

Hartest Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held in the Institute on Wednesday 6 February 2013 at 7pm.

Present: Cllrs Chris Browning (Chair), 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)

ACTION

12/133 Apologies for absence: Cllrs D Burr and H Hirst and PCSO H Partington

12/134 Approval of Minutes: Cllr D Turner advised that Min 12/125 (e) Budget/Precept required amendment to read: "Grass Maintenance: £3,110 (increase of £110); *there will be an additional £400 for grave strimming.*" The minutes were amended accordingly and then signed. It was agreed that the budget would be amended and brought to the next meeting.

Clerk

12/135 Matters Arising: None

12/136 Dispensation Requests re Declarations of Interest: None

12/137 Declarations of interest: None

12/138 Public Forum: Dist Cllr Long wondered whether the Parish Council had considered introducing a Community Speed Watch initiative. Cllr Browning advised that this had been considered previously, when it was decided not to proceed with the matter.

12/139 Police Report: This report covers the period from 3/1/2013 to 1/2/2013. During this time there has been 1 crime recorded within the parish, this compares to 0 crimes for the same period last year.
Criminal Damage
Between 22/1/13 and 28/1/13 suspects unknown caused damage to a container at Boxted & Hartest Institute. Nothing was stolen. PC Mower SU/13/216
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 a slight increase of crimes recorded within the parish of Hartest compared to the same period last year. There is a crime spate of burglaries and vehicle thefts in the surrounding villages. Residents are urged not to make things easy for thieves. Please think about your property and vehicle security. Burglars watch for houses with no signs of life. Leave a light on, even better on a timer and a radio in hours of darkness. Lock doors, windows and gates. Lock all valuables away where possible. Close it, Lock it, Check it.
Police are urging residents to make contact if any suspicious vehicles or persons are seen in the area. A description and registration number can make all the difference.
Police operations are currently being run in the rural villages in order to both reassure residents and target the burglaries/vehicle thefts. I am holding a crime reduction police surgery in Glemsford Village Hall on Friday 8 February 1500 to 1600. Residents are welcome to visit for advice or to raise any enquiries they may have in relation to their areas.

12/140 Co Councillor's Report

Budget: As mentioned in a previous Report, SCC's budget for the next financial year will be set in February; it will first be agreed by the Cabinet at the end of January, and then agreed by all councillors at the Full Council meeting on the 14 February. SCC is intending to make the following savings:

<u>Saving Ref</u>	<u>Task</u>	<u>Saving 2013-14</u> <u>£m</u>
A	Improve efficiency & remove unnecessary processes across the organisation	9.7
B	Reduce management costs across organisation	0.5
C	Rationalise office accommodation	1.3
D	Share of profits from Eastern Facilities Management Solutions Ltd	0.2
E	Redesign home to school transport	0.2
F	Target resources in children's services to reduce demand	2.5
G	Change the relationship with schools	0.2
H	Adult Care in depth review	7.0
I	Reduce expenditure on library services	0.3
J	Re-let the highways contract	2.0
K	Work with District/Borough Councils to reduce costs of Suffolk-wide waste services	0.8
L	Reduce the number of uniformed fire fighters	0.2

The announcement for the budget follows an announcement that SCC is planning a 0% Council Tax increase for 2013. I will keep you updated as to the progress of the budget, and whether it is approved at the Full Council meeting on the 14 February.

Cabinet: The Cabinet will be meeting on the 29 January to not only approve that the budget is sent to Full Council for final agreement, but to also discuss a few other items including:

- Suffolk Travel Card – to re-introduce some form of public transport travel card to help provide uniform discounts and easier ticketing, particularly for those young people in the County who need to reach further education establishments and employment. Previously the County Council had an explore card, but this was withdrawn as part of a budget cut in 2011, and since then both the Lib Dem Group and many young people have been campaigning for its return. This also includes continuing funding for the Kick-start scooter loan scheme in Suffolk.
- Suffolk Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy – a requirement under the Health and Social Care Act 2012, states that Suffolk must have one of these. It will focus on four strategic themes including:
 1. Every child in Suffolk has the best start in life;
 2. Suffolk residents have access to a healthy environment and take responsibility for their own health and wellbeing;
 3. Older people in Suffolk have a good quality of life, and;
 4. People in Suffolk have the opportunity to improve their mental health and wellbeing.
- Sizewell C Proposed Nuclear Power Station – SCC's response to Stage 1 Consultation – SCC's Cabinet is set to respond to the first consultation for the Sizewell Nuclear plant by supporting the idea itself, but making a number of comments about lack of information from EDF, the company which has applied to build the plant.

