

# Hartest Parish Council

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

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

In Attendance: Co Cllr R Kemp, Dist Cllr J Long and Mrs P M Lamb (Parish Clerk)

### ACTION

- 12/050 Apologies for absence: Cllrs D Turner, S Turner and PCSO H Partington
- 12/051 Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the 4 July were approved with the deletion of the word 'Annual' from the heading, and signed.
- 12/052 Matters Arising: None
- 12/053 Declarations of interest: Cllr Burr declared an interest in PA B/12/009178/LBC re Stowe Hill, which was received after the meeting notice had been issued. Cllr Warren-Thomas re Item 12(g) Social Housing – Banhams Yard.
- 12/054 Public Forum: Dist Cllr Long commented on the recent, excellent Village Fete and also added that it was a pity the monthly Farmers' Market is relocating to Whepstead as from November, when the Institute could have been used. Cllr Pask advised that this decision was made following a meeting of those concerned.
- 12/055 Police Report  
No crimes had been recorded within the parish from 3.8-5.9.12 (compared to two for the same period last year). Any information re other offences should be notified to Babergh West SNT or Crimestoppers. A new term has started at Hartest Primary and I will be conducting patrols during school drop off and pick up times. Verbal and written notice warnings will be given to parents or guardians seen parked causing an obstruction. Following this fixed penalty tickets will be issued.  
There are many ways in which you can help yourselves becoming a victim of crime. If you would like to have a tailored crime prevention survey for you, your home, vehicle or business premise, 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 property for FREE and improve your chances of getting it back if it is lost or stolen.  
Next Babergh West SNT Priority Setting Meeting: Tuesday 18 September 1800-1900 hours, The Salvation Army Lavenham Corps, The Common, Lavenham.
- 12/056 Co Councillor's Report  
Libraries – Industrial & Provident Society  
On 1 August the new Library service was launched with the Industrial and Provident Society taking responsibilities from SCC (44 Libraries in Suffolk, as well as the mobile library, school, and prison services). As mentioned in previous Parish reports, this move, according to the administration, is a way to ensure all libraries remain open with paid staff. They will save money due to their charitable status currently giving 80% discount on business rates. They also expect individual

libraries to reduce their own budgets by a total of 5%. It is claimed that the funding for the Library service will be protected for a total of 2 years. For more information, reports can be found; [http://committeeminutes.suffolkcc.gov.uk/LoadDocument.aspx?rID=09002711804df1c6&qry=c\\_committee%7e%7eThe+Cabinet](http://committeeminutes.suffolkcc.gov.uk/LoadDocument.aspx?rID=09002711804df1c6&qry=c_committee%7e%7eThe+Cabinet) and [http://committeeminutes.suffolkcc.gov.uk/LoadDocument.aspx?rID=09002711804df1c8&qry=c\\_committee%7e%7eThe+Cabinet](http://committeeminutes.suffolkcc.gov.uk/LoadDocument.aspx?rID=09002711804df1c8&qry=c_committee%7e%7eThe+Cabinet)  
Care Homes & Future Cabinet Items

As you will be aware, SCC will be outsourcing its 16 Care Homes and 8 community wellbeing centres to a selected provider (SCC has specified a preferred bidder in Care UK). This decision will take place at the September Cabinet meeting on 11 September in Endeavour House, which will clarify a number of elements regarding this transfer, including;

- Confirming the selected provider
- Plans for the transfer of the services
- Plans for the development of the estate
- The terms of the contract
- Relevant timescales
- The business case for accepting the preferred provider

I would hope to see that in this report mention of how SCC plans to inform those both residents and relatives of the ongoing situation, and provide proper support. I will keep you updated as to the progress and the details involved in this significant decision by SCC.

Other items to be discussed at the next meeting are;

- Presentation of the Annual Public Health Report 2012
- 2012-13 Quarterly Budget Monitoring Report
- Adult Safeguarding Annual Report and Business Plan

#### Textile Bags

Recently SCC announced it would be provide these bags to homes to help collect materials that would not be suitable for charity shops or voluntary organisations. This campaign has been launched to help prevent 7,000 tonnes of clothing going to landfill. Each household should have received their first bags, which, when full, should be placed in the recycling bin on top of all the other recycle. Replacement bags will be provided.

