

Hartest Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held in the Institute on Wednesday 5 December 2012 at 7pm.

Present: Cllrs Chris Browning (Chair), David Burr, Howard Hirst, Jo Pask, David Turner, Scilla Turner and Anna Warren-Thomas

In Attendance: Co Cllr R Kemp, PCSO 3160 Lorna Chapman, Mr K Graham, Mr D Loxton (part time), Mr J Telford, Mr A Worrall and Mrs P M Lamb (Parish Clerk)

ACTION

- 12/099 Apologies for absence: Dist Cllr J Long
- 12/100 Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the 7 November were approved and signed.
- 12/101 Matters Arising: None
- 12/102 Dispensation Requests: None
- 12/103 Declarations of interest: Cllr J Pask re agenda item 10(d): Boxted & Hartest Institute – Request for grant of £1k p.a.
- 12/104 Public Forum: With three members of the public wishing to speak during the 15 minutes allocated for this item, Cllr Browning asked that they each speak for no more than five minutes.

Mr Telford asked why, in the Police Report included in the minutes of the 3 October, the following was cited, "this matter was now finalised", which gave no satisfactory explanation whatsoever and was considered to be less than helpful. PCSO Chapman advised that this was likely to have meant that "all lines of enquiry had been exhausted". Mr Telford requested that more appropriate wording be used in the future.

Mr Worrall spoke about the recorded intention of the Parish Council to order, and site close to Parsons Walk (and, thereby, his home), a dog litter bin for a trial period of one year, after which time the situation would be reviewed. Mr Worrall was angry that this would detrimentally affect the nearby properties, and the ambience of the Green and felt that there were more suitable locations within the village, if it was considered that a problem existed.

Mr Loxton (in response to an enquiry from Cllr Browning), confirmed that the setting up of a Community Land Trust might be a relevant consideration for the Neighbourhood Planning Working Party, which is to be convened in the near future.

- 12/105 Police Report: During the period from 7 November to 2 December, two crimes were reported (compared to 0 crimes for the same period last year):

Night of 8.11.12:

Theft from insecure motor vehicle (with items on display) in Lawshall Road. Investigation is still ongoing (SU/12/2338 PC 270 Marshall)

Theft from motor vehicle (with items on display) took place in Lawshall Road Investigation still ongoing (SU/12/2341 PCSO 3169 Chapman)

Co Councillor's Report

SCC has launched a new webpage helping you prepare for the winter months, providing advice and many updates as to the latest news around the County. Using this link you can see latest information from Suffolk's gritting service, as well as links re any school closures due to cold weather, and other useful organisations. It also provides advice on driving, protecting both your house and yourself, as well as clearing ice and snow from pavements.

<http://www.suffolk.gov.uk/emergency-and-safety/civil-emergencies/winter-are-you-prepared/>

Budget: At the end of November, SCC announced the first version of the 2013 budget. This was discussed and questioned at the recent Scrutiny Committee.

This year will see a further reduction of £24.9m, as part of a two year programme to reduce the budget by just over £50m. As seen last year, many of the services are looking to efficiencies rather than specific service cuts. However, I am extremely concerned that these reductions will hide damage to the County's frontline. See reductions

Saving Ref.	Task	Saving 2013-14 (£'m)
A	Improve efficiency and remove unnecessary processes across the organisation	9.7
B	Reduce management costs across the organisation	0.5
C	Rationalise office accommodation	1.3
D	Share of profits from Eastern Facilities Management Solutions Ltd.	0.2
E	Redesign home to school transport	0.2
F	Target resources in children's services to reduce demand	2.5
G	Change the relationship with schools	0.2
H	Adult Care in Depth Review	7.0
I	Reduce expenditure on library services	0.3
J	Re-let the highways contract	2.0
K	Work with District/Borough Councils to reduce costs of Suffolk-wide waste services	0.8
L	Reduce the number of uniformed fire fighters	0.2
	TOTAL	24.9

As you can see, there is a significant reduction in Adult and Community Services of £7m, and another reduction of £2.5m in Children and Young People's services. These are both areas which have significant pressures, and help to protect the vulnerable in our community. I will continue to keep you updated as to the latest news regarding the budget for 2013 as the process continues. For more information:

<http://committeeminutes.suffolkcc.gov.uk/meeting.aspx?d=26/Nov/2012&c=Scrutiny%20Committee>

Cabinet – 11 December: SCC today released the Cabinet papers for December, with a number of important items including:

Decision on whether to enhance Concessionary Fares further after the Scrutiny call in.