For more information and a copy of the reports:

<http://committeeminutes.suffolkcc.gov.uk/meeting.aspx?d=29/Jan/2013&c=The%20Cabinet>

Highways Procurement:

SCC has provided the latest update as to the progress of re-letting the highways contract;

"In December 2012, SCC announced Balfour Beatty Living Places as the Preferred Bidder for the contract to maintain and improve Suffolk's highways from 1 April 2013.

Following a period of extensive and constructive discussion with Balfour Beatty Living Places, SCC has not been able to confirm and clarify commitments made to the point where it can provisionally award the contract. It has therefore been decided that the procurement process will revert to the previous stage where SCC can liaise with any, or all, of the bidders who submitted final tenders (including Balfour Beatty Living Places), before again identifying a preferred bidder.

This does not affect the Council's ambition to identify a private sector company, which will be responsible for the design and implementation of highway maintenance and improvement works, winter gritting, street lighting, traffic signals and bridge works throughout the county. A key objective to achieve £2 million of recurring revenue savings in year 2013/14 and to help the Council's transport department achieve efficiency savings of 1.5% per year remains in place."

This latest update casts doubt on whether the savings presented in the budget are going to be achievable for this year, and what is going to happen once the current contracts expire on the 31 March. I will keep you updated on this situation.

Suffolk drops down national GCSE rankings table

After the release of the GCSE grades across the country yesterday, Suffolk has now dropped to 141 out of 152 authorities for GCSE results. Whilst this clearly isn't good enough, some of it can be attributed to the grade boundary shifts that occurred in the summer 2012 for English and English Language. For more information and for the County Council's reaction, see <http://www.suffolk.gov.uk/your-council/about-suffolk-county-council/news/gcse-grade-boundary-controversy-continues/>

Traffic Survey: Cllr Kemp agreed to obtain a clearer analysis of the recent survey and to request a further one.

Sudbury Bus Service: Cllr Kemp is to request that Felix Coaches reinstate their passenger pick up from Cross Green on this service.

Blind Lane: As previously mentioned, Cllr Kemp is providing £600 from his locality budget towards resurfacing, with the remaining £250 being found by residents and users.

Community Land Trusts: Cllr Kemp had received a communication re CLTs and Hastoe Housing.

S106 monies: BDC had rejected the Parish Council's request to extend the scope for expenditure of these monies to include community buildings, such as the Institute. Cllr Kemp advised that the Parish Council should challenge BDC to permit expenditure of these monies within similar parameters to those of MSDC. Cllr Kemp is to send a letter in this regard to the Chief Executive.

12/141 District Councillor's Report:

Cllr Long agreed that additional speed checks should be pursued without additional cost to the community, and such information should be communicated to the Parish Council. The last Full Council meeting had been held in January. It is expected that there will be no Council Tax increase from BDC this year. It was noted that both BDC and MSDC are currently looking at possible organisational changes.

12/142 Finance & Administration:

(a) Receipts: Bank interest: £2.03.

(b) Payments: The following items were approved for payment:
Mr O G S Cornish: Grounds Maintenance: £1,100.00 (invoice dated 4.2.13. It is understood that Mr Cornish's additional charge of £400 re strimming/raking around the historical graves will be charged over the next financial year

Mrs P Lamb: Cream Paper (Cemetery Leaflet), printing ink and Contact 2013 Subscription: £46.22

Clerk

12/143

Planning:

- (a) Decisions received: None
- (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: The next meeting is to be held on Tuesday 26 February at 7 p.m. in the Institute. Approval was given to the wording of the proposed posters

Social Housing – Banhams Yard: Cllr Burr had reported that negotiations are ongoing with the developer believing that the unfinished bungalow is worth considerably more than BDC or the housing association feels it's worth.