#### Broad Bid Update

At the beginning of July, SCC officially invited bids for the £40m Broadband contract to provide faster internet speeds for the County. Both BT and Fujitsu will now have until the 7 September to make their case for winning the contract. SCC will hold a special cabinet meeting on the 20 September where these bids will be discussed with leaders from across the public sector. The contract will then be awarded on the 8 October.

Blind Lane: Cllr Kemp added that he is endeavouring to get SCC to install a slip drain across the entrance to this lane. (Post meeting, Paul Gant of Highways advised that the existing drain on the corner will take most of the water, provided it is kept clear of vegetation; he is arranging for his General Maintenance gang to do this on a regular basis. It is also intended to install an additional gully where the lane goes off the road, this will pick up any water flowing past the existing drain. The system is also to be jetted to make sure it is all clear.) It is hoped Highways will make savings of £4m (1%) off its annual budget.

12/057 District Councillor's Report: Cllr Long reported that the Council meeting scheduled for August was cancelled.

12/058 Finance & Administration:

(a) Receipts: None

(b) Payments

The following payments, made on 8 July, were ratified:

Boxted & Hartest Institute: Hall hire – Feb-May 2012: £138.00  
 Contact Magazine: Advertisement July 12 – June 13: £48.00  
 The following payments were then approved:  
 Boxted & Hartest Institute: Hall Hire – 4.7.12: £20.00  
 Information Commissioner: Data Protection Act Renewal: 35.00  
 Suffolk Acre Services – PC Insurance 1.10.12-30.9.13: Members  
 agreed to accept a 5 year term agreement in the sum of £578.92  
 Mr O Cornish: Invoice dated 27.8.12 re mowing: £1,000

- (c) BDC Funding re Parent & Toddler Group: Approval was given for this funding to be claimed. The Parent & Toddler Group would be advised accordingly. Clerk
- (d) Grass Cutting Contract: It was agreed to re-appoint our current contractor for a further three years in the sum of £3,110 p.a. Clerk
- (e) Dog Fouling: An email received from PCSO Partington re the Fouling of Land Act was read out and discussed re a particular problem along the footpath to the rear of The Row. However, the Act would appear to exclude such this area. Cllr Hirst offered to place an appropriate sign on the bridge near Parsons Walk, which is also suffering from dog fouling. HH

12/059 Planning:

- (a) Decisions received: None
- (b) Withdrawn applications: None
- (c) New planning applications: None
- (d) New planning applications received since the date of this notice: Having declared an interest in this PA, Cllr Burr left the meeting. B/12/00978/LBC - Stowe Hill, Brockley Road, Hartest - Removal of an extension to a storage area and external metal staircase, internal alterations. Following discussion, Members agreed to support the application. Cllr Burr rejoined the meeting. Clerk
- (e) Tree Preservation Order/Tree Conservation Area Application: None
- (f) Appeals: The Warrens – Single storey link: A letter had been sent to the Planning Inspectorate following the Parish Council’s approval in this regard.
- (g) Other Planning Matters  
 Oakhill House, Somerton Road: Cllr Burr mentioned that nothing has been heard re the proposed trench to be dug. It was agreed he would speak to Mr Feather in this regard. DB  
 Neighbourhood Planning: The Parish Clerk reported that BDC and MSDC have set up a Joint Officer Working Group, under the chair of Philip Isbell (Corporate Manager – Development Management). It is hoped that funding will be available from Central Government. BDC is currently trying to put in place its Core Strategy, which it is hoped will be completed by mid 2013. A working party could be formed in the meantime to consider the village’s requirements. It was agreed that Cllr Burr would draft a flyer on this topic making reference to the earlier Localism Act meeting and inviting those people interested in being part of such a working party to contact the Clerk by, say 24 October. This would be included in October’s edition of ‘Contact’ and would also be delivered to the homes of those residents, who do not receive the newsletter. This needs to be printed and ready for distribution by 20 September. A meeting would then be arranged for a Tuesday evening in October. DB  
 Social Housing – Banhams Yard: Cllr Burr summarised a telephone call received from a Mr Harnie, who advised that he represents the Banhams Yard developer and is concerned that the developer’s position is not being fairly presented to the Parish Council, but would be more than happy to address the PC on the matter. Cllr Long confirmed that the house may not have the sustainability features sought for such housing. It is understood that a meeting is to be held between Mr Harnie and a BDC

