

Hartest Parish Council

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council held in the Institute on Wednesday 1 May 2013 at 7pm.

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

In Attendance: Dist Cllr J Long and Mrs P M Lamb (Parish Clerk)
2 members of the public

ACTION

- 13/001 Apologies for absence: Co Cllr R Kemp, Cllr A Warren-Thomas and PCSO H Partington
- 13/002 Election of Chair and Vice Chair: Cllr Browning opened the meeting and asked for nominations for these two posts.
Chair: Cllr Pask nominated Cllr Browning, seconded by Cllr Burr. Cllr Browning accepted the role.
Vice Chair: Cllr Browning nominated Cllr Pask, seconded by Cllr Burr. Cllr Pask accepted the role.
As Chair, Councillor Browning signed a Declaration of Acceptance of Office.
- 13/003 Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the 10 April were approved and signed.
- 13/004 Matters Arising: None
- 13/005 Dispensation Requests re Declarations of Interest: None
- 13/006 Declarations of interest: Cllrs Browning and Burr re 13(d) New Planning Applications re Dowsetts and Chadacre Estate, respectively.
- 13/007 Public Forum: Dist Cllr Long commended Cllr Pask for raising the possibility of the reinstatement of a pump on the village green.
- 13/008 Police Report: This report covers the period from 6.2 to 9.4.13; when 3 crimes were recorded within the parish (compared to 0 for the same period last year).
Breakdown of Crimes:
Burglary Other Building
Between 1500 and 1845 hours on 11.2.13 a shed was broken into on Shimpling Road and a large number of items stolen. This crime has since been finalised. SU/13/322 Pc 109 Hayward
Vehicle crime
Between 14 and 17.2.13 a vehicle was damaged. No publicity requested therefore no further information available. SU/13/526 Pc 1721 Thomas
Between 10 and 15.3.13 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, which would be of interest regarding these or any other offences, please let Babergh West SNT know, or contact Crimestoppers anonymously.
Residents are urged to remain vigilant with their home and property security i.e. keeping doors and windows locked and lights on when the property is empty.
If residents see any suspicious persons or vehicles in the area, they are asked to please contact police. A description, or registration number, can make all the difference.

- 13/009 Co Councillor's Report: None available due to election purdah.
- 13/010 District Councillor's Report:
 Cllr Long advised that Jenny Jenkins has been appointed Leader of the Council and Nicholas Jenkins remains as Chair of the Council. An Independent Councillor, Clive Arthey, previously denied committee membership because of his refusal to align himself with any group, has taken a place on the Strategy and Scrutiny Committee vacated by Cllr Kemp.
- 13/011 Finance & Administration:
- (a) Receipts: Locality funding of £600 from Cllr Kemp re works to Blind Lane
- (b) Payments: The following items were approved for payment:
 W Brega: Repairs to Blind Lane: £600 (as received from Cllr Kemp's locality budget). Cllr Kemp is to be thanked for his assistance in this matter. Clerk
 Boxted & Hartest Institute: Hire of Hall: 6.2.13: £20.00
 Mrs P Lamb: £47.57 (Stationery: £31.28 plus APM refreshments: £16.29) Clerk
- 13/012 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:
 B/13/00368/FUL: Chadacre Hall, Chadacre: Erection/retention of shooting lodge. Cllr Burr left the meeting for this item. Following discussion, it was agreed that BDC be asked to include in any considered permission:
 (i) a condition to have the building repainted in a more suitable, more subtle, colour, so that it blends in with its surroundings rather than standing out, bright orange, as at present,
 (ii) a condition for the proposed planting to be done this year. Clerk
 B/13/00432/LBC: Dowsetts, Melford Road: 16 replacement windows and works to external walls, timber frame and plinth. Cllr Browning left the meeting for this item. Following discussion, Members were happy to support the application. Clerk
 B/13/00399/LBC: Tan Office Farm, Pilgrims Lane: Alterations to ground and first floor and insertion of new windows. Members were happy to support the application. Clerk
 B/13/00436/TCA: Trenton House, Cross Green: Removal of 5 no Leylandii Trees. Members were happy to support the application. Clerk
- (e) Tree Preservation Order/Tree Conservation Area Application: None
- (f) Appeals: None
- (g) Other Planning Matters
 Neighbourhood Plan: Cllr Burr reported that there will be an exhibition in June publicising the ideas put forward following receipt of survey responses.
 Social Housing – Banhams Yard: Cllr Burr advised that proceedings had stalled on the arrangements for the access road and servicing.
 The land for the road is owned by the developer, who suggests that the owners of the social house should be responsible for one-third of the total cost of the road, the proposed electric entrance gates and street lighting (none of which formed part of the planning permission). Furthermore, entrance gates etc were considered to be totally out of keeping for a rural development. It was also noted that one house is currently for sale in contravention of the planning permission, whilst the social house remains unoccupied. It was agreed that the PC would write to BDC Enforcement in this regard and also advise them that the

current house marketing details cite it as being "within a gated community".

