

# Hartest Parish Council

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## Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held in the Institute on Wednesday 2 September 2015 at 7pm.

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

In Attendance: Mr S Murphy and Parish Clerk

### ACTION

- 15/053 Apologies for absence: Cllr N Price
- 15/054 Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the meeting held on 1 July were approved and signed.
- 15/055 Matters Arising: None
- 15/056 Declarations of Interest: None
- 14/057 Public Forum: Mr S Murphy introduced himself and advised that he is planning to develop the 'Springfields' site in the village. Whilst he said that the Planning Officers had recommended building one large house on the site, Mr Murphy was seeking advice from the PC to ascertain whether 3-4 smaller units would actually be preferable. During discussion, Mr Murphy was advised that a survey of housing needs in the village is to be undertaken shortly, which might help to inform his decision. He said that the development land could accommodate 3 decent detached houses, but he would also consider a couple of low cost or shared ownership properties. He is to consider the various options and hopes to submit a plan for the PC's comment in the near future. Co Cllr Kemp commented that setting up a Community Land Trust would eliminate the problem associated with the 'Right to Buy' initiative.
- 15/058 Police Report: The Police report had been circulated; there were no crimes reported in Hartest.
- 15/059 County Councillor's Report: This report had been circulated. It was noted that a forthcoming cycle tour will be coming through Suffolk (closest point – Hadleigh). It was further noted that landlords are now required by law to have both smoke, and carbon monoxide, alarms fitted in their rental properties. Cllr Kemp reported that the builder, who was due to start work on the drainage works at Parsons' Walk, when he discovered his digger was not working. Cllr Kemp added that the drainage work done in Blind Lane appears to be working.
- 15/060 District Councillor's Report: Dist Cllr Long commended all those, who helped organise and run the Fete on BH Monday, which was considered a "spectacular success", despite the inclement weather. Dist Cllr Long advised that, in future, all District Council meetings are to be held at 1730 hours. A 'Charter on Public Speaking at Planning Meetings' has been produced and is now available for download from BDC's website. This came into effect on 10 August and is believed to be a national document.
- 15/061 Finance & Administration  
Bank Balances as at 31.7.15: Current: £2,673.22 Savings: £22,608.74  
(a) Receipts:  
3.7.15: Re Neighbourhood Plan: £4,250 from Groundwork UK  
£1k grant from SCC towards cost of Neighbourhood Plan -  
Housing Needs Survey.

- (b) Payments  
The following invoices were approved for payment.  
Information Commissioner: Renewal of Data protection registration 11.9.15: £35.00  
Hartest Institute: Hall hire: 3.6 and 1.7.15: £40.00  
Mrs D Griggs: Internal Audit 2014/15 Accounts: £50.00  
SALC: 10 sets of Councillor Induction Dividers: £22.50  
Ratification of cheque drawn 7.7.15 for £1,077.50 in favour of Mr O Cornish re invoice dated 30.6.15 re grass maintenance and cemetery extension.
- (c) 2014/15 Accounts: After a few queries had been answered, it is hoped to hear shortly from BDO LLP in this regard.
- (d) PC Vacancies: No applications had been received from the recent advertisement in 'Contact'. It was agreed to produce a flyer for inclusion with the October edition of 'Contact' asking for expressions of interest by 31 October for consideration at our PC Meeting on the 4 November.

15/062 Planning

- (a) Decisions Received: Permissions granted:  
B/15/00554/FHA: 5 The Row: Erection of Garage  
B/15/00946: The Old Rectory: Pollarding various trees  
B/15/00762: Pippins: Erection of 1st Floor Addition
- (b) Withdrawn Applications: None
- (c) New Planning Application: B/15/01007/LBC: Green Farm House, The Green: Erection of additional soil pipe at rear of property to service new bathroom: Members agreed to support this PA.
- (d) Tree Preservation Order/Tree Conservation Area applications: None
- (e) Appeals: None

Other Planning Matters

Mobile Telephone Mast Pre-Application: Cllr Browning referred to this recent email to which the PC had responded as follows: 'Such an installation would have a major impact on the landscape including the Glem Valley, which is an extension of the Constable Country scene, plus the uninterrupted views that the Village currently enjoys. Also, Hartest is currently developing a Neighbourhood Plan and the proposed site is one of many under consideration where development should not take place by permitting additional structures'. Cllr Browning advised that some residents might be prepared to tolerate such a structure for the telecommunications benefits it should provide and this should be borne in mind.

Storage of Filing Cabinets: Cllr Pask advised that permission had been granted for a 4 drawer filing cabinet, which is to be ordered.

Neighbourhood Plan

There is to be a drop in session in this regard on Thursday 24 September from 1300 to 2100 hours in the Institute.

Village Shop/Community Right to Bid ) These items are to be Affordable Housing: ) pending forward in Cllr Price's absence. (Cllr Pask suggested that this would be better termed "Local Housing".)