

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting

Wednesday 25 April 2012 at 7.30 p.m. in the Boxted & Hartest Institute

Chair: Cllr Chris Browning
In attendance: Co Cllr Richard Kemp, Dist Cllr James Long and Various Members of the Village and the Parish Council

- 1 **Apologies for Absence:** Rev P Prigg (PCC), Mr R Weller-Poley (Institute), Mrs L Webb (WI), Mrs S Howell (Hartest Charities), Mrs J Carpenter (Community Shop) and Mr & Mrs M Lewis (Carpet Bowls and Website)
- 2 **Chairman's Welcome:** Cllr Chris Browning extended a warm welcome to everyone.
- 3 **Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 28 April 2011:** These were read and approved.
- 4 **Matters Arising:** None
- 5 **Chair's Report:** Cllr Chris Browning presented his report on the Parish Council's activities during the year, which covered, amongst others, such items as election of the new council, the cemetery extension, the Diamond Jubilee celebrations, highways etc; his full report is attached.
- 6 **Parish Council Finance Report:** The Parish Clerk presented the draft report for the year ended 31 March 2012. Details of the draft accounts were presented and a copy of the report is attached.
- 7 **County Councillor's Report:** In his report (attached) Cllr Kemp touched on SCC's budget, the remaining elements of the New Strategic Direction, Libraries and the new Chief Executive and Leader of the Council. In addition to his printed report, Cllr Kemp was able to advise that the Long Melford "old railway walk" is being officially opened on Sunday 29 April at 2.30 p.m. Taking on this responsibility has resulted in an increase of some 33% to Long Melford residents. Cllr Kemp also urged residents in his ward, who wished to seek his assistance with any problems, should contact him as soon as possible, before matters become insurmountable.
- 8 **District Councillor's Report:** Cllr Long highlighted the 3.5% increase in Council Tax for 2012/13, Homelessness, Waste and Recycling and Abandoned Vehicles; his full report is attached.
- 9 **Police Report:** PC Chris Garrod presented the report for the year 1.4.11-25.4.12 totalling 8 recorded crimes (0.27% of all crimes recorded in the Sudbury sector). The full report is attached.
- 10 **Hartest CEVC Primary School Report:** Head Teacher, Hilary Hall, delivered a comprehensive report (attached), which, amongst other items, advised of the significant drop in pupil numbers in Years 5 and 6 (where parents have opted to move their children into the 3 tier system in Bury at the end of Year 4), the appointment of an additional full time teacher in September and the success of the new Learning Development Room and separate hall.
- 11 **Hartest Pre-School Report:** Annie Del Mar, Chair, presented the Pre-School's report (attached), which noted its good OFSTED report, its 74% occupancy rate and the addition of an all weather garden.
- 12 **Hartest PCC Report:** Chris Browning delivered this report (attached), which included the possible Benefice reorganisation and the PCC's current vacancies.
- 13 **Hartest Women's Institute Report:** Jo Pask presented the Institute's report (attached) outlining its events and activities during the last year, and its forthcoming jumble sale to raise much needed funds (with unsold items being passed to the Cancer Research Charity).
- 14 **The Boxted and Hartest Institute Report:** In the absence of Richard Weller-Poley, Jo Pask reported on the Institute's activities. In this, its 10th year following its restoration, it was noted that every effort is being made to maintain income levels in order to avoid the use of reserves to pay for day-to-day maintenance. The full report is attached.
- 15 **Community Shop Report:** Chris Browning delivered this report on behalf of the Community Shop Management Group, which advised that mechanisms and officers remained in post, and an AGM was held in February 2012. The full report is attached.
- 16 **Tree Warden Report:** Michael Feather reported on applications received this year relating to various proposed tree works including the large Oak outside Oakhill House, various trees around The Hatch in Pilgrims Lane and the Lime at Westcroft in Somerton Road. Michael also congratulated the Hedge Survey team, whose work identified hedges going to medieval times. The full report is attached.

- 17 **Charities Report:** Jo Pask presented this report, prepared by Sarah Howell (attached). One of the three charities, namely the Sparkes Charity, has a regular net annual income of £88, which is intended for the purchase of books and the schooling of poor children within Hartest. No donations were made during the last year. The remaining two (John Corder and Thomas Wright) Charities currently receive no income.
- 18 **Gardening Club:** As Secretary of this Club, which continues to flourish after 25 years, Geraldine Ross reported on its membership and various activities including its Flower, Vegetable and Produce Show, which attracted over 300 entries last September and draws a large number of visitors to the village. The Club's full report is attached.
- 19 **Carpet Bowls Club:** Joy Banham presented the Club's report (attached), which encourages new people to come along and "give it a try". Regular social events, including a Summer Barbecue and New Year's Dinner are also held.
- 20 **Web Site:** Joy Banham also presented this report outlining the facilities of the site, which continues to grow and develop. A two week period recently registered 366 visitors to the site, which is just over a year old!
- 21 **Any Other Business:** None

The meeting closed at 9.00 p.m.

Approved at the Annual Parish Meeting held on the 24 April 2013