Procurement of Highways services – decision on awarding the contract to Balfour Beatty Living Places.

Suffolk Rail Strategy – creation of a rail prospectus for Suffolk which is aiming for hourly services between Ipswich and Peterborough, and new inter-city rolling stock.

Further information:

<http://committeeminutes.suffolkcc.gov.uk/meeting.aspx?d=11/Dec/2012&c=The%20Cabinet>

Blind Lane: Cllr Kemp confirmed that no funding is forthcoming from SCC, or Mr Weller-Poley, towards the cost of the proposed

resurfacing works. Consideration will be given to providing such funding from Cllr Kemp's locality budget before the end of March. The drainage repairs to be carried out by SCC should be completed before Christmas.

Cllr Kemp also advised that, in respect of the Community Land Trust mentioned earlier, an offshoot of the Long Melford Parish Council may be able to assist.

12/107 District Councillor's Report: No report was submitted in Cllr Long's absence.

12/108 Finance & Administration:

- (a) Copies of the finance schedule were circulated to Members.
- (b) Receipts: As per schedule
- (c) Payments: The following items were approved for payment:
Mrs C Lewtas: Draft/Final Layout of Cemetery Leaflet: 200.00
Mrs P Lamb: Printing paper and ink: £41.97
- (d) Boxted & Hartest Institute Funding Request: Members of the Institute were expected at the meeting to speak further on this matter. In their absence, it was agreed to defer this item to the January meeting.
- (e) Possible subsidy to 'Contact' magazine: Cllr Burr had been unable to prepare the expected figures in this regard, but, with Cllr Pask's help, a figure of approximately £1,320 was calculated, which would enable all parishioners to receive a free copy of this newsletter each month, should the Council in future decide that this expenditure would be appropriate.
Cllr Hirst expressed the view that perhaps consideration should be given, instead, to providing free copies to those residents who do not currently receive 'Contact', the cost of which, he thought, would be approx £500 rather £1.3k (which was expected would be borne in mind when formulating the 2013/14 budget).
- (f) Before determination of the Parish Council's budget, Cllr Burr recommended the consideration of some £1.5k towards drainage works on the Green, if Greene King fails to accept responsibility in this regard.
The Year To Date figures against Budget were then considered for the current financial year, with sums being proposed for the budget for 2013/14. An updated budget schedule is to be prepared for January's meeting, when the precept figure would also be agreed.
- (g) Dog Fouling: Following problems in this regard, it had previously been agreed to identify a suitable site and enter a trial period of one year. Following discussion, it was agreed to issue a consultation document to all residents seeking their views as to whether they considered dog fouling to be a problem in the village. It was agreed this would be issued with the February edition of the newsletter and the responses would then be reviewed. A decision would be made at the following PC meeting. (In the meantime the purchase of a bin had been placed on hold.)

Clerk

All/Clerk

12/109 Planning:

- (a) Decisions received: Listed Building Consent for Stowe Hill
- (b) Withdrawn applications: None
- (c) New planning applications: None
- (d) New planning applications received since the date of this notice: None
- (e) Tree Preservation Order/Tree Conservation Area Application: None

- (f) Appeals: None
- (g) Other Planning Matters
 - Neighbourhood Plan: Cllr Burr reported that he has written to all those volunteers wishing to form a Working Party to drive this project forward. It is hoped to have responses re possible meeting dates shortly.
 - Social Housing – Banhams Yard: Cllr Burr had spoken informally to someone used to fundraising. Cllr Burr considered BDC to be struggling with its own bureaucracy and therefore sought Members’ permission to speak directly to it, and the developer, in this regard. Members agreed that they were still keen to keep this as a social house and authorised Cllr Burr to pursue this on the PC’s behalf. A report is to be provided to the next meeting.

