

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting Wednesday 27 April 2016 at 7.30 p.m. in the Boxted & Hartest Institute

Chair: Cllr Chris Browning
In attendance: Co Cllr Richard Kemp, Dist Cllr James Long and Various Members of the Village and the Parish Council

1 Apologies for Absence

2 Chairman's Welcome: Cllr Chris Browning extended a warm welcome to everyone.

3 Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 29 April 2015: These were read and approved.

4 Matters Arising: None

5 Chairman's Report: Cllr Chris Browning presented his report on the Parish Council's activities during the year including the speed of traffic and road safety in the village, loss of Banham's Yard 'affordable house' and the Neighbourhood Plan.

6 Parish Council Finance Report: Brief details of the draft accounts were presented, grants made to the Pre-School (£400) towards Interactive Learning Diaries and £500 to the Institute towards a match funded project (to be confirmed). Thanks were also extended to Cllr Kemp for his locality funding of £1,350 towards repairs to Blind Lane and the Cemetery remedial work. A precept of £10,611 had been been requested for 2016-17.

7 County Councillor's Report: In his report, Cllr Kemp referred to the SCC's budget challenges of finding savings of £60m through to 2019/20, the Government's plans for further devolution to local government. Council Tax: For the remainder of the current Parliament those Local Authorities with responsibility for adult social care would be given an additional 2% flexibility in light of National Living Wage and demographic changes. Cllr Kemp had kindly contributed funding to our NP consultation.

8 District Councillor's Report: Cllr Long's report included the proposal for devolution in East Anglia including anticipated investment in infrastructure and housing.

9 Police Report: A verbal report for the year was provided by PC R Sippitt.

10 Hartest CEVC Primary School Report: Head Teacher, Hilary Hall, presented her final report before her proposed retirement at the end of the summer term, which included performance statistics for 2015, Mrs Burr's ongoing efforts to incorporate the land behind the school in the school grounds and the unfortunate closure the previous year of the swimming pool due to H&S reasons.

11 Hartest Pre-School Report: The Pre-School's report was delivered by its Chair, Ms Bryony Thorp, who reported that, although the School started in September 2015 with an occupancy rate of 32% (1% lower than the previous year), it is now expected that there will be an occupancy rate of over 50%. The Annual Bonfire Night achieved a record income of £2.8k.

12 Hartest PCC Report: Unfortunately, no report was available this year.

13 Neighbourhood Plan: In his report, Nick Price was pleased to report that significant progress had been made since last year. In May, Ian Poole was appointed to provide professional planning support to the Group. NP stalls had been set up at the 'Harfest' in June and the Fete in August and, in September, a 'drop in session' took place with 38 residents completing detailed questionnaires. A Housing Needs Survey was distributed to residents in September and was completed by nearly 50% of households by the October deadline, which demonstrated a housing need in the village – for 2, 3 and 4 bed dwellings and for a number of young people, who will move out of their accommodation during the next ten years.

14 Hartest Women's Institute Report: Jo Pask presented the report on behalf of the WI's Secretary, Liz Depper, outlining its excellent past year. The number of members remained steady at 25. A varied programme had been enjoyed; from codes, ciphers and spies to a Christmas murder mystery! The Jumble Sale proceeds helped to support maintenance of the group, and also provide donations of goods for charities such as Winter Comfort for the Homeless (based in Cambridge) and Cancer Research.

15 Local History Recorder's Report: Jo Pask reported that, in all the years that she has been the Official History Recorder for Hartest (following her late Uncle, Ernest Pask) she had given only a few reports to the APM. As Recorder, she has taken photographs of changes, collected information and stored memorabilia from residents past and present. She then provided a brief update on the various organisations in the village, the number of houses bought and sold, births, deaths, planning applications, road works, elections, etc, etc.

16 Boxted and Hartest Institute Report: Richard Weller-Poley advised that the Committee has decided to carry out

17 Tree Warden Report: Michael Feather reported on the applications received to fell unwanted or over large garden trees. The PC had arranged the felling of one diseased Horse Chestnut (via the formal procedure for trees with a Preservation Order). Fortunately, there was minimal evidence of progression of Ash Die-back and the trees appear to be fighting back. This will continue to be monitored. In closing, Michael thanked all those managing Hartest Wood – with grass cutting and tree trimming; the Wood looks very good and is a growing asset to the village.

- 18 Charities Report:** A report on the state of all three of the village's charities, namely the Sparkes, John Corder and Thomas Wright Charities was given. Of the £88 annual income of the Sparkes Charity, one donation of £50 was made
- 19 Gardening Club:** A report, on behalf of the Club Secretary, Geraldine Ross, was delivered. Last year saw excellent attendance at the monthly meetings and the summer trips. The Annual Show was particularly good – with an increase in exhibitors – especially in the Children's section. Sales of seed potatoes and seeds continue to be popular.
- 20 Carpet Bowls Club:** Much more than a bowls club, this is very much a social club too. Each session lasts two hours and the charge is £2/session; to cover the cost of the hall and refreshments. Numbers vary between 12-18 people/week (but generally fewer in the summer due to other commitments).
- 21 Web Site:** Sue Lewis reported that she regularly updates the website to keep the colours and layout as fresh as possible. She is actively seeking a younger volunteer (ideally with 'Facebook' knowledge) and perhaps a link to the School/Pre-School/Youth Club so that there could be an exchange of information. Anyone wishing to participate, would be warmly welcomed.
- 22 Any Other Business:** None

Signed at the 2017 Annual Parish Meeting - 26 April 2017