

Hartest Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held in Hartest School on Tuesday 3 September 2013 at 7pm.

Present: Cllrs Chris Browning (Chair), David Burr, Howard Hirst, Jo Pask, David Turner, Scilla Turner and Anna Warren-Thomas

In Attendance: Dist Cllr J Long and Mrs P M Lamb (Parish Clerk)

ACTION

- 13/051 Apologies for absence: Co Cllr R Kemp and PCSO H Partington
- 13/052 Approval of Minutes: Following amendment to Min 13/044(g)(second sentence) to read "... that it was the developer", the minutes of the 16 July were approved and signed.
- 13/053 Matters Arising: None
- 13/054 Declarations of interest: Cllr Browning re New Planning Application re Dowsetts, Melford Road.
- 13/055 Dispensation Requests re Declarations of Interest: None
- 13/056 Public Forum: Cllr Long requested that the Lawshall Road be re-surfaced.
- 13/057 Police Report: This report covers the period from 10 July to 2 September 2013. During this time 1 crime had been recorded within the parish, this compares to 0 crimes for the same period last year.
- | <u>Breakdown of Crime</u> | <u>No of Reports</u> |
|-------------------------------|----------------------|
| Burglary Dwelling | 0 |
| Burglary Other Building | 1 |
| SU/13/1630 O.I.C PC 723 Mower | |
- Between 1430 on the 15/08/13 and 0825 on the 16/08/13 a business on the Green was entered and a vehicle taken as well as other items. The vehicle has been recovered. There are no suspects for this crime.
- | | | | |
|---------------|---|----------------------|---|
| Vehicle Crime | 0 | Assault/Public Order | 0 |
| Theft | 0 | Criminal Damage | 0 |
| Other | 0 | | |
- If you have any information that would be of interest regarding this or any other offences, please let Babergh West SNT know or contact Crimestoppers anonymously.
- There has been an increase in Burglaries in and around the Babergh West area this year and we are working hard to reassure residents with our increased patrols and crime reduction advice surgeries. We still urge all residents to be aware of any suspicious activity and to please call the Police with any information you may have.
- If you see any suspicious vehicles driving slowly around your area and they seem to be out of place, then please try to note their registration numbers and pass these onto the Police by dialling 101 the non-emergency number, if it is an emergency you are to dial 999.
- Please keep your homes and vehicles as secure as possible, make sure all windows and doors are securely locked and if you are going out for the evening, try to leave a light on down stairs and upstairs to give the impression that somebody is home.
- If you have any information that would be of interest regarding this or any other offences, would like to report or discuss with the police, then please contact the Babergh West SNT or Crimestoppers anonymously.

Co Councillor's Report:Doorstep Chainsaw Sellers

A warning from Trading Standards and the Police has been issued today after several reports of traders selling chainsaws door to door in Suffolk. Doorstep callers may claim that their items are genuine and safe, but officers are warning residents not to part with their money, as the products may not have had any safety checks performed on them or come with any instruction manuals or advice.

Anybody who has any information on doorstep traders operating in their area can call Trading Standards on 08454 040506 or to the Police on 101.

Warning Over Suffolk Council Telephone Scam:

A telephone scam is circulating in the county, with fraudsters offering cash prizes and purporting to be from 'Suffolk Council'. Residents across Suffolk have been receiving calls from 'the council' about a grant. They are then being asked various financial questions and advised that they could win £500 if they fill out a 'spending survey'.

Trading Standards officers advise residents not to give any personal details such as your address, bank account or PIN numbers.

To help reduce marketing calls, residents can sign up to the Telephone Preference Service on 0845 070 0707. The Telephone Preference Service (TPS) is free and will allow homeowners to record their preference not to receive unsolicited sales or marketing calls.

To report similar calls or to obtain general consumer advice call the Citizens Advice consumer helpline on 08454 04 05 06.

First Cohort of Talented Interns Graduate

A talented group of young people have graduated from SCC's first ever internship programme after 12 weeks of hard work and dedication.

The programme, launched by SCC in March 2013, is run in collaboration with other district and borough councils in Suffolk, is aimed at recent graduates and local students currently at university. It provides young people with an opportunity to work during their summer break and tackle challenging projects to boost their job prospects after university. As part of Raising the Bar initiative, the programme seeks to provide high quality work experience opportunities, with a view to improving employability skills and attracting young people to stay and work in the county. This in turn will impact on attainment and aspiration levels in Suffolk.