Clerk

Cllr Browning acknowledged, with thanks, that this group, which is totally independent of the Parish Council, had identified a possible way forward to realise the potential of the unit, which is for social housing.

13/013 Green, Cemetery and Churchyard

(a) Cemetery

Adjoining Land: It was agreed to leave this matter until after the summer. It was noted that deer had eaten the recently planted hedge. It was agreed to move the fence back to its original place as a temporary measure.

Notice Board: Cllr S Turner is to adapt the cemetery leaflet in order to fit the notice board.

ST

Environmental Management: Cllr D Turner advised that the paths had been cut and that he is to liaise with Mr Cornish re dates for the work to the wildlife section. Cllr Pask mentioned that two parishioners would like to undertake bi-monthly surveys of the area (following on from Suffolk Wildlife Trust's surveys of 2007); agreed dates are to be advised in due course.

DT

In response to Cllr Hirst's enquiry re the fallen headstones, Cllr D Turner hopes to be authorised to get Mr Ashman to straighten headstones one day/year at a cost of £120. Cllr Pask reminded Cllr Turner that the appropriate dowels should be used in this regard. Local families are to be asked, via 'Contact' to do whatever they can to maintain graves in a tidy condition.

JP

Suggested Foetal Remains Policy: Cllr S Turner volunteered to review this policy, and its possible implications re Cemetery policy, and to report to the next meeting.

Clerk

(b) The Church: Chancel Liability: This item is to be removed from the agenda.

(c) The Green

Trees: Cllr Pask recommended that the Lime tree alongside the B1066 on the green be monitored to ensure that its likely basal growth does not impede movement on the footpath and visibility on the B1066.

ST

Ditch near The Crown PH: Cllr D Turner is to expedite a response from SCC. He also reported that he and Cllr Hirst had recently spent time with SCC's drainage jetting team.

(A copy of SCC's drainage map is being sent to the PC.)

It was noted that the drain outside the Institute connects to a drain by the War Memorial, but the outfall is blocked. It has been arranged for an underground detector to locate and clear blockages before the road is re-surfaced (from the Institute and up the hill to Giffords). The blocked pipe under Hartest Hill is also to be checked, along with three completely blocked drains. Paul Gant of SCC is to remove some of the kerbstones on the Green to enable the Duddery to be kept clear. At Workhouse Hill it was found that four pipes run into one drain, but it was not possible to check this due to an obstruction (which it was thought might be caused by a fractured pipe). The drain by Banhams is also to be sorted out. Cllr Pask advised that the ditch by 1 The Row is also SCC's responsibility, where water runs over the top of the drain and into the road.

ALL

Parson's Walk Drain: Cllr D Turner is to chase up Greene King for their response to earlier communications. It was noted that the earth mounds by Mr Graham's cottage have still to be removed. Cllr Turner suggested that it might be possible to arrange a working party in this regard.

DT

Possible Water Pump on the Green: Cllr Pask invited all Members to attend a meeting in this regard. It is intended to produce a full

report, together with sketch of desired pump, to the next meeting.

JP

13/014 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). Enquiries are to be made as to how Stanstead obtained its mobile speed sign and, also, the legal situation in that regard.

RK

Clerk

Cllrs Hirst and S Turner expressed concern about the impact of the likely increase in traffic through the village and over the bridge following removal of the weight limit signs. Vehicles of up to 44 tonnes would now be permitted to use this route. Since the PC was unsure as to whom representation might be made, it was decided to do nothing in this regard.

Footpaths/Highways

Pot Hole Problems: Cllr D Turner reported that priority is to be given to drainage repairs, with pot hole repairs to follow.

DT

Blind Lane: Refer Min 13/011 above.

Hedge along The Row (from Parish notice board to School): A further email is to be sent requesting the trimming of this hedge.

Clerk

13/015 Correspondence: Nothing to note.

13/016 Matters of report only: None

13/017 Matters for consideration at the next meeting

Proposed celebrations to commemorate 300 years of the stone on the green – on 6 July (Possible village picnic with bunting/barbecue – lunch time/afternoon.) Any further ideas/support would gratefully received.

13/018 The meeting closed at 9 p.m.

Dates of next Meetings:

5 June and 16 July at 7 p.m. in the Institute

Approved at the Parish Council Meeting held on 5 June 2013