

Hartest Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held in the Institute on Wednesday 10 April 2013 at 7pm.

Present: Cllrs Chris Browning (Chair), 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)
1 member of the public

ACTION

12/150 Apologies for absence: Co Cllr R Kemp and PCSO H Partington

12/151 Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the 6 February were approved and signed.

12/152 Matters Arising: None

12/154 Dispensation Requests re Declarations of Interest: None

12/155 Declarations of interest: None

12/156 Public Forum: No matters were discussed.

12/157 Police Report: This report covers the period from 6 February to 9 April 2013. During this time 3 crimes were recorded within the parish (compared to 0 crimes for the same period last year).

Breakdown of Crimes

Burglary Other Buildings: Between 1500 and 1845 hrs on 11 February, a shed was broken into on Shimpling Road, when a large number of items were stolen. This crime has since been finalised. SU/13/322 Pc 109 Hayward

Vehicle crime

Between 14 and 17 February a vehicle was damaged. No publicity requested, therefore no further information available. SU/13/526 Pc 1721 Thomas

Between 10 and 15 March a theft from a motor vehicle took place on Shimpling Road. This crime has since been finalised. SU/13/575 Pc 1800 Wright

If you have any information that would be of interest regarding these, or any other offences, please let Babergh West SNT know or contact Crimestoppers anonymously.

Priority setting meeting: Tuesday 21 May 2013, 1800-1900 hours at Cockfield Village Hall

12/158 Co Councillor's Report

The Full Council budget meeting took place on 14 February and, as it was a special meeting, was solely for the purpose of discussing the budget. As mentioned in the past, the administration submitted its budget aiming to cut £24.9m for this financial year. This included £7m from Adult and Community Services, and £2.5m from remodelling Children's Services. At the meeting, an amendment to the budget was submitted aiming to improve services in a number of different areas.

- £650,000 to School Improvement Services – to employ additional advisors who visit schools to provide guidance to help schools improve their level of attainment, which drastically needs improving in Suffolk.
- £475,000 for providing an additional 1,900 days of supply work providing it is matched by school funds. It is believed this would

change attitudes, particularly if combined with county efforts to facilitate such cross school working. It might solve the problem where experts from successful schools just can't make time available to help.

- £300,000 to help SCC commit to a pilot scheme that would increase the number of foster carers for the most vulnerable children in Suffolk.
- £300,000 to respond to local community requests for 20mph zones in Suffolk towns and villages.

This additional funding is expected to help improve attainment in Suffolk, care for vulnerable children and improve localism after the speed limits team in Suffolk was disbanded.

The aforementioned amendment was eventually defeated with the administration's budget being voted through by 39 votes to 11.

Cabinet: This took place on the 26 February and included a number of significant issues for residents across the County. The main issues discussed and agreed are below;

- As mentioned below, the Cabinet agreed to abolish middle schools in the Stowmarket and Stowupland areas.
- Review of the outcomes of school attainment in Suffolk
- East Anglia ONE Offshore windfarm – a response to the consultation of this application which will see a significant section of the power cables from the windfarm come ashore and be buried underground travelling from Felixstowe to Bramford.
- Ipswich Northern Fringe Supplementary Planning Document – this is a response to Ipswich Borough Council's report on the potential housing development to the north of Ipswich.
- Procurement of Highways Services – the Cabinet agreed to allow officers to negotiate extensions to the current highways contract, (until 30 September), and proceed with awarding a new highways contract to the joint venture between May Gurney & WSP UK Ltd, which will commence on 1 October.
- Suffolk Customer Services Model: Post 2014 – agree to bring the Council's customer service function back into the Council (from CSD) as of May 2014. This includes public access and Customer First functions.
- Suffolk Growth Strategy – the Cabinet was asked to endorse the Suffolk Growth Strategy, a joint economic growth strategy developed by the county, district and borough councils in Suffolk.

For more information see

<http://committeeminutes.suffolccc.gov.uk/meeting.aspx?d=26/Feb/2013&c=The%20Cabinet>

Stowmarket & Stowupland SOR – Call in Rejected

You will be aware that SCC's Cabinet made the decision on Tuesday 26 February to abolish the middle schools in Stowmarket and Stowupland. However, the Lib Dem Group attempted to get the decision called into the Scrutiny Committee as they felt the justification for making this decision was flawed. Of particular issue was the lack of funding to provide top class schools in this area, as the plans will see a split site school created in Stowmarket. They also highlighted the contrasting statistics provided by SCC and the campaign group, as well as issues over safety.