Projects are designed to cover key skills in the workplace including meeting deadlines, working to objectives, prioritising, delivering results, working independently and being part of a team. Currently, only 4% of people employed by Suffolk County Council are between 16 and 24, with 56% of employees over the age of 45. The county council developed the programme to expose young people to the wealth of career opportunities available in local government and to support them in the transition to work. In the first year of the programme's existence, there have been over 100 expressions of interest which resulted in 14 placements across the county council, in areas such as public health, resource management and economy and skills.

Councillor Mark Bee, leader of SCC, officially opened the ceremony, congratulating all involved in the scheme, whilst Deborah Cadman, Chief Executive of SCC presented graduates with certificates of reference.

Students Celebrate GCSE Success

Thousands of students across Suffolk are celebrating after receiving their GCSE results, as early indications show a significant number of schools have seen an increase in the number of students achieving 5 A*-C grades. School self reported results received by SCC indicate that, across all schools, there has been an average 5% rise in the number of students gaining five or more A*-C grades, including English & Maths to 56%.

Following the disappointing results seen in 2012, Suffolk's secondary schools have quickly implemented more rigorous pupil tracking procedures and a range of high quality interventions to maximise pupil achievement. They have also developed personalised approaches to exam entry.

Suffolk Students Achieve A Level Success

For the seventh year running, the proportion of students earning top grades in Suffolk has improved.

From the self reported provisional results so far sent through to SCC from schools, this would seem to be another good year for post 16 students in Suffolk. Suffolk schools appear to have performed above the national trend with 29% of students in Suffolk reported to have earned higher grades (A*-A). Nationally, the proportion of A*-A grades is 26.3%.

Fraudulent Holiday Boss Jailed

A serial con artist has been sentenced to 40 months in prison after his holiday and lettings business was exposed.

Michael Fisher, former manager and owner of 'Blue Sky Lettings' and 'Lucy's Caravan Holidays' swindled tens of thousands of pounds from his customers who paid him to rent holiday caravans at Butlins in Skegness, which Mr Fisher never owned. None of the consumers received the holiday they had paid for, nor their money back. Trading Standards advise that any consumer booking holidays on line with a retailer unfamiliar to them, should check that they are reputable by researching them and obtaining a physical address and telephone contact details for the business.

Around the World in 21 Days- Suffolk Cycle Challenge Success

Hundreds of people have clocked up over 92,000 miles as part of the Suffolk Cycle Challenge.

1,308 people, 386 of whom were non-cyclists before the challenge took place, helped their workplace ride to victory, collectively saving over £24,000 in petrol costs. Teams cycled a grand total of 92,462 miles - the equivalent of cycling around the world over three and a half times.

- 13/059 District Councillor's Report: Cllr Long sought permission to participate in the agenda item re Social Housing – Banhams Yard; Members agreed to this. Cllr Long also added that BDC's alternating start times for its Council meetings have, so far, failed to draw additional attendance by residents.
- 13/060 Finance & Administration:
- (a) Receipts: £440 Cemetery income
 - (b) Payments: The following items were approved for payment:
 - BDO LLP: Audit of Annual Return ended 31.3.13: £120.00
 - Boxted & Hartest Institute: Hall hire: 5.6.13: £20.00
 - OGS Cornish: 1/4ly charge re grounds maintenance: £877.50
 - Hartest Parish Council: Opening of new Barclays Current Account £7,666.09:
 - (c) 2012/13 Accounts: These accounts had been approved, and signed off, by the external auditor, BDO LLP. Clerk
 - (d) Bank Accounts: Deposit and current accounts had been opened at Barclays and it was agreed the PC's account with the Co-operative Bank would now be closed. Clerk
- 13/061 Planning:
- (a) Decisions received:
 - B/13/00601/LBC/JP: Dowsetts, Melford Road: Retention of 2 rooflights, as amended by agent's email received 2 July 2013
 - B/13/00686: 6 Green View: Erection of single storey rear extension and various alterations.
 - B/13/00818: All Saints' Church, The Green: Reduce crown of Robinia by one third to reduce risk of trunk splitting.

B/13/00049/LBC – Dowsetts, Melford Road: Retention of open studwork wall at ground floor level.

(b) Withdrawn applications: None

(c) New planning applications:

Cllr Browning withdrew as remaining Members considered the application re 'Dowsetts', Melford Road. B/13/00790: Listed Building application. Installation of 2 solar panels to south west slope of existing dwelling. Cllr Browning rejoined the meeting.

