

Hartest Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held in the Institute on Wednesday 11 January 2012 at 7pm.

Present: Cllrs Chris Browning (Chairman), David Burr, 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)
Also Present: Mr M Last

ACTION

- 11/132 Apologies for absence: Cllr H Hirst, PCSO Partington
- 11/133 Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the meeting of the 30 November 2011 were approved and signed.
- 11/134 Matters Arising: None
- 11/135 Declarations of interest: Cllr J Pask re Agenda Item 9c - Grants
- 11/136 Public Forum:
Neat House Appeal: Mr Last advised Members that he had written to the Planning Inspectorate to invite their Inspector to view inside his property, to see the floor levels. Cllrs Burr and Pask hoped to attend the site meeting at 1130 a.m. tomorrow, 12 January. It was noted that they would not be able to speak on the matter.
Lawshall Road: Dist Cllr Long confirmed that repairs had been done.
- 11/137 Police report: A report, provided by PCSO Partington, showed no crimes had been recorded for the period 1 December 2011 to 11 January 2012. Whilst it is reassuring that crimes remained low over the Christmas period, residents are reminded to telephone 999 if suspicious persons or vehicles are seen. Homes in darkness can be a target for thieves, so when you're not in your home and its dark, remember 'Lights Up and Lock Up'.
- 11/138 County Councillor's Report:
Full Council: Last meeting took place on the 15 December covering various Committee reports, official appointment of the Chief Executive and the decision to proceed with the change in the structure of the Libraries to that of an Independent and Provident Society for the benefit of the community in order to realise savings. Local libraries will be run by locally constituted groups, and be members of the IPS, run by an elected board. This new organisation will attract a reduced level of business rates (80%) and libraries are expected to make 5% savings through various measures.
<http://committeeminutes.suffolkcc.gov.uk/meeting.aspx?d=15/12/2011&c=County%20Council>
New Chief Executive: Deborah Cadman has been appointed.
January Cabinet Meeting: Budget papers for 2012/13 will be reviewed with a final decision being taken on 9 February. Other agenda items:
 - 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 classesThis meeting will take place on 24 January at 11am in Forest Heath DC's Offices in Mildenhall.
Papers: <http://committeeminutes.suffolkcc.gov.uk/>

Suffolk Broadband Business Survey; 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.

Survey:

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

Cllr Kemp further advised that Long Melford PC is forming an offshoot of the PC to assume responsibility for the Railway Walk and Rodbridge Park (resulting in a 32% increase in local Council Tax). Responsibility for Public Conveniences will also be dealt with similarly.

Car Parking: The motion to introduce parking charges was rejected, but this will be considered by the Financial Planning Sub Committee. It was felt that no charges were likely to be introduced for short term parking, but longer term could attract a fee.

Council Tax: An increase of 3.5% being submitted.

- 11/139 District Councillor's Report: Cllr Long advised that the next Full Council meeting is to be held later this month, when Council Tax and Car Parking would be discussed. Re the latter item, Cllr Long stated that, whilst significant cost savings had been made, there was still a shortfall, and it was likely that some parking fees would need to be introduced. Cllr Burr asked him, on behalf of Members, to consider voting against any such proposal since this would impact adversely on the local economy.
- 11/140 Finance & Administration:
- (a) Payments: The following payments were approved:
Boxted & Hartest Institute: Hall hire 7.9, 5.10 & 3.11.11: £52.00
Mr O Cornish: Grounds Maintenance in cemetery extn: £1,050.00
The above payments were approved. Clerk
 - (b) Annual Review of Grass Maintenance Contract: Mr Cornish had confirmed that he had no matters to raise.
 - (c) Grants: Applications had been received from the Boxted & Hartest Institute for £150 towards a replacement water boiler and the Hartest & District Bowls Club for £400 towards a replacement mat. Members approved the granting of these sums. Clerk
 - (d) BDC Capital Grant Funding: It was understood that the closing date for requests is 31 March 2012. It was agreed that the related email from BDC would be circulated again and Cllr S Turner would draw together some possible applications for consideration at the next meeting. Clerk/ST
 - (e) Diamond Jubilee: Following discussion, it was agreed that the best way to celebrate this occasion would be a picnic on the Green with a 50's theme. Cllr Pask advised that the Royal Estates had been planting acorns and these young trees are now being made available. Since the millennium oak tree is in a poor condition, it could perhaps serve as a replacement; Cllr Pask is to enquire. The new cemetery extension was suggested as the possible siting of a Jubilee bonfire. Cllr Burr undertook to check as to the situation re crops in the vicinity. A brief discussion followed re a beacon instead, but was not pursued. JP
 - (f) Proposed Parking Charges in Sudbury: See Item 11/139 above. DB
- 11/141 Planning:
- (a) Decisions received: Permissions granted:
B/10/00943/FHA: Church Gate, The Green
Non material amendment; replacement of approved render finish to softwood weather boarding with paint finish
B/10/00713/LBC/DB: Dowsetts, Melford Road:
Insertion of 2 no replacement windows & internal alterations
B/11/01169/FHA/CP: 5 Green View: Creation of 2 storey front gable and rear conservatory

