

Hartest Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held in the Institute on Wednesday 13 July 2016 at 7pm.

Present: Cllrs Chris Browning (Chair), Neil Chappell, Jo Pask and Nick Price (part)

In Attendance: Co Cllr R Kemp, 11 Members of the Public and Parish Clerk

16/033 Apologies for absence: Cllrs D Burr, W Luttmann-Johnson and Dist Cllr J Long

16/034 Approval of Minutes of Meeting held on 1 June 2016: These were approved and signed.

16/035 Matters Arising: None

16/036 Declarations of Interest: None

16/037 Public Forum:

Possible Uses of The Green: Min 16/037: Mr M Hirst spoke of the references in the above minutes to (i) possible siting of a log cabin as a potential village shop and (ii) the possible siting of a children's play area – both of which he felt would be inappropriate for the location. Cllr Price advised that the Neighbourhood Plan had highlighted that there are very few facilities in the village and that the only land owned by the Parish Council is the Green. Cllr Browning acknowledged Mr Hirst's opinion and advised that it would, in any event, be necessary to undertake consultation exercises. Mr Brearley added that he also felt that such a location for a play area would be unsuitable, as it would require children to cross the junction of Somerton Road and the B1066. On an earlier mentioned subject of the School swimming pool possibly being open out of hours (with parental supervision), he suggested that perhaps this could also be considered re the school playground.

Outline PA B/16/00594: The Paddocks, Lawshall Road: Erection of 6 no Dwellings (All Matters Reserved): Mr R Carpenter, a member of the Neighbourhood Plan Working Party, made reference to this PA, which was to be considered by Members at this meeting. A draft response to BDC in this connection had been submitted to the PC (and copies of two other responses). Mr Carpenter read out the NP's draft letter in this regard.

16/038 County Councillor's Report: Co Cllr Kemp's July report had been circulated, and is attached, in which mention is made of the following: Middle School Plan Withdrawn by Secretary of State, 'Pigs Gone Wild' – Suffolk's biggest ever public participation and New Powers to Tackle Fly Tipping, which could result in a penalty up to £50k and/or a custodial sentence of 6 months-5 years.

16/039 District Councillor's Report: Cllr Long had submitted a report as follows:
(i) There had been telephone calls to residents of BDC offering a Council Tax Refund upon confirmation of bank details over the telephone. Cllr Long advised that, in such cases, BDC would send this information by post.
(ii) At the last full Council meeting on 28 June 2016, BDC Councillors voted in favour of proceeding with a Devolution Deal for East Anglia. The Consultation, is available to view on line at www.eastangliadevo.co.uk and will run until 23 August 2016.
(iii) Banhams Yard: BDC are chasing up compensatory payment

16/040 Finance & Administration

- (a) Bank Balances as at 30 June 2016: Current: £7,220.99, Savings: 20,420.24, Total: £27,641.23
- (b) Receipts: Nil
- (c) Payments: The following were approved for payment:
Institute: Hall hire 13 and 27 April and 4 May 2016: £63.00 (Cheque No 100140)
Clerk's Salary and Mileage: April-Jun 2016: £721.19 plus
Mileage: April-Jun: £65.70 (including 2 x Lawshall return re Internal Audit delivery/collection): TOTAL: £786.89 (Cheque No 100133)
HMRC: Apr-Jun: 168.80 (Cheque No 100134)
Mrs D Griggs: Internal Audit 2015/16 Accounts: £50.00 (Cheque No 100135)
O G S Cornish: April-June: Grounds Maintenance including seeding of area near water pump (£100): £977.50 (Cheque No 100136)
St Marys Church, Glemsford (re Contact Advertising Jul 16-Jun 17): £48.00 (Cheque No 100137)
UK Servers Ltd: Annual Renewal of hartest.com basic hosting: £24.00 (Cheque No 100138) Clerk
- (d) Amendments to Standing Orders and New Financial Regulations: Following earlier circulation of the above existing and new documents (updated to reflect Members' earlier decisions re time frames/signatories etc), the Clerk ran through the changes. Members agreed to approve and adopt these documents, which were duly signed by the Chairman.
- (e) Possible Listing of School as a Community Asset: Nothing to report in Cllr Burr's absence. DB
- (f) Community Access Consultation: The earlier circulated email in this regard is to be re-sent. (Post Meeting Cllr Pask agreed to respond to this on the PC's behalf.)
- (g) Internal Audit Report: This report had been circulated to Members; required changes had been made.
- (h) Audit Return: This has been sent to BDO, our External Auditors, for their attention.
- (i) PC's Pension Responsibilities: The PC has been advised that it needs to choose a pension scheme and start its declaration of compliance (by 1 October 2016). Its 'staging date' is 1 January 2017. The Clerk advised that an answer is awaited to an enquiry from the Pensions Regulator, which would be notified as soon as received. This would be placed on the September agenda. Clerk

16/041 Planning

- (a) Decision Received: None
- (b) Withdrawn Applications: None
- (c) New Planning Applications:
B/16/00594: The Paddocks, Lawshall Road: (Outline) Erection of 6 no. dwellings (all matters reserved).
Members agreed not to support this PA for the following reasons:
- Contrary to the findings of the emerging Neighbourhood Plan, which confirmed that residents wish to ensure developments are shaped by the historic and natural environment of the locale.
- Would have a major adverse visual impact (the site lies within the Hartest Conservation Area and, also its Special Landscape Area.) (The site is prominent (being up to 1m higher than the adjacent Lawshall Road) and, with the proposed dwellings, would become more so, creating an overbearing and adverse impact on its setting.
- Lawshall Road is considered too narrow for such a development. It is understood that SCC has commented similarly. Any works necessary to achieve the required width would have a negative effect on the character of the area.
- The Parish Council is also concerned that, following a recent High Court challenge, the need for social housing on a site of 6 dwellings has been

dismissed; it is therefore concerned that the small dwellings currently suggested are likely to be replaced by larger ones – contrary to the smaller houses for younger families as sought by both the Parish Plan and the Neighbourhood Plan.