B/13/00841: Mayfair, Bury Road: Erection of front/side extension to form an annexe. Erection of front extension and porch to existing dwelling.

Members approved the above applications, and requested that a condition be applied to any permission granted re Mayfair in order to prohibit the annexe being used as a separate dwelling.

Clerk

(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 advised that some 30+% of the survey forms issued were completed and returned and are currently being analysed. Cllr S Turner expressed concern as to the perceived lack of transparency re the interpretation of the survey replies. Members agreed to ascertain when it would be feasible for the Neighbourhood Working Party to provide survey conclusions to the Parish Council, which continues to maintain an active interest in this matter, and looks forward to receiving its proposals in this regard. Cllr Burr stressed the importance of the production of this plan in the light of changing planning

legislation; every village will experience the pressure for growth.

Social Housing – Banhams Yard: Cllr Browning referred to his recent emails to Members regarding the situation vis-à-vis one dwelling being assigned as social housing. He had been unable to write the letter to BDC, mandated at the previous meeting, as he had had difficulty in establishing a clear chain of events.

Cllr Burr advised that a planning application in 2003 included a comment from the architect that Plot 1 (a bungalow) should be the social house. A legal agreement was then drawn up. There was no correspondence from the PC, or BDC, in this regard. A further application was received in 2008 (and varied in 2009) with no mention being made re social housing. Cllr Long

suggested that a meeting be held at BDC's offices in order to explore the history of the situation. He offered to arrange this meeting at BDC (at no cost to the PC) to include Cllrs Browning and Burr. It is understood that the developer is currently marketing the dwelling on a shared equity basis.

13/062 Green, Cemetery and Churchyard

(a) Cemetery

Adjoining Land: Cllr Pask is still awaiting a response from Chadacre Estate in this regard. It was agreed that, since there is no reason to assume the land will be transferred to the PC, the boundary hedge is to be planted. Cllr Pask advised that Sandy Lane Nurseries confirmed its original quote of £297.50 (+VAT) with the order to be placed within one month. It would be down to the PC to provide rabbit proof protection at its own cost. It was further agreed that Cllr D Turner could order 20 additional bushes for the Cemetery to provide colour and pollen for bees etc. Cllr Pask agreed to place the order and to ask Michael Feather to organise a planting working party.

Cllr Pask added that she felt sure Ralph Carpenter would be happy to collect the plants (thus saving carriage). The details as to

- protection items required are to be advised to the next meeting. JP/DT
 Environmental Management: Cllr Pask reported that the area had been raked. Cllr D Turner advised that, if the good weather continues, a second cut and rake is likely to be required. DT
- (b) The Green
 Trees: Nothing to report.
 Ditch near The Crown PH: Cllr D Turner advised that he would review and report to the next meeting. It was noted that the resident responsible for enlarging this ditch has still not removed the spoil from the Green. This will be sorted out when the ditch is done.
 Hedge from Parish Notice Board to School: As agreed, Cllr Pask had spoken to Mr Cornish with regard to this hedge, but was advised that it was beyond his capability. It was agreed that Mr Roger Warboys be asked to provide a quote for this work. JP
- 13/063 Highways and Footpaths
 (a) Traffic Management
 Speeding: Cllr D Turner advised that Mr Mike Mottram of SCC said a sign of the sort under consideration is unlikely to be approved. Mr Steve Merry advised that VAS signs had been deployed in the past. Cllr Turner further advised that, working on the mean figures provided, Bury Road (between Stowe Hill and Pear Tree Farm) should be the target area. If the Council wishes to pursue the matter, this will have to be done with SCC, or the Council could wait until SCC deploys mobile units in the area by. It was agreed Cllr D Turner would pursue this matter with SCC. DT
 Hartest Hill and Bridge: A letter had recently been received from Mr Chivers following an accident by the bridge. It was agreed that a letter would be send by Cllr Browning to Mr Chivers advising him that this matter had previously been raised with SCC, but was not considered appropriate for action. It was agreed that a letter would be send to Paul Gant at SCC informing him of the recent serious accident, which could have been fatal, and asking him to reconsider the bridge area for signage etc. CB/Clerk
- 13/064 Correspondence: Nothing to report.
- 13/065 Matters of report only: None
- 13/066 Matters for consideration at the next meeting: None
- 13/050 The meeting closed at 9.10 p.m.
Date of next Meeting:
 Wednesday 3 October at 7 p.m. in the Institute.

Approved at the Parish Council Meeting held on 3 October 2013