B/11/01448/TCA: Westcroft, Somerton Road: Fell 1 no Plum and 2 no Cypress trees

B/11/01532/TCA: All Saints' Church, The Green: Reduce height of 4 no Yew trees by 25% and reduce hedge height by 1/3

(b) Withdrawn applications: None

(c) New planning applications:

B/11/01589: The Old Rectory - Erection of 12' x 8' Greenhouse
Members were happy to support this proposal.

B/11/01457: Clanders, Cross Green - Replacement windows
Members expressed support for this proposal providing the replacement windows are identical in design to the existing (as confirmed in the accompanying design statement). but would not be happy with the design shown in some photocopies depicting windows with much wider glazing bars, which would look out of character.

BDC is to be advised accordingly.

Clerk

(d) Tree Preservation Order/Tree Conservation Area Applications

(e) Appeals: APP/D3505/A/11/2162608/NWF: Neat House land East of Old Bakery: A site meeting is to be held tomorrow, 12 January. Cllrs Burr and Pask are to attend.

(f) Other Planning Matters:

S106 monies: It was confirmed that this money is held by BDC pending allocation by the PC. It was agreed to again place an article in 'Contact' advising the availability of funding and inviting possible uses. Cllr Turner also offered to review the Parish Plan in this regard and arrange a separate meeting in this regard. It was noted that such funding could be used for a traffic sign.

Clerk

ST

11/142 Green, Cemetery and Churchyard

(a) War Memorial: Cllr Hirst had consulted Pat Tebbitt re suitable cleaning materials. Cllrs Burr and Turner were also willing to assist and Mark Last had also offered his help. It was agreed no cleaning, or painting of the chains, would be undertaken until the crocii had flowered. This item would now be placed on the June agenda, unless earlier discussion were considered necessary.

All/Clerk

(b) Cemetery - Notice board: Cllr Pask had spoken to Mr P Warwicker in this connection, who is to look at the existing with a view to making a new one.

Cemetery - Adjoining Land: No further information available.

JP

(c) Cemetery Management: Cllrs Turner, Pask and the Parish Clerk are to meet later this month with a view to issuing a report/recommendations.

DT/JP/
Clerk

11/143 Highways and Footpaths

(a) Traffic Management: Nothing had been heard from SCC since the meeting with Highways on 10 November; a response had been requested. This will be expedited again.

Clerk

(b) Parking outside School: Cllr Burr advised that he will attend the next Police Priority Setting meeting and would again request officers to monitor parking here, request parents to use the Institute car park and install speed camera in the afternoon. The School had also asked parents to park responsibly. Cllr Kemp suggested that Police officers be asked to issue penalty notices in order to alter behaviour. An extension to the hatched area at the Banhams Yard entrance would also be sought, as work on the site has recommenced.

DB

(c) Footpaths: Cllr D Turner advised that a tree had fallen across part of the circular walk; details are to be provided to the Clerk and referred to SCC.

DT/Clerk

(d) Erosion of Green: This is occurring along the byway to the Butchers; the possible introduction of oak posts will be discussed at the next meeting.

Clerk

- (e) Hartest Wood: A discussion was held in this regard. Quotations will be obtained and discussed further at the next meeting. Clerk
- (f) Road Salt: Dist Cllr Long is to check whether this is provided opposite Green View near Chadacre Lane and would advise the Clerk, as this location is not listed as requiring a supply. JL/Clerk
- (g) Hedgerows Map: It had been established that the PC does not currently have an appropriate O/S licence (BDC having presumed it was no longer required). It was agreed the PC would seek an End User Licence (FOC to the public sector).

11/144 Correspondence: Latest folder issued.

11/145 Matters of report: Cllr Warren-Thomas advised that the affordable unit here is not owned by Orwell Housing; BDC would be consulted.

11/146 Matters for consideration at the next meeting: Community Shop, Possible Locality Money from Co Cllr Kemp, Affordable House – Banhams Yard.

11/147 Date of next meeting: Wednesday 1 February at 7 p.m. in the Institute. The meeting closed at 9 p.m.

Approved at the Parish Council Meeting held on 1 February 2012