

Hartest Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held in the Institute on Wednesday 3 October 2012 at 7pm.

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

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

ACTION

- 12/066 Apologies for absence: PCSO H Partington
- 12/067 Approval of Minutes: Following amendment of the minutes of the 5 September, Min 21/059, from: "Cllr Long confirmed that the house does not have the sustainability features sought for such housing to " may not have", the minutes were then approved and signed.
- 12/068 Matters Arising: None
- 12/069 Declarations of interest: None
- 12/070 Public Forum: Information was sought as to whether the development near the mausoleum site (believed to be a shooting lodge) on the Chadacre Estate had received planning permission. Co Cllr Kemp advised BDC's Enforcement Team is aware of this.
- 12/071 Police Report: This report covers the period 3-30 September 2012, during which time, 1 crime was recorded within the parish (compared to none for the same period last year).
Burglary Other Building: On the night of the 18 September, suspects unknown broke into a barn and stole approx £350 worth of goods. This crime has since been finalised. (SU/12/1996 PC Horton)
If you have any information that would be of interest regarding this, or any other offences, please let Babergh West SNT know, or contact Crimestoppers anonymously.
Following discussions with the Parish Clerk, PC Garrod, who is the Community Speed Watch Liaison Officer, has sent the Parish Council information relating to this scheme.
With the nights now drawing in, residents are urged to remain vigilant with their security. We would advise locking doors and windows at night, and when away from the house. Security lighting is recommended for the grounds surrounding your buildings. If you have gates or outbuildings, please ensure they are secure.
It has often been the crime trend at this time of year, and approaching Christmas, for oil tank thefts. Where possible, please secure your tanks and provide lighting.
If you would like to have a tailored crime prevention survey done 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, where you can register your property for FREE and improve your chances of getting it back if stolen.
- 12/072 Co Councillor's Report
Cabinet to look again at Concessionary Fares enhancements:
Cabinet will look again at its decision to provide only the statutory minimum free travel (0930-2300 weekdays, all day weekends and bank

holidays), after the decision was called in to the Scrutiny Committee at the end of September.

Cllrs Caroline Page and David Wood presented the case that the Cabinet had failed to consult users of the scheme before making its decision. This was highlighted by a number of public speakers present at the meeting who had not been able to put their position to the Council. In fact there was only one piece of feedback included in the July Cabinet report, and that was because that user group asked specifically to contribute.

The Committee voted by seven votes to three to send this decision back to the Cabinet to be considered. Updates will be provided. For more information about the Call-in:

<http://committeeminutes.suffolkcc.gov.uk/LoadDocument.aspx?rID=09027118097f16c>

September County Council Meeting

The meeting had quite a light agenda, but proved relatively eventful. With only one motion about improving localism to help adopt 20mph speed limits in towns, election of the Health Scrutiny Chair and the Portfolio Holder reports set to be discussed, it could have been assumed that the meeting would have passed without any significant issues. However, an amendment proposed to the motion was such a change to the original text that the opposition parties, apart from the proposer and seconder of the motion, walked out of the Council Chamber. This was because the motion had completely changed format and was not recognisable, so a debate on the amended motion began to take place instead. The motion had even been distributed to those interested parties before the meeting, and no warning of such a re-write had been given.

Cabinet Meetings

As expected, all the papers presented to both Cabinet meetings in September were agreed. The most significant was agreement to take the Better Broadband for Suffolk to the next stage, increasing funding from Suffolk, and looking to agree the contract. At the previous meeting the Cabinet also confirmed SCC's commitment to sign up to the Suffolk Armed Forces Community Covenant on 11 October.

For Cabinet meeting of 24 September:

<http://committeeminutes.suffolkcc.gov.uk/LoadDocument.aspx?rID=090027118097ad31>

Reports of the previous Cabinet meeting on 11 October:

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

Grand Driver Scheme:

SCC, in partnership with Suffolk Roadsafte, has launched the Grand Driver scheme which aims to provide support to the increasing numbers of elderly drivers on the road. While there is evidence to suggest that the likelihood of crashes increases with age, older adults are generally renowned as being safety conscious and law abiding drivers.

The scheme has been set up to help assist the continuation of safe driving, as older drivers are the fastest growing driving population.

