

# Hartest Parish Council

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## Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held in the Institute on Wednesday 4 July 2012 at 7pm.

Present: Cllrs Chris Browning (Chairman), Howard Hirst, Jo Pask, David Turner, Scilla Turner and Anna Warren-Thomas  
In Attendance: Mrs P M Lamb (Parish Clerk) and Mr K Graham

### ACTION

- 12/034 Apologies for absence: Cllr D Burr, Co Cllr R Kemp, Dist Cllr J Long and PCSO H Partington
- 12/035 Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the 30 May were approved and signed.
- 12/036 Matters Arising: None
- 12/037 Declarations of interest: None
- 12/038 Public Forum: Mr Graham presented a letter to the Council in respect of dampness in his home (Pear Tree Cottage to the south end of the Green), which, he believes, is due to (i) the resurfacing of Parsons Walk (and the filling in of the adjacent drainage ditch to the stream at the same time) and (ii) the failure to keep the ditch in front of the Crown PH clear and free running. Cllr Browning thanked Mr Graham for bringing this matter to the Parish Council's attention and confirmed that the matter would be investigated.
- 12/039 Police Report: This report covers the period from 30 May to 3 July 2012. No crimes had been recorded within the parish (as last year). Members, however, understood that there had been one crime but, post meeting, were advised that no information could be provided in this regard.  
A further request was made by Members for the Police to monitor parking at the School during arrival and departure periods and to encourage parents to park in the Institute car park.  
It was also noted that the Police insert articles in newsletters of neighbouring villages. (Post meeting PCSO Partington advised that this is the information published by the Parish Councils from the narrative part of the Police report.)  
There had been a recent spate of lawn mower, quad bike and trailer thefts in the rural villages. A male has been arrested on suspicion of theft as a result and an investigation is still ongoing. Residents are urged to contact police with details of any suspicious persons or vehicles seen in the area. If you would like to have a tailored crime prevention survey carried out, please do not hesitate to contact any member of the Babergh West safer neighbourhood team. In addition to this, there is a website called [www.immobilise.com](http://www.immobilise.com), where you can register your lost or stolen property for FREE and improve the chances of getting it back.
- 12/040 Co Councillor's Report:  
**Scrutiny Committee** was held on 27 June, and covered two items important to the County; monitoring the quality of care in Suffolk, and looking at public access to SCC and possible improvements for the future. All recommendations below are unconfirmed;  
Monitoring the quality of care in Suffolk
- The committee discussed many aspects of how SCC monitors care provided in Suffolk. A number of witnesses from a variety of organisations providing care, or helping to monitor care, presented

and discussed their views.

- Recommendations were made in light of the above. It was particularly evident that, with so many agencies working with those who required care, there was no easy method of sharing best practice. It was suggested that meetings, involving all agencies, should be regularly held to ensure that everyone was able to identify issues, which could be corrected, particularly those smaller ones.
- As you may have seen in the local news, this scrutiny paper revealed that 11 Care home contracts had been suspended. (An update revealed that this currently stands at 9). Members discussed methods of notification re suspensions (which tend to last 3-4 months). A recommendation was made to help improve this system.
- Concern was also expressed about the time taken to contact relevant officers through Customer First.

#### Public access

- Current means of communication were discussed (and possible future methods such as texting and applications for mobile devices).
- Many councillors agreed with the recommendations provided in the report; however they were not pleased with the recommendation that suggested discouraging contact via channels other than the public access team.
- Improving public access to safeguarding, following concerns raised above, were also discussed.

Next meeting: 24 July

**Cabinet:** Next meeting: 11a.m. - 10 July - West Suffolk House.

Agenda items:

- 2011-12 Outturn for Revenue and Capital spending – providing an update on SCC's finances and current spending
- Concessionary Bus Pass Scheme – considering the year's operation of the scheme so far following transfer from the Districts to the County. It will also consider the motion to extending the hours for those eligible due to age from 9:30 to 9am, and removing all time limitations for those eligible due to disability.
- Consider proposals for revisions to the home to school transport policy for 2013-14.
- Future of SCC's back office requirements.
- Annual report from the Local Children's Safeguarding Board to the Children's Trust Board.
- St Benedict's School, Bury St. Edmunds – consider the statutory notices by the board of governors to change the schools age range from 13-18 to 11-18.