DB

DB

12/110 Green, Cemetery and Churchyard

- (a) Cemetery
 - Adjoining Land: Cllr Pask is awaiting further advice. Residents of Hill Farm had been advised that a hedge had been planted to screen their property.
 - Jubilee Hedging: Cllr Pask reported that this had been planted. Cllr Browning thanked Cllr Pask in this regard.
 - Fees and Leaflet: Cllr D Turner confirmed that these had been approved at the last meeting; an electronic copy of same is to be provided to the Parish Clerk to enable changes/ updating as required.
 - Cllr Pask confirmed that several residents had offered help with the further planting planned for the Cemetery.
 - Cllr Pask also advised that, both she, and another resident, had not received proof of purchase of burial plots and it is understood such documents have never been issued; this is to be investigated and remedied.
 - Environmental Management: Cllr Turner confirmed that further, regular works are to be arranged including the rectification of fallen/unstable headstones, which are to be carried out on a rolling programme basis. Anticipated additional costs are to be confirmed to Members.
- (b) The Green
 - Post Box: Thanks were extended to Cllr Hirst for arranging the repainting of this.
 - Trees: Cllr Pask offered to chase Mr Stanmore of Eco-Systems for his quotation for the work required to the various trees.
 - Strengthening of Hartest Church Bridge: SCC had recently advised that, following a meeting with Mr C King, their temporary compound, during these bridge works, is to be situated in the field at the top of Hartest Hill near Pippin Cottage.

DT

JP/ST

DT

JP

Highways and Footpaths(a) Traffic Management

Speed Signs: Cllr Burr advised that he had noticed a marked reduction in vehicle speeds along Brockley Road and would like to see the S.I.D. positioned in varying locations around the village. (It was considered that there is a particular problem at Cross Green.) The last survey undertaken by the Parish Council resulted in 90% of residents seeking enforcement or a village speed camera. A Community Speed Watch initiative had previously been mooted, but no volunteers were forthcoming. Cllr Burr agreed to ascertain the cost of a Speed Indicator Device and to investigate the parameters regarding its siting.

DB

Hartest Bridge: Cllr Burr expressed concern that the strengthening of the bridge, and the likely removal of the weight restriction signs, could see an increase in HGV's using the bridge. This work is to commence in March.

Parking outside School and Banhams: The Governors of Hartest Primary School had advised that the land obtained by SCC in Somerton Road is earmarked for additional playing field space as the school expands. Nor does it have access to Somerton Road and it is not, therefore, possible to use it for parking by people dropping off/collecting pupils. The School confirmed that it continues to provide regular reminders to parents and carers about parking. Cllr Pask also confirmed that no instruction had been issued by the Institute preventing parking in its car park. It had been commented, however, that the corner of Somerton Road/The Row is considered to be very dangerous, but any action in this regard would require the erection of an additional sign. It was agreed that this item would be removed from the next agenda.

Drainage and Pothole Problems: Paul Gant is to be asked to expedite the repairs to The Duddery and Workers Hill.

(b) Drainage

Ditch on the Green: A response is still awaited from Greene King re the proposed site visit by their Property Investment Manager; Cllr D Turner is to provide email details for Mr T Adams in an effort to expedite this. Cllr Pask noted that there is currently a 'pond' in the yard of The Crown.

Clerk

Cllr D Turner advised that Mr Pat Tebbitt had reported that, when The Crown's pond was filled in, this ditch was created to carry water to the river. It is believed that most of Parsons' Walk is owned by Greene King. It was agreed to ask Cllr Kemp if it might be possible to use some of his locality funding to remedy the drainage issue on the Green, which is considered to be more critical than the Blind Lane situation.

DT/Clerk

- (c) Blind Lane: Cllr Burr commented that this Lane is owned by the Boxted Hall Estate with a Right of Way and footpath over it and its residents would have been aware of this situation before purchasing their properties. Cllr Burr added that this is essentially a private road. SCC is addressing the issue re the egress of the water and he felt that the matter should rest there. It was agreed that Cllr Kemp would be asked to use the funds he had intended to make available for Blind Lane for the drainage issue on the Green instead, which was considered more pressing.

- (d) Ash Tree o/s White Cottage: It was noted that SCC had dealt with this tree satisfactorily.

CB/Clerk

- 12/112 Correspondence
The various letters/emails received from Mr & Mrs Worrall re dog fouling had been covered under 12/104 Public Forum above. Mr K Graham's letter re Ditch on the Green: Mr Graham acknowledged that this subject had been dealt with earlier and expressed his thanks to Members for their work in this regard. Mr Worrall had also broached the matter of possible chancel repair liability; enquiries in connection with which are ongoing. Cllr Pask confirmed that the PC is responsible for looking after half of the churchyard, with the PCC responsible for the other half. If appropriate, the PCC would invoke liability.
- 12/113 Matters of Report Only: Cllr Burr gave apologies for the next meeting.
- 12/114 Matters for consideration at next meeting: None
- 12/115 Date of Next Meeting: Wednesday 2 January 2013 at 7 p.m. in the Institute

Approved at the Parish Council Meeting held on 2 January 2013