The scheme comprises 3 main elements and takes place on a demand led basis:

Insight and awareness of attitudes to driving and self-regulatory behaviour – via completion of the specially developed Older Driver Risk Index (psychometric questionnaire)

An opportunity to update and refresh knowledge and discuss driving matters at workshops arranged throughout Suffolk

A driving assessment and feedback in your own vehicle focusing on safe driving and coping strategies

For more information, contact Michelle Haward on 01473 265256 or E-mail: Michelle.haward@suffolk.gov.uk

Blind Lane: Works are to be carried out to ensure water flows into the drain and then into the river, which it is not currently happening

Scampaign – Lottery Scams

The latest update from the Trading Standards Scheme is a warning about lottery scams, which often claim you have won a significant amount of money on an overseas or online lottery and ask for your personal information, including your bank account details. See below information released by Trading Standards to help protect yourself:

Never respond to any communication - if you haven't entered a lottery, then you can't have won it.

Any request for a fee payment is a good indication that someone is trying to defraud you – there are no official lottery operators who ask for fees to collect winnings

Never ever disclose your bank details or pay fees in advance

If they've provided an email address to respond to, be very suspicious of addresses such as @hotmail.com or @yahoo.com or numbers beginning with 07, because these are free to get hold of

Genuine lotteries thrive on publicity. If they ask you to keep your win a secret, it's likely to be a fraud

Many fraudulent lotteries have bad spelling and grammar – see this as a warning that fraudsters are at work

What to do if you are a victim of lottery fraud:

Report to Action Fraud specialists by calling 0300 123 2040

If you have responded to the email/letter/call, break off all contact with the fraudsters at once

If you have given over your bank account details, alert your bank immediately

Be aware that you're now likely to be a target for other frauds.

Fraudsters often share details about people they have successfully targeted or approached, using different identities to commit further frauds

12/073 District Councillor's Report: Cllr Long encouraged residents to complete forms in respect of the Conservation Appraisal introduced and discussed by Patrick Taylor at a meeting prior to the PC meeting. He advised that Officers dedicated to Conservation are very limited. Cllr Burr queried why there were shortages in that area, but not other departments; noting that there are more than ten people in HR for only 300 employees, i.e. are staffing numbers uniformly low throughout the District?

12/074 Finance & Administration:

(a) Receipts: £4,500 (Part 2 of 2012/12 precept)

(b) Payments: The following items were approved for payment:

BDO Annual Return Audit Fee: £162.00

Clerk's Salary: £456.65 + £28.80 (Printing Charge re Localism Act & Conservation Area Appraisal flyers), + £1.20 postage (re Cemetery) + £0.99 green highlighter = £489.00

Post Office Ltd (re HMRC): £102.08

(c) Parent & Toddler Group: Grant funding of £500 (69% of total) has been approved by BDC towards equipment for the PTG together with locality funding of £175 promised by Co Cllr Kemp. Members approved the issue of a cheque in the sum of £675 to reimburse the PTG for money expended in this regard in anticipation of the above funding being credited to the Parish Council's bank account.

(d) Completion of Audit: BDO LLP had confirmed satisfactory conclusion of the audit for 2011/12.

(e) Dog Fouling: Following discussion on this topic, four Members voted in favour of purchasing a dog litter bin from BDC at a cost of £53 (+15% admin charge) and annual emptying fee of £40.07 (with two Members voting against and one abstention). The Clerk will liaise with BDC re the provision of a bin, its recommended siting close to Parsons Walk (which is considered to be the area

Clerk

	presenting most problems) and an emptying service. This situation will then be reviewed in a year's time.	Clerk
	It was further agreed to submit an article to 'Contact' re dog fouling (along the lines suggested by the Police).	Clerk
(f)	Parking on Green: A request had been received from Mrs Y Hamilton, Manager of the Pre-School, for permission to use The Green for parking on the evening of 3 November for the School's Bonfire Night. Members were happy to grant permission.	Clerk
12/075	<u>Planning:</u>	
(a)	Decisions received: None	
(b)	Withdrawn applications: None	
(c)	New planning applications: None	
(d)	New planning applications received since the date of this notice: B/12/00183: Cotters, The Row: Erection of garage/log store Following consideration of the plans, Members undertook to view the site and respond to Cllr Burr as a matter of urgency, so that the PC's consultation response may be submitted.	ALL/DB Clerk
(e)	Tree Preservation Order/Tree Conservation Area Application: None	
(f)	Appeals: None	
(g)	Other Planning Matters Neighbourhood Planning: The proposed flyer in this regard had been issued with October's 'Contact' magazine. Those parishioners willing to join the working party have been asked to notify the Clerk by the 24 October. The situation will be reviewed at November's PC meeting. Social Housing – Banhams Yard: An update had been received from Lynda Bacon, Senior Planner, advising that an agreement, in principle, has been reached with a Housing Association willing to take on the property on a shared equity basis. It was agreed a response would be sent expressing the Parish Council's disappointment that the matter could not be progressed on a rental basis.	Clerk Clerk
(g)	Listed Buildings Schedule: Copies of the latest LB Schedule were issued.	
12/076	<u>Green, Cemetery and Churchyard</u>	
(a)	Cemetery <i>Adjoining Land:</i> Cllr Pask is trying to expedite a response in this regard. It is hoped an Oak sapling could be planted in this area. <i>Jubilee Hedging:</i> Cllr Pask has reviewed plans with Mr M Feather. <i>Fees, Procedures etc:</i> Cllr S Turner had circulated the latest set of documents for Members to consider. Following discussion of suggested fees, it was thought that full fees should only be charged for those over 15/16 years of age at death. It was agreed that all Members would review the Fees Schedule in detail and provide comments to Cllr S Turner in readiness for the next meeting. Approval was given to Cllr S Turner to obtain a professional draft of the proposed Cemetery leaflet, which had also been circulated. Where applicable, a separate sheet, for stonemasons and funeral directors, would be incorporated. Cllr Browning thanked Cllr Turner for her help in this regard. <i>Management:</i> Cllr D Turner had circulated to Members proposals for the management of the cemetery and its headstones. Mowing arrangements, including the use of a rake attachment, where and when appropriate, were discussed. Cllr Turner is to liaise with Mr Oliver Cornish in this regard. Cllr Turner is currently waiting for further information re the treatment of fallen headstones, for which it is considered an annual budget will be required. It was believed that such costs would need to be reflected in the Fees Schedule.	JP JP ALL/ ST ST DT DT/ST

- (b) Post Boxes on the Green: Cllr Hirst is seeking information in respect of the re- painting of these boxes. HH
- (c) Pear Tree Cottage/The Crown: Following the report of dampness in this cottage, which led to the finding of blocked drainage ditches, the Parish Council is to write to Mrs H May (as Lessee of the Crown PH) asking her to arrange for the ditches between The Crown and Parsons Walk to be cleared to enable the free flow of water down to the river. Clerk
- (d) Trees on The Green: Mr David Pizzey, Arboricultural Officer of BDC is to be asked to visit the Green and advise as to the current state and best management of the trees. Clerk
- (e) Strengthening of Hartest Church Bridge: A request had been received from SCC's Bridge Engineer, Stuart Hearsom, to permit use of part of The Green as a temporary compound during the scheduled bridge works. Since it is important to select an area where least damage could be done, Cllrs Hirst and Pask agreed to meet Mr Hearsom on 10 October. Clerk
- 12/077 Highways and Footpaths
- (a) Traffic Management
 The two mobile signs on loan from SCC have been collected; data gathered is to be provided to the PC.
 Parking outside School and Banhams: A response is awaited from the School Governors as to whether the land purchased by SCC in Somerton Road may be used as a car park for parents dropping off and collecting their children. Cllr S Turner advised that some parents have stated that they have been told that they cannot use the Institute car park. Cllr Pask is to enquire of the Arts Class whether there is a problem with parking. The School will also be asked to advise parents similarly. JP Clerk
 Parked Vehicle along The Row: Following a report, enquiries had been made with the Police. No action was possible.
- (b) Footpaths/Highways
 Drainage and Pot Hole Problems: An updated schedule had been provided by Paul Gant as of 2 October, and details circulated. Clerk
 Blind Lane: See Min 12/072 above.
 Ash Tree o/s White Cottage: To be expedited. Clerk
 Overhanging Hedges – The Row: When visited by the Clerk, no problems were evident, so letters were withheld.
 Grit Heaps: A list of locations for these had been sent by SCC and circulated. Members confirmed that these were correct and SCC will be advised accordingly. Clerk
- 12/078 Correspondence: BDO appointed external auditor 2012/13-2016/17. SALC AGM – 12 November – Haughley Park Barn
- 12/079 Matters of report: Nothing to report.
- 12/080 Matters for consideration at the next meeting
 Possible subsidy to `Contact : Cllr D Burr
 Cllr Pask: Possible celebration of 300 years of the standing stone on the Green and the possible reinstatement of a working pump.
- 12/081 The meeting closed at 9.20 p.m.
Date of next Meeting: Wednesday 7 November at 7 p.m. in the Institute

Approved at the Parish Council Meeting held on 7 November 2012