An update will be provided next month. The reports for Cabinet will appear on this website when they are released -

<http://committeeminutes.suffolkcc.gov.uk/>

Next **Full Council meeting:** 19 July. More information:

<http://www.suffolk.gov.uk/your-council/decision-making/public-speaking-at-meetings/>

#### **Flooding – Are you prepared?**

SCC has launched a consultation seeking views from both residents and businesses about proposals to tackle local or flash flooding both now and in the future.

This will form part of the Suffolk Flood Risk Management plan, with the consultation lasting three months.

For more information about the consultation and the flood risk management plan, please head to <http://www.suffolk.gov.uk/your-council/decision-making/consultations/flooding-are-you-prepared/>

**Rising to the Challenge in Suffolk:** The Olympic and Paralympic Games are more than just about the sport this summer. As part of a wider celebration, the Cultural Olympiad will be taking place in Suffolk with a number of events celebrating the Olympics. More information:

<http://www.risingtothechallenge.org/culture>

**Independent Commission to look at Education in Suffolk:** An

independent commission was launched last week to look into the educational attainment, aspiration and employability In Suffolk. As a result of Suffolk GCSE results lagging 4% below the national average, Matthew Taylor, CEO of The Royal Society for the Encouragement of Arts, Manufacture and Commerce (RSA) and former prime ministerial advisor, has been tasked with improving educational attainment in Suffolk.

The commission, launched at the recent 'Raising the Bar' conference, will first work with the many delegates at the conference who pledged their help, with a significant amount of time spent working with employers in Suffolk and head teachers. It is expected that the commission will report back in May 2013, with a further conference focusing on Primary Schools to be held in November 2012.

**Free Insulation for Suffolk Homes:** Launched at the Suffolk Show, Councils and businesses across Suffolk are working together to help provide free cavity wall and loft insulation. Although subject to survey, access and existing levels of insulation, this insulation offer is not dependant on income levels or age. However, there is a time limit - all applications must be received by 30 September 2012. To apply, telephone 0845 603 7686 or visit [www.greensuffolk.org/toast](http://www.greensuffolk.org/toast)  
This is an opportunity for residents across the county to get their homes insulated before winter. Such initiatives can save home owners significant amounts on their fuel bills, with cavity wall insulation saving up to £135, and loft insulation saving £175.

12/041 District Councillor's Report: No report in Cllr Long's absence.

12/042 Finance & Administration:

- (a) Receipts: £50.00 – Headstone – Mr G C Hebditch
- (b) Payments: The following payment was approved:  
UK Servers Ltd: Renewal of hartest.com domain basic hosting for 1 year: £24.00 Clerk
- (c) Diamond Jubilee Feedback: This was unanimously considered a resounding success.  
Beacon: Mr Lamprell was pleased to have helped by making the beacon site available; a letter of thanks will be sent to him and his Estate Manager. It was also noted that Cllr Burr had put in a tremendous amount of work in this regard and thanks will be extended on the PC's behalf. Clerk  
Mugs: These had been very well received (with a thank you letter from Mrs Rendle). Some 40 mugs remain (for collection/surplus). The matter will be reviewed in September. Thanks were extended to Cllr Warren-Thomas, for this idea. Clerk
- (d) Financial Regulations: This document, previously approved for adoption, was signed.
- (e) New Suffolk Local Code of Conduct: This Code was adopted (retrospectively to 1 July 2012) in line with the requirements of the Localism Act 2011.
- (f) New Registers of Member's Interests: In line again with the Localism Act 2011, completed forms were received from each Member for submission to BDC and inclusion on the web site. Any alterations to the details on these forms are to be notified to the Clerk/BDC immediately and it was further agreed that new forms would be completed and submitted at the PC's Annual Meetings. Clerk

12/043 Planning:

- (a) Decision received: Permission granted:  
B/12/00519/FHA - The Old Rectory: Erection of a Summerhouse
- (b) Withdrawn applications: None
- (c) New planning applications: None
- (d) Tree Preservation Order/Tree Conservation Area Application: None
- (e) Appeals: None

- (f) Other Planning Matters:  
 Oakhill House: Following an email from Cllr Burr after a meeting with the owners, it was agreed that Michael Feather be asked, if available to observe, and photograph, the proposed excavations. JP/DB  
 Neighbourhood Planning: The following emails were read and discussed:  
 From Rich Cooke (Planning Policy Manager, BDC) dated 19.6.12 re briefing meetings to be held in July, and from Ralph Carpenter dated 20.6.12 re setting up a working group from those present at the last meeting.  
 Members agreed that a meeting be arranged for the end of October – with a mail drop in September.  
 A response is to be sent to Mr Carpenter advising that further information is being sought from BDC re timescales and finance, with a meeting to be called for the end of October at which a working party would be formed. (Subsequently, that group would formulate its own timetable.) Clerk  
 Affordable House: It was confirmed by BDC on the 28 June that they had negotiated with a Housing Association who had made an offer to the developer to take on this unit. The developer's response is awaited.

12/044 Green, Cemetery and Churchyard

- (a) Adjoining Land: Discussions ongoing.  
 (b) Gates: Cllr D Turner reported that these had been re-hung with Mr Ashman's help.  
 (c) Cemetery Management Meeting: Cllr S Turner is to re-send the new fees schedule for consideration at the next meeting. ST  
 (d) Cllr D Turner wondered whether the ecological value of the cemetery could be improved. Cllr Pask advised that advice had been originally received from Suffolk Wildlife Trust and, with their guidance, a grass cutting plan had been drawn up. It is understood that pyramidal orchids, previously seen in the cemetery, have not been visible for the last few years. Cllrs Pask and Turner are to liaise in this regard. JP/DT  
 (e) Telephone Box on the Green: BT expects to have this box re-painted by the end of October. The paint reference number has been provided, if required.

12/045 Highways and Footpaths

- (a) Traffic Management:  
 The provision of a solar speed sign is awaited.  
 Parking outside School and Banhams: Highways are unable to extend the hatched area here. It was noted that SCC has purchased some land in Somerton Road; a letter is to be sent to the School Governors to see whether it could be used for parking. Clerk  
 (b) Footpaths/Highways  
 Drainage and Pot Hole Problems: The meeting held with Paul Gant on the 12 June went very well and a schedule of works (covering the period from Summer 2012 to 2013/14) has since been provided and circulated. Cllr Browning thanked those Members who had attended the meeting.  
 Lime Tree o/s Sturgeons Hall: Mr Ewan Donald had kindly trimmed the overhanging branches and basal growth on this tree (using equipment loaned by Cllr Hirst). Thanks were extended to Both residents in this connection.  
 Parsons Walk: It was noted that some dog owners are behaving irresponsibly by leaving dog litter. An article, mentioning the statutory fine, would be placed in 'Contact'. Consideration will be given at the September meeting as to placing an appropriate sign. In the meantime information and costs will be gathered re Clerk

purchase and emptying of dog litter bins.  
(c) Ash Tree o/s White Cottage: This tree overhanging the road has been reported to SCC.

12/046 Correspondence: A letter of thanks re the Jubilee Mugs, which had been received from Mrs Rendle, was very much appreciated

12/047 Matters of report: None

12/048 Matters for consideration at the next meeting:

Up to date schedule of Listed Buildings in the village.  
Item for 'Contact' and web site re presentation by BDC's Conservation Architect on the 3 October. It was agreed that this presentation would commence at 6.30 p.m., followed by the PC meeting at 7.30 p.m.

12/049 The meeting closed at 8.50 p.m.

Date of next Meetings:

Wednesday 5 September at 7 p.m. – Institute – PC Meeting

Wednesday 3 October at 6.30 p.m. – Institute – Presentation by BDC's  
Conservation Architect  
7.30 p.m. – Institute – PC Meeting

**Approved at the Parish Council Meeting held on 5 September 2012**