

# Hartest Parish Council

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## Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held in the Institute on Wednesday 26 March 2014 at 7pm.

Present: Cllrs Chris Browning (Chair), Jo Pask, David Loxton, Graham Manning, Nick Price, David Turner and

In Attendance: Co Cllr R Kemp and Mrs P Lamb (Parish Clerk)

### ACTION

- 13/166 Apologies for absence: Cllr S Turner and Dist Cllr J Long
- 13/167 Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the meetings held on the 6 February and 5 March 2014 were approved and signed.
- 13/168 Matters Arising: None
- 13/169 Dispensation Requests/Declarations of Interest: Cllr Turner re Item 10(c) - PA B/14/00244 - Musks, 6 Shimpling Road and Cllr Browning re Item 10(f) - Appeal re B/13/00790/LBC - Dowsetts, Melford Road.
- 13/170 Public Forum: No members of the public present.
- 13/171 Police Report: This report covers the period from 2-21 March 2014. During this time 1 crime had been recorded within the parish (compared to 3 for the same period last year).  
Burglary - Other: Between 1900 and 1930 on 13 March, unknown offenders gained access to a brick hut on Bury Road, and stole an inverter and vehicle battery. Due to the lack of further enquiries, evidence and witnesses, this crime has now been finalised. SU/14/477 PC 1380 Bourne
- 13/172 County Councillor's Report: Cllr Kemp reported that he is currently dealing with drainage re Parsons' Walk. He also mentioned that three parents had registered their annoyance at their inability to get their children registered with the Stour Valley Free School due to oversubscription. Complaints had also been received from Long Melford and Hartest. It was recommended that the PC might perhaps send a letter of support to Mrs M Burr as Chair of Governors, Hartest School. This was agreed. Clerk
- 13/173 District Councillor's Report: In Cllr Long's absence, no report was available.
- 13/174 Finance & Administration
- (a) Receipts: None
  - (b) Payments: None. The Clerk advised that a nil rates demand had again been received re the Cemetery extension.
  - (c) Grant Application - Boxted and Hartest Institute: Cllr Pask advised that no meeting had yet been held to discuss this matter.
  - (d) Locality Funding: Cllr Kemp advised that the use of the sum of £750 for cemetery maintenance has been approved.
  - (e) Adoption of latest (November 2013) Standing Orders: Following receipt earlier of the proposed documents, it was agreed that these standing orders be adopted. Clerk
  - (f) Adoption of NALC's Complaints Procedure: Again, this document had been circulated. Following discussion, it was agreed to insert an additional clause. Clerk
  - (g) Communications Policy: Cllr Turner recommended the PC

introduces a communications policy and, to this end, is to provide Members with a draft for consideration at the next PC meeting. DT

13/175 Planning

- (a) Decisions received: None
- (b) Withdrawn applications: None
- (c) New planning applications:
  - B/14/00190: Chadacre Hall, Chadacre: Erection of estate lodge for recreational use (retention of).
  - B/14/00244: Musks, 6 Shimpling Road: Erection of single storey front and rear extensions, erection of attached garage, construction of new vehicular access, internal and external alterations.Following consideration of these, Members agreed to support the applications. Clerk
- (d) New planning applications received since the date of this notice: None
- (e) Tree Preservation Order/Tree Conservation Area Application:
  - B/14/00344: Place Farm, The Green: Pollard 5 No Lime Trees. Members supported this application. Clerk
- (f) Appeals: B/13/00790/LBC - Dowsetts, Melford Road – Installation of 2 solar thermal panels. Appeal dismissed
- (g) Other Planning Matters
  - Neighbourhood Plan: Cllr Price advised that Peter Freer of BDC had responded re some procedural issues. Cllr Price had offered to be the NP Group's link with BDC. The Group is to meet to decide how best to divide the workload. Cllr Price further outlined a proposed Easter holiday project for children, via the School, which would provide a family focus. NALC's guidance re the use of social media (facebook etc) had also been sought, which, it was felt, would provide an instant draw. (Children need to be 13 years of age, or older, to have a facebook presence.) Cllr Price had set up a page, which it is hoped to launch by 3 April. A prize draw is to be held. Members agreed the PC should provide £100 towards the prize (from the refunded Community Shop monies OF £800). Enquiries are to be made with Suffolk Community Foundation re possible further funding. NP
  - Social Housing – Banham's Yard: Cllr Loxton reported that he had spoken to Ian Tippett re the prospective purchaser, who was unable to progress his interest in this property. A response from Mr Tippett is currently awaited. DL
- (h) Giffords Hall Vineyard: Following receipt of the 'Tourist Signing in Suffolk' guidelines from Paul Gant, Members agreed to support the proposal to reinstate the signs previously displayed. It was also agreed to provide a copy of those guidelines to the landlord of the Crown PH for his information. Clerk
- (i) Circulation of Planning Applications: It was agreed that these would be circulated in the following order: DL/JP/DT/GM/NP/CB Clerk