The call in was rejected on the grounds that the Cabinet had all the required information to hand, which means the decision has now been approved. The Lib Dem group is disappointed that an opportunity to look again at such an important issue about which so many parents and pupils feel passionately, has been refused.

What happens to your recycled items?

The Suffolk Waste Partnership has produced a very interesting document, which highlights what happens to the waste we recycle here in Suffolk. This PDF includes information about how many tonnes of waste are recycled in each category, where the waste ends up, and the fact that as a County we recycle 53.2% of our waste.

<http://www.greensuffolk.org/assets/Recycling/Where-It-Goes/2011->

[12-End-Destination-Register-v5.pdf](#)

School Meals in Suffolk

The catering provider to schools in Suffolk, EATS, has provided assurance that the meat provided in its schools does not contain any horsemeat. The vast majority of meals provided for children in Suffolk schools, are created in house, and beef used by EATS is of assured food standard (Red Tractor accredited). The red tractor logo is a guarantee of both quality and origin.

Scrutiny Committee to look at raising the bar and support for young people:

The Scrutiny Committee is to focus on two items this month, with both raising the bar, and considering the progress of the divestment of youth services, which took place as part of the 2011 budget cuts.

For reports of Scrutiny Meeting on 11 March:

<http://committeeminutes.suffolkcc.gov.uk/meeting.aspx?d=11/Mar/2013&c=Scrutiny%20Committee>

12/159 District Councillor's Report:

Cllr Long advised that integration of services and committees is nearing completion. £65-£70k has been invested in additional help to reduce the planning applications backlog. This work is continuing.

12/160 Finance & Administration:

- (a) Receipts: Locality funding of £600 from Cllr Kemp re works to Blind Lane (awaiting payment to contractor)
- (b) Payments: The following items were approved for payment:
 - Eco-Systems Tree & Groundcare Ltd: £960
 - Clerk's Salary and mileage: January-March 2013: £421.48
 - Post Office Ltd (for HMRC): Jan-Mar 2013: £88.40
 - Hartest & Boxted Institute: Hall hire 5.12.12 and 2.1.13: £40.00
 - SALC: 2013/14 Subscription: £228.00
 - SALC: 6 months' payroll service to 31.3.13: £16.80
 - Beyton PC: Reimbursement of payment, made in error, of HPC invoice re bin emptying 1.1-31.12.12: £71.76

Clerk

12/161 Planning:

- (a) Decisions received: Permissions granted:
 - B/13/00178 – Westcroft, Somerton Road – Erection of extension to existing rear single storey roof and alterations
 - B/13/00281 – 11 Greenview - Tree works
- (b) Withdrawn applications: None
- (c) New planning applications: None
- (d) New planning applications received since the date of this notice: None
- (e) Tree Preservation Order/Tree Conservation Area Application: None
- (f) Appeals: None
- (g) Other Planning Matters
 - Neighbourhood Plan: Cllr Burr reported that this group (comprising 22 residents) is drafting an information leaflet for delivery to all homes to ascertain residents' views as to how they envisage the village's future – from the physical development, transport, services, etc perspectives – for delivery with 'Contact' in May. The possibility of a grant being made by the Parish Council to enable the NP Group to hire the Institute for its public meetings was sought; it was agreed that such invoices should be submitted to the Parish Council for consideration. Cllr Burr confirmed that he would be happy for information imparted to the the group, to be circulated to the PC as well; the last meeting's notes are awaited. It was noted that a BDC Officer has been appointed and that the group has to register itself as a sub group of the Parish Council, or as an independent group. Cllr Burr advised that, under available legislation, the group could seek the

DB

Clerk

right for the Parish Council to be notified, and given the first option to purchase, if an important building is offered for sale (as has been done in Toppesfield in Essex in respect of the PH), or if, for example, a change of use application were to be made, etc. This is a possible way of safeguarding services. Cllr Burr added that it is the Group's view that such legislation should be used. Cllr Browning suggested the following:

- (i) A comprehensible version of the legislation be brought forward,
 - (ii) The matter should be discussed again in the Group and a way forward suggested,
 - (iii) A copy of the draft questionnaire to be provided to the PC.
- Social Housing – Banhams Yard: Cllr Burr referred to his earlier email on this subject and advised that negotiations are proceeding, as outlined, and that it is hoped to have the Heads of Agreement in respect of the Industrial & Provident Association available for signing shortly. This would enable all Hartest property owning residents to become members of the IPS, if they so wished. The property would be managed by Messrs Hastoe Housing. Cllr S Turner expressed concern that this dwelling could subsequently be sold on the open market. Cllr Burr clarified that such a sale would need to be approved by the Board of Directors. Discussions followed on this matter. Cllr Browning thanked Cllr Burr for the work done by the group in this regard. He confirmed that the group is working at arm's length from the Parish Council.

