October, covering;

- The Future of Highways Services in Suffolk

- Transport Issues for Young People Task & Finish Group Interim Report
- Academies and Free Schools Scrutiny Task and Finish Group Cabinet Meeting - 11 October will cover;
- Prostitution and Sexual Exploitation – To consider SCC’s contribution to the revised Joint Strategy to stop street prostitution in Ipswich and to reduce off-street prostitution and sexual exploitation across Suffolk.
- Ipswich Rail Chord – Consultation by Infrastructure Planning Commission – To consider whether SCC, as Statutory Consultee, supports or objects to part or all of the proposal being made by Network Rail for a new rail link in Ipswich.
- Local Government Resource Review: Proposals for Business Rates Retention – To consider SCC’s response to the Government consultation, which closes on 24 October 2011.

The papers can be found here, under 'The Cabinet'.

<http://committeeminutes.suffolkcc.gov.uk/meeting.aspx?d=11/10/2011&c=The%20Cabinet>

This meeting will take place in Lowestoft, and begin at 11 o'clock.

Stars of Suffolk: These awards, a joint venture between the Evening Star and SCC, along with sponsorship from local businesses and organisations, has been running since 2009. There are 13 nomination categories, including Carer of the Year, Fire Service Person of the Year etc, as well as an Overall Winner and Special Recognition. Nominations for the awards will close on the 28 October at 5pm, and can be made at: <http://www.onesuffolk.co.uk/starsofsuffolk>

The awards ceremony will take place on the 2 December at Endeavour House in Ipswich.

The final stages of the Mobile Library Consultation will take place this month, with the deadline for responses being the 16 October.

The council is consulting on the plans set out in the July Cabinet paper;

- to move from fortnightly to monthly or four-weekly stops, as neighbouring library authorities have done, and
- to remove stops in communities that are served by a static library.

This would save an estimated £225,000 a year, while maintaining the mobile library service to communities that do not have a static library.

For more information, including regarding the previous Library Consultation, please head to;

<http://www.suffolk.gov.uk/CouncilAndDemocracy/Consultations/MobileLibraryConsultation.htm>

The results of this consultation will be published at the Cabinet meeting on 8 November at which the administration will decide the future structure of the Library Service in Suffolk. This will then be put to Full Council in December, but any changes approved will not be put in place until April 2012.

Budget Consultation: SCC has decided to launch a budget consultation to gather the public’s views prior to the budget setting process. Budget savings of £50m must be made over the next two years.

The consultation allows people to submit their views on what they feel are the most important parts of the CC’s budget, as well as to make comments about potential future savings the Council may not have yet considered. For the consultation form etc, visit

<http://www.suffolk.gov.uk/CouncilAndDemocracy/Consultations/WeAreListening.htm>

11/090 District Councillor’s Report: No report in Cllr Long’s absence.

11/091 Finance & Administration:

- (a) Current Bank Balance: £20,619.78
- (b) Annual Return: This has been approved by BDO, the external auditor, with one observation made.

- Income: The second part of the precept, £4,500, and a refund in respect of cemetery rates, of £17.15, had been received.
 Payments: The following payments were approved:
 Mrs P M Lamb: Clerk's salary, expenses etc Jul-Sep: £866.75
 BDO: Audit year ended 31.3.11: £192.00 Clerk
 Contact Magazine: Advert prep and publication: £10.20 Clerk
- (c) Grants: The proposed advertisement had not been published. Grant requests will therefore be placed in Contact's November and December editions, with the deadline amended to end December. Further notices will be placed in April and May 2012. Clerk
- (d) Website: Cllr Pask reported that Joy Banham is to provide holiday back up for Sue Lewis, who is doing a sterling job.
- (e) Co-Option: Mrs Scilla Turner was formally welcomed as a new Member.
- (f) Parish Council Vacancy: An application, received from Mrs Anna Warren-Thomas, was read to Members. It was agreed to co-opt Mrs Warren-Thomas at the next PC meeting.
- (g) Community Shop: It was reported that no contact has been made with the Parish Council following the dissolution of the Committee. The PC had funded the Shop Committee in respect of a planning application and towards other costs. It was agreed a letter would be sent to the Committee asking its intentions for that funding. All
 CB/Clerk
- (h) Mobile Libraries Consultation: Members were reminded that this closes on 16 October and were asked to make personal representation in this regard. It was also agreed that the PC would write of its disappointment that the consultation had not been more widely publicised, including on the mobile library itself. Generally, the consultation forms had to be requested, rather than being readily displayed in both mobile and static libraries. The PC would seek a new proper consultation process with sufficient publicity and an extension to the closing date, as it has been advised that customer numbers have increased over recent months in the light of public transport cuts and rising fuel costs. DB
 Clerk
 CB/Clerk
- (i) Training: Cemetery Management Course – SALC – 15.11.11: Following discussion, it was agreed that three places would be reserved on this course. Clerk