- The end of Lawshall Road is currently subject to regular flooding, which it is felt, will be further exacerbated with the increased discharge of surface water from the proposed estate

B/16/00846: The Old Rectory, The Green: Fell 1 no. Holly tress (T1), Cherry Tree (T2), Ash Tree (T3) and Maple Tree (T4)

B/16/00919: The Old Rectory, The Green: Removal of 1 no White Willow Tree

Members agreed to support the above two applications.

(d) New planning applications received since the date of this notice:

B/16/00789: Pear Tree Farm, Brockley Road: Erection of 4 no Class B1 office units and associated works.

Members agreed to support this PA with the request that the Walnut Tree on site be protected.

B/16/00875: Bell Pasture, The Row: Remove 1 no Ash Tree

It was agreed to seek Michael Feather's opinion before responding.

NC

(e) Tree Preservation Order/Tree Conservation Area applications:

(f) Appeals: None

Other Planning Matters

Neighbourhood Plan: Cllr Price reported that the Working Party has nearly completed the character assessment of the built and natural environments, and historical background behind the policy. A meeting is to be held shortly with Ian Poole and Rachel Hogg (BDC's 'critical friend'). A meeting is also to be arranged with Bill Newman, the Head of Planning Policy at BDC. He may be able to help us test our policies going forward, which should be useful as BDC's policies are changing quite quickly.

NP

Village Shop: Cllr Price advised that there is no update at present.

NP

Affordable Housing: Nothing to report.

S106 Money: The Clerk is to contact the Parish Clerks of Whepstead and Brockley re the implications of a PC running a small play area. (It was noted that both the aforementioned play areas have fences enclosing the play equipment.)

Clerk

Green, Cemetery and Churchyard

16/042

Cemetery

Extension Layout

Cllr Pask reported that she has received a larger plan of the proposed layout. She suggested that the two 'corners' of this section might be reserved for the interment of ashes. Members agreed this would be a good idea.

Cllr Pask and the Clerk are to meet to agree a suitable plot numbering regime (which would follow on from the existing).

JP/
Clerk

The Green

Ditch near Parsons' Walk: A quotation had been received from Mr J Morgan for the provision of a channel from the new soakaway to the stream – in the sum of £3.6k. He suggested a cheaper option would be the hire of labour and a machine to dig a channel to house a pipe to the side of Parsons Walk. Mr Morgan advised that, whilst the current soakaway works, there will be 'puddling'. Following discussion, it was agreed to consult BDC's Arboricultural Officer, David Pizey, and Area Rights of Way Officer, Patrick Scrivens, with a view to holding a joint site meeting to seek their advice. Mr Morgan is to prepare a basic specification for submission.

Clerk

Parking on the Green by The Crown PH Customers and Pub Sign:

The issue of parking on the Green arose during the Crown's recent Beer Festival. Following discussion, it was agreed that the PC would

advise the landlord that, if such large numbers of customers are again anticipated, the PC should be advised and permission sought for the Green to be used for parking (if necessary), but that such parking should be marshalled by a responsible person(s).

The Crown currently has a vintage bicycle padlocked to a post on the Green advertising the PH. The Landlord is to be advised that, again, permission should have been sought from the PC and that such action is contrary to the bylaws, but, on this occasion, it is considered to be acceptable.

Clerk

Water Pump: Cllr Pask was thanked for this kind gift to the village. It was mentioned that, providing a notice is displayed advising that the water is not for human consumption, there would be no liability. (It was noted that, currently, the pump has to be primed in order to operate.)

Scattered Orchard Project: This initiative by SCC to create new orchards throughout the county (with a free supply of appropriate trees) is considered an excellent idea. Cllr Pask suggested these could be planted in the two corners of the Cemetery extension. BDC's offer is to be accepted.

Clerk

16/043 Highways and Footpaths

Resurfacing/Shared Space: Cllr Price advised that a SLOW sign has been painted on the road, but has not been extended, and that most of the side lines are incorrect. On Bell Hill the signage had stopped before the corner leaving a bare patch. Cllr Price is to liaise with SCC's Steve Merry to get these matters sorted out. It was noted that Pilgrims Lane to Longs Farm has been done.

Outstanding Repairs: An effort had been made to expedite these matters with Paul Gant – only to find that this will have to await his return to the office. The areas in need of repair were confirmed as Somerton Road, flooding at the bottom of Hartest Hill/Lawshall Road; making the road impassable. It was noted that the gulleys need to be cleared regularly. The culvert underneath the road from Chadacre to the stream appears blocked (or perhaps is due to a collapsed drain(?).) It was agreed to ask SCC for their planned programme of works to be done for the remainder of this year.

Repairs to Shimpling Road (near Elizels Cottage); the emergency orange netting has virtually fallen into the ditch and vegetation is now growing over/through it.

Flooding by Charity Farm: This is still in evidence and is thought to be from the nearby pond.

30 mph Limit Extension: Co Cllr Kemp supports this proposal.

Outstanding Repairs:

16/044 Correspondence: None

16/045 Matters of Report Only:

16/046 Matters for Consideration at the next meeting:
PC Insurance Renewal

16/047 Date of next Meeting: Wednesday 7 September 2016 at 7 p.m. in the Institute

The meeting closed at 2030 hours

Approved at the PC Meeting held on 7 September 2016