S106: The potential application of these funds is to be challenged again in respect of their possible application for (a) repairs to the Institute as a facility for public use (but owned by a Charity) and (b) the drainage works required to the Green, which is used by all residents. Copies are to be provided to Cllr Kemp. Details of the parameters of s106 applications (as used by MSDC) is to be sought. Cllr Turner recommended that, if possible, progress be made towards getting allotments, as suggested as part of the Parish Plan exercise.

DB

Clerk

12/144

Green, Cemetery and Churchyard

(a) Cemetery

Adjoining Land: Cllr Pask reported that she had asked Cllr Burr to pursue the adjoining land issue.

Notice Board: Cllr Pask is to clean the glass and insert cemetery leaflet details.

Environmental Management: Mr Cornish had requested permission to crown lift the yew tree in the cemetery

It was agreed that Michael Feather's opinion be sought first. It was appreciated that Cllr Warren-Thomas and her husband are kindly clearing the brambles around the headstones in the cemetery. Cllr Pask urged caution re the orchids in the cemetery. Cllr Turner reported that Mr Cornish had made a start on the agreed work.

Owl Box Offer: Suffolk Wildlife Trust is offering free owl boxes, where appropriate. Mr Feather is currently in discussion with SWT in this regard as these require special locations. Cllr Pask suggested such possible locations as Pilgrims Walk, Hartest Wood (although it is believed the trees are not yet sufficiently mature), or the mature oaks on the adjacent land (although it is understood these should be sited on public land),

(b) The Green

Trees: Cllr Pask reported that the work to the trees on the green has been completed.

Ditch near The Crown PH: A meeting had been held between three councillors, Tim Adams and Paul Devine of Greene King, and Geoff Horner of SCC Flood & Water Management Dept. Greene King refused to acknowledge ownership of a ditch running alongside Parsons Walk and were also reluctant to recognise their responsibility for the ditch in front of the pub. They asked the PC to investigate historical boundary maps. This was done by Cllrs Pask and D Turner, but yielded no further information. It is likely that no owner of Parsons Walk can be identified. Cllr Burr is to be

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JP

DT

Clerk

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asked if Land Registry could provide scaled boundary drawings to help with the ditch and hedge adjacent to the Green. Cllr Turner had been in touch with Geoff Horner of SCC, but no reply had been received; this is to be pursued. Cllr D Turner is also to contact Paul Gant again re drainage over the Green.

DT

12/145 Highways and Footpaths

(a) Traffic Management

Speed Signs: Cllr Kemp is to seek a repeat survey and an improved analysis is to be sought.

RK

Footpaths/Highways

Pot Hole Problems: It was reported that parents/carers are parking along the Duddery causing potholes along this road and further along the road to Giffords

Clerk

Blind Lane: See Min 12/140 – County Councillor’s Report above.

Strengthening of Hartest Church Bridge: Cllr Pask advised that, she is unable, from the recently circulated email from Stuart Hearsom of SCC to identify which tree it is considered necessary to remove. Clarification will be sought.

Clerk

12/146 Correspondence

Cllr Pask had received an enquiry re the possible use of the Green by guests attending a forthcoming wedding reception in the Institute. Cllr Pask is to recommend that the area in front of the Institute (facing the Green) be used for drinks (and requesting that care be taken re glasses etc). Use of the Green for ball games is acceptable.

JP

It was agreed that a get well card is to be sent to Cllr Hirst from the PC as a whole.

ST

12/147 Matters of report: None

12/148 Matters for consideration at the next meeting: Results re Dog Litter Bin survey, Chancel liability and Pump on the Green

12/149 The meeting closed at 8.30 p.m.

Dates of next Meetings: Wednesday 10 April (PC Meeting) at 7 p.m. and
Wednesday 24 April (Annual Parish Meeting)
at 7.15 p.m. in the Institute

Approved at the Parish Council Meeting held on 10 April 2013