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|        | Planning Officer on the 24 September. Members agreed to review the matter at the October PC meeting.   | Clerk                                 |
| 12/060 | <u>Green, Cemetery and Churchyard</u>  |                                       |
|        | (a) Cemetery<br>Adjoining Land: An update in this regard is awaited.<br>Fees, Procedures etc: Cllr S Turner had circulated the latest set of documents for Members to consider. These would be considered at the next meeting.<br>Management: Proposals had been circulated by Cllr D Turner and are to be discussed at next month's meeting. Enquiries will be made as to how other Parish Councils deal with the problem of fallen headstones.   | ALL/<br>ST<br><br>ALL/<br>DT<br>Clerk |
|        | (b) Telephone and Post Boxes on the Green: BT's contractors had done an excellent job in repainting the Telephone Box. Cllr Hirst offered to contact Royal Mail with regard to getting the post boxes similarly repainted.   | HH                                    |
|        | (c) Pear Tree Cottage: Cllr Hirst reported that Cllr D Turner is awaiting a response from Messrs Greene King re the ditch running from the road down to Parsons Walk. It was confirmed, by the Clerk that a letter, dated 19 May 2009 from Greene King confirms responsibility for the maintenance of the ditch in front of The Crown PH resides with the lessee. Cllr Pask advised that Patrick Scrivens of SCC had previously confirmed that SCC has responsibility for Parsons Walk and its related drainage. It is understood that there had been a ditch running down to the river and that this should have been reinstated and linked to the one on the green. The Clerk would seek a site meeting with Mr Scrivens in an attempt to resolve this issue.  | DT/HH/<br>Clerk                       |
|        | (d) Trees on The Green: Cllr Browning read out a letter dated 28 August from Mr & Mrs Collins of Appleby Cottage seeking the felling of the lime tree outside their property, and the reduction of the other limes on the green. A letter had also been received from Mrs Rendle of The Old Bakery seeking reduction of the lime and maple trees in front of her property. Cllr Hirst advised that he understood that the trees were subject to TPOs. Members agreed to seek David Pizzey's advice (BDC's Arboricultural Officer)  | Clerk                                 |
| 12/061 | <u>Highways and Footpaths</u>  |                                       |
|        | (a) Traffic Management<br>Two mobile solar powered speed signs are currently on loan from Highways. Members agreed that these have been very effective in slowing down motorists. (Post meeting, it was confirmed that these are on loan for three weeks only.) Highways will be asked as to whether the two signs provided are different, or whether they both indicate vehicle speeds, and whether, perhaps, one had been decommissioned. Cllr Browning advised that Members should give consideration as to how the Parish Council could evaluate the effect of the signs in order to justify a unit cost of £5k.<br>Parking outside School and Banhams: A letter had been sent to the School Governors re the possible use of SCC land in Somerton Road being used for car parking during school opening and closing periods. A response is awaited. | Clerk<br><br>ALL                      |
|        | (b) Blind Lane: See Min 12/056 above.  | Clerk                                 |
|        | (c) Footpaths/Highways<br>Drainage and Pot Hole Problems: It was noted that the holes in Hartest Hill have not yet been filled; this work will be expedited.   | Clerk                                 |
|        | (e) Ash Tree o/s White Cottage: This tree overhanging the road has been reported to SCC; work is expected to be carried out shortly.   |                                       |
|        | (f) Overhanging Hedges – The Row: This problem had been drawn to the PC's attention. SCC is to be asked to trim the hedge/brambles by the School and the Parish Notice Board and a   |                                       |

- letter is to be sent to all residents of The Row asking them to cut back those hedges overhanging the footpath. Clerk
- (g) Footpaths: It was noted that a second cut has yet to be carried out; SCC has been reminded.
- 12/062 Correspondence: BDC's Recreational Open Space Audit letter and enclosed plans were discussed. Some changes were noted and are to be notified. Clerk
- 12/063 Matters of report:  
 Dates of 2013 Meetings. Cllr Browning outlined the proposed dates advising that it was proposed that there would be no meeting in March, but one could be called for any planning matters, if required. This was approved by Members and a schedule of meetings is to be issued. Clerk  
 Jubilee Hedging and Trees: Cllr Pask advised that some 156 saplings, FOC, are to be delivered shortly.
- 12/064 Matters for consideration at the next meeting  
 Up to date schedule of Listed Buildings in the village.
- 12/065 The meeting closed at 9.35 p.m.
- Date of next Meetings:  
 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 3 October 2012**