12/162 Green, Cemetery and Churchyard

(a) Cemetery

Adjoining Land: It was agreed to let this matter rest for the time being.

Notice Board: Cllr Pask advised that she has been unable to fit the cemetery leaflet in this; Cllr S Turner agreed to study this. ST

Environmental Management: Cllr D Turner advised that the first strim of the historic graves needs to be done. Cllr Browning DT

read out an email received from a Mrs L Percival remarking on the condition of the cemetery. It was agreed that a response would be sent advising that there is a plan to manage the area in accordance with Suffolk Wildlife Trust's guidelines. Clerk

SALC notification dated 7 February re suggested foetal remains policy: It was agreed that this would be circulated again and discussed at the next meeting. Clerk

- (b) The Church: Chancel Liability: Reverend Prigg had responded to the Parish Council's enquiry advising that he personally owns the church building and churchyard whilst he is Rector of Hartest and Boxted Parish. Cllr Burr advised that, if the PC so wished, it would be possible to purchase indemnity insurance in this regard. It was decided not to follow this course of action.

(b) The Green

Ditch near The Crown PH: It was noted that this had flooded again. A letter had been received from Mr Worrall of the Old Rectory in this connection. Cllr D Turner had discussed this with him and advised that information is awaited from SCC before progressing with this matter. Cllr Turner stated that Mr J Horner of SCC was in favour of an open ditch as a possible solution, whilst Cllr Turner felt a land drain would be preferable. Dog Litter Bin Survey: The Parish Clerk reported on the results of this survey, copies of which had been delivered with 'Contact' early in 2013. Some 48 residents responded, for which the Parish Council is very grateful. There was a convincing result of 3:1 against a dog litter bin trial, so no further action is to be taken in this regard. A brief note is to be placed in 'Contact'. Clerk

- 12/163 Highways and Footpaths
 (a) Traffic Management
 Speed Signs: Information is awaited from Cllr Kemp, who was to seek a repeat survey and improved analyses of the previous figures (for the last five years) is to be sought. It is understood that Stanstead has a mobile vehicle activated speed sign; enquiries are to be made as to how they obtained that and, also, the legal situation in that regard. Cllr Burr added that solar powered signs can be purchased for £1,800 each. RK
 Clerk
Footpaths/Highways
 Pot Hole Problems: Cllr D Turner reported that Pilgrims' Lane is in need of pot hole repairs. Clerk
 Blind Lane: The locality funding of £600, promised by Cllr Kemp, has been received awaiting payment upon satisfactory completion of work, and receipt of invoice. Clerk
Hedge along The Row (from Parish notice board to School): Cllr Pask reported that this hedge, which is the responsibility of SCC, is in need of trimming back, as it is currently overhanging the footpath. Clerk
Parish Notice Board: Cllr Pask reported that this is currently inaccessible due to wood having been jammed into the lock. Authorisation was given to Cllr Pask to arrange its repair. JP
- 12/164 Correspondence: Nothing to note.
- 12/165 Matters of report: Cllr Pask reported that the redundant well on the green is approx 16m deep. Cllr Pask also added that she is continuing to progress her search for a wrought iron water pump in the hope that this could be reinstated to mark the anniversary of the Queen's coronation later this year (at no public cost). A proposal in this regard is to be presented to the next meeting. JP
 It was noted that the Parish Council Meeting scheduled for 3 July is postponed to 17 July.
- 12/166 Matters for consideration at the next meeting: Proposal re water pump on the Green, SALC's email dated 7 February re suggested foetal remains policy.
- 12/167 The meeting closed at 8.50 p.m.
- Dates of next Meetings:
- Annual Parish Meeting - Wednesday 24 April - 7.15 p.m. in the Institute
 Parish Council (Annual) Meeting - Wednesday 1 May - 7 p.m.

Approved at the Parish Council Meeting held on 1 May 2013