13/176 Green, Cemetery and Churchyard

- (a) Cemetery
  - Environmental Management: Cllr Turner advised that the following work had been undertaken using £750 locality funding from SCC; 6 headstones and sarcophagi covers straightened, broken branch cut up, yew tree crown lifted and the spoil mounds on the Green to be removed or levelled. Cllr Pask commented that, following recent discussions with a Sudbury Cemetery Officer, it was recommended that any headstone leaning more than 45° should be stood upright, supported by a stake, and secured with a black plastic tie at the top.
  - Following Cllr Pask's email re reptile habitats in the Cemetery, Cllr Turner confirmed that some areas would be left uncut. DT

- Layout of Cemetery Extension: Cllrs Pask and Turner are to meet in this regard. JP/DT
- Memorial Trees: The Clerk is awaiting a response re a recent request. Clerk
- Closed Churchyards: Cllr Pask is to advise Sarah Howell that SCC would assume responsibility for these, if necessary. JP
- Large Cypress near Entrance to Cemetery: An email dated 18.3.14 had been received from Andy Graham, BDC's Asst Arboricultural Officer confirming that there is no immediate need for removal of this tree. Cllr Turner had sent a copy of this email to Mr I Leigh of Hillbank House, who had expressed concern about the tree, and Cllr Pask had sent a copy to Mr Michael Feather, who had undertaken initial inspections. (Cllr Manning advised that the prevailing wind in the area is actually SW (and not NW), as recorded by Mr Graham.)
- (b) The Green
- Cllr Pask reminded Members to keep an eye on the tree by the Telephone Box, where BT had previously carried out work. ALL
- Ditch on the Green: Cllr D Turner reported that he had had a meeting with the aforementioned Andy Graham, who had advised that the digging of a drainage run down Parsons' Walk would be dangerous to the trees. Cllr Turner is to look at an alternative solution and is to provide details during the next few days. DT
- Use of the Green for Annual Fete: Mrs Hollie Kidby had requested this for BH Monday 25 August. Members agreed to grant permission. Clerk
- 13/177 Highways and Footpaths
- (a) Traffic Management  
Bridge works are to be scheduled for 2015.
- (b) Footpaths/Highways  
School Parking and Pavement: Cllr Price had circulated details of his recent meeting with Head Teacher, Hilary Hall, from which it became apparent that there is no "ready solution", as the school receives no help re clearing paths in/around it. It was agreed that Paul Gant of SCC is to be asked again to extend the yellow hatching. Enquiries will also be made as to provision of a '20's Plenty' sign capable of operating automatically, as required, and a flashing 'School' warning sign. Clerk
- Cllr Browning also suggested asking the Governors whether they considered the schoolchildren to be at risk and, if so, ask if they would they be happy to work with the PC on this in order to agree a joint view. Clerk
- Pilgrims Lane: The pothole repairs have not yet been effected. A reminder will be issued. Clerk
- Lawshall Road: Despite the considerable inconvenience of a two weeks' road closure, the extent and quality of the repairs carried out are considered to be very disappointing. SCC is to be advised. Clerk
- Workhouse Hill Footpath by The Warrens: SCC is expected to repair this shortly. Clerk
- 13/178 Correspondence: None
- 13/179 Matters of report only: Cllr Pask wondered if Members had any suggestions as to how to commemorate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the commencement of World War I. Cllr Turner suggested perhaps highlighting Suffolk/Hartest people. The village website now has a link to the Suffolk Tourism web site.
- 13/180 Matters for consideration at the next meeting: None
- 13/181 The meeting closed at 9.10 p.m.

Dates of next Meetings: In the Institute:

Wednesday 30 April: Annual Parish Meeting at 7.30 p.m. – All welcome  
(Refreshments available at 7.15 p.m.)

Wednesday 7 May: PC Annual Meeting at 7 p.m.

**Approved at the Parish Council held on 7 May 2014**