

# Hartest Parish Council

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## Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held in the Institute on Wednesday 1 February 2012 at 7pm.

Present: Cllrs Chris Browning (Chairman), David Burr, Howard Hirst, Jo Pask, David Turner and Scilla Turner  
In Attendance: Dist Cllr J Long and Mrs P M Lamb (Parish Clerk)  
Also Present: Mr R Carpenter

### ACTION

- 11/148 Apologies for absence: Cllr A Warren-Thomas, Co Cllr R Kemp and PCSO Partington
- 11/149 Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the meeting of the 11 January 2012 were approved and signed.
- 11/150 Matters Arising: None
- 11/151 Declarations of interest: None
- 11/152 Public Forum: Cllr Browning introduced Mr Ralph Carpenter to speak on the subject of the Localism Bill with particular reference to its proposed planning elements and its devolution of power to communities. Mr Carpenter said that the Parish Plan had identified a number of areas where facilities could be provided, or are needed. He considered that the PC provides the ideal mechanism through which to engage with the local community as to how the village is to develop over the next 20+ years. A review in this regard could provide a development plan, which could be adopted by BDC. As a facilitator, the PC could engage with residents, seeking their opinions and needs etc. It is considered that there is a lot of support available in terms of skills and finance, although there are skills within the village, which could be harnessed. This Bill goes beyond the identification of needs to their provision whilst using the Parish Plan as a base. More housing is likely to be encouraged, with appropriate "sweeteners" etc offered. The village could involve organisations in this. Such plans would have to be supported by 50% of the villagers, with a referendum to confirm this. Cllr Burr added that, if, for example, villagers sought to identify an area for modest housing, such freehold could be vested in a village trust in order to control any such development. Any Local Plan thus produced would be unassailable. Mr Carpenter advised that there is some £50k available to recruit external organisations to conduct consultations etc, but he felt that such skills were available within the village. It was agreed these proposals would be outlined at the Annual Parish Meeting on Wednesday 25 April, whilst a special meeting to discuss this matter would then be held on Wednesday 2 May (with the PC meeting postponed to 9 May). The wording of an explanatory leaflet, which would be delivered to all households in the village, would be considered at the March PC meeting. Cllr Browning thanked Mr Carpenter for his presentation.
- 11/153 Police report: From PCSO Partington for the period 11/01/12 to 01/02/2012 no crimes have been recorded within the parish (compared to 0 crimes for the same period last year). If anyone in the parish wishes to have tailored crime prevention advice on heating oil tanks, home or even just personal security when out and about, please do not hesitate to contact me or anyone else on the Babergh West Safer Neighbourhood team. We have been very lucky with the weather so far this winter, but no doubt we will soon get a long cold spell. Please can I make a plea to all

Clerk

residents in Hartest to keep in touch regularly with your elderly and infirm neighbours; making sure that they have sufficient heating and supplies. If you have any concerns for anyone, please contact the police immediately where we will happily make the relevant enquiries to ensure they are alive and well, or put them in touch with various organisations, which will be able to offer them help and advice.

11/154

Co Cllr Kemp's Report:

Full Council: The latest Full Council meeting took place on 15 December covering a variety of reports from the Council's committees, the official appointment of the Chief Executive and the decision to go ahead with the change in the structure of the Libraries. As you are aware, the Libraries paper changes the current system in that it will become an Independent and Provident Society for the benefit of the community. SCC intends to drastically reduce the cost of the library system, and is therefore moving the in-house Library service into a membership organisation with charitable status. Libraries will be run by local constituted groups, and be members of the IPS, which will be run by an elected board. One of the main savings is the fact that this new organisation will have a reduced level of business rates (80% reduction). In addition local libraries are expected to make a 5% savings through a number of means as suggested in the paper.

In addition to this paper being agreed, reports from all the committee meetings were accepted; the statutory guidance on air quality was passed, as were the constitutional amendments.

See link below;

<http://committeeminutes.suffolkcc.gov.uk/meeting.aspx?d=15/12/2011&c=County%20Council>

For copy of the Library papers originally submitted to the Cabinet in November;

<http://committeeminutes.suffolkcc.gov.uk/meeting.aspx?d=08/11/2011&c=The%20Cabinet>

New Chief Executive: As mentioned above, SCC agreed the appointment of Deborah Cadman as the new CEO at Thursday's Full Council meeting. Support for the appointment was across the political divide.

Deborah begins her role as Chief Executive this week and I look forward to working with her.

January Cabinet meeting: This meeting is one of most important of the year, as it is the first real look at the budget papers, which provide greater detail on what the SCC is intending to do for the next financial year. The final decision on the budget for 2012/13 will take place at the Full Council meeting on the 9 February.

Other items on the agenda;

- Review of 2011 attainment outcomes in Suffolk Schools
- Consultation on the School Reorganisation in the Thurston Area.
- School Organisation Review in the Stowmarket and Stowupland areas – capital provision
- Consultation on the closure of some Nursery classes

This meeting will take place on 24 January at 11 am in Mildenhall at the Forest Heath District Council Offices.

Papers for the meeting, when available:

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

As part of the drive to get Suffolk better broadband service, SCC has launched an online survey to gather information from businesses across the County asking where faster internet is needed. This is both an important, and final, opportunity to do so. The survey can be found:

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/SuffolkBusinessBroadbandSurvey>

There are a number of other surveys at

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

11/155

District Councillor's Report: Cllr Long reported that, at the recent Full Council meeting, car parking and council tax were discussed. Cllr Long

had stressed the need to retain a period of free parking; this was agreed at 3 hours. It is hoped that Sudbury Town Council will assume responsibility for car parking. Cllr Long was thanked for his work in this regard. A council tax increase of 3.5% was approved (representing 9p/week for 80% of BDC residents in Band D or below). This increase will ensure current services are maintained.