11/092 Planning:

- (a) Decisions received: None
 (b) Withdrawn applications: None
 (c) New applications: None
 (d) Tree Preservation Order/Tree Conservation Area Applications: None
 (e) Appeals: Oakhill House, Somerton Road: This appeal to allow the felling of one English Oak was dismissed. Cllr Browning thanked Cllrs Pask and D Turner for attending on behalf of the Parish Council.
 (f) Other Planning Matters: BDC Core Strategy: Consultation runs from 10 October to 2 December 2011. Cllrs Burr and D Turner to attend workshops; Cllr Turner on 3.11.11 at Acton and Cllr Burr on 15.11.11 at Great Cornard School. Clerk
 DB/DT

- 11/093 Green, Cemetery and Churchyard
- (a) War Memorial: All quotations received will be gathered and details of a possible grant application to the War Memorial Trust obtained. This item is carried forward to the next meeting. Clerk
 - (b) Cemetery Works - Cemetery Notice etc: This item to be carried over to next meeting. Clerk
 - (c) Cemetery - Adjoining Land: Cllr Burr is awaiting information.
 - (d) Undergrounding of Cables near Church: The Parish Council has received a proposal from UK Power Networks to install an underground cable to Churchgate, running under part of the Green. An alternative route, running under the road, had been suggested, but was considered "less acceptable". It was agreed to arrange a site meeting with UKPN, and then follow up the question of compensation. Clerk
 - (e) Fouling of Green: Cllr Hirst reported that there had been several instances of a resident allowing his dog to foul the green, despite a request to prevent this happening, or to clear up the faeces. This is of particular concern in the light of children playing on the green. Post meeting, BDC confirmed that they would write to the owner of the offending animal, and, if matters did not improve, would take the matter further.
- 11/094 Highways and Footpaths
- (a) Traffic Management - Solar Powered Speed Sign: The Clerk has been advised of the person at SCC now responsible for such matters. A request is to be made for a site meeting to discuss further speed surveys, the possible extension of the 30mph zone, and the cost/location of a Speed Indicator Device. Clerk
 - (b) Darney Lane: A recent response from Patrick Scrivens re quad bikes was read out. It was agreed that a copy of this would be forwarded to Cllr Pask. Clerk
 - (c) Cross Green: Following discussion on the possible re-positioning of this road sign, it was felt it was not appropriate to take the matter further at this time. Clerk
Road Salt/Grit: It was agreed a reminder would be sent to SCC re our requirements in this regard.
- 11/095 Correspondence: Recruitment of Lunch Time People: After discussion of this subject following an email from Suffolk Acre, it was decided to let the matter rest. Clerk/JP
SNT posters re Halloween and Guy Fawkes; copies are to be sent to Cllr Pask for inclusion on the website.
- 11/096 Matters of report:
The subject of s106 income was raised; confirmation is to be sought as to the sum available, and the scope of its application. Clerk
- 11/097 Matters for consideration at the next meeting: None
- 11/098 Date of next meetings: Wednesday 2 November at 7 p.m.
Wednesday 30 November (in School) – in place of December meeting.
Meetings commence at 7 p.m.
The meeting closed at 8.40 p.m.

Approved at the Parish Council Meeting held on 2 November 2011