11/156

Finance & Administration:

(a) Receipts

Memorial Inscription Fee: Mrs J Dixey: £20.00

Interment Fee: Mr G Hebditch: £100.00

UKPN Rental 30.11.11-12.12.12: £9.87

UKPN Wayleave re Church Gate House: £250.00

HMRC Refund of PAYE overpayment: £133.60

(b) Payments: The following payments were approved:

Renewal of Hartest.com domain name for 1 year: £10.80

Boxted & Hartest Institute: Hire of hall: 9.1.12: £20.00

The above payments were approved.

Clerk

A request had been received from Mrs Erica Clark for a contribution to the costs incurred in connection with the recent Hedgerow Survey. It was agreed a letter would be sent to Mrs Clark reiterating Members' thanks to her, and her team, for all their work regarding this survey whilst advising that, ideally, reimbursement of such costs would have been sought in advance (and with completion of a grant application). Members approved a payment of £30 in this respect.

Clerk

(c) Councillors' Office Expenses: Having expended £95 on Word software for PC related work, a councillor enquired as to possible reimbursement of this sum. The wider issue of Councillors' expenses was discussed, with reference to guidance received from SALC (suggesting a possible allowance of one ream of paper and one black print cartridge per Member per annum). Whilst Members felt unable to assist individuals with software, it was agreed that a general 'office allowance' might be made available to councillors which could then be put towards whatever expenses were incurred; costs of printing ink and paper to be ascertained and the matter discussed further at the next meeting.

All

(d) Grant Funding – Identification of Possible Projects: Cllr S Turner recommended a separate meeting be held to consider grants available from various sources and possible applications. (Such would include s106 and locality funding.) A convenient date is to be agreed via email. Suggestions/recommendations would be sought by means of a mail drop to all households. This meeting would also be mentioned at the proposed Localism Act meeting.

ST

(e) Community Shop: Further enquiries will be made re the Parish Council's grant of £800 towards an EPOS till following last month's scheduled Community Shop meeting.

Clerk

(f) Diamond Jubilee: Bonfire: Cllr Pask advised that, following discussions with landowners, permission had been given to use the old mausoleum base on the Lawshall Road as the site for a bonfire, providing Members were agreeable to share the occasion with Shimpling residents. This was agreed. Initial ideas are for residents to picnic on the green and then walk (through Hartest Wood), or drive to the location. Cllr D Turner asked if materials for the bonfire would be made available.

JP/DB

Oak Sapling: Cllr Pask has arranged for the supply of an Oak sapling from the Sandringham Estate; this will be delivered in October along with a bundle of other saplings. The possible location of the new Oak - in place of the apparently ailing Plane tree near the telephone box - was considered. It was agreed to reserve judgement until the spring, when the tree may show signs of recovery.

JP

- 11/157 Planning:
- (a) Decisions received: Permission granted:  
B/11/01285/FHA/CP: The Cottage, The Green:  
Erection of outbuilding for use as a granny annexe.
  - (b) Withdrawn applications: None
  - (c) New planning applications: None
  - (d) Tree Preservation Order/Tree Conservation Area Applications:None
  - (e) Appeals: APP/D3505/A/11/2162608/NWF: Neat House land  
East of Old Bakery: The Planning Inspectorate had dismissed the  
appeal. Cllr Burr outlined the reasons given and is to review this  
matter. DB
  - (f) Other Planning Matters:  
S106 monies: Refer 11/156(d) above.
  - (g) Affordable House – Banhams Yard: In response to the PC’s  
enquiry re the status of this unit; BDC had advised that none of  
the units “can be occupied until the affordable unit is transferred  
to a registered provider” (although one unit is already occupied).  
This matter will be progressed and Cllr Long advised. Clerk
- 11/158 Green, Cemetery and Churchyard
- (a) Cemetery  
Notice board: Cllr Pask is awaiting a response. JP  
Adjoining Land: A further meeting is to be arranged as soon as JP/DB  
possible.  
Gates: Cllr D Turner is to liaise with Andrew Pawsey re bolts. DT
  - (b) Cemetery Management Meeting: Cllr S Turner reported on this  
initial meeting. The intention is to ensure related documentation  
and procedures are appropriate. It is hoped also to produce  
suitable literature, review fees etc. A further meeting is to be  
held on the 22 February. ST/JP/  
Clerk
  - (c) Hartest Wood: Related matters were discussed.
- 11/159 Highways and Footpaths
- (a) Traffic Management: A response from Paul Gant of SCC had been  
received and circulated; the matter was pended forward to March. Clerk
  - (b) Parking outside School: Cllr Burr advised that he had been unable  
to attend the Police Priority Setting meeting, but that the Chair of  
Governors had raised the matter in a newsletter to all parents
  - (c) Footpaths: The fallen tree across FP 20 had been removed.
  - (d) Erosion of Green: Cllr Hirst advised that kerbing and oak posts  
might offer some protection near the Butchers. A brief discussion  
was held after which it was agreed to monitor thls situation.
  - (e) Hedgerows Map: The PC now has a PSMA licence to permit use of  
Ordnance Survey maps, as necessary; Erica Clark and All  
Ralph Carpenter are to be advised accordingly.  
Clerk
- 11/160 Correspondence: A letter of thanks had been received from the Carpet  
Bowls Club for their grant towards a mat.
- 11/161 Matters of report: None
- 11/162 Matters for consideration at the next meeting: None
- 11/163 Date of next meeting: Wednesday 7 March at 7 p.m. in the Institute.  
The meeting closed at 9 p.m.

**Approved at the Parish Council Meeting held on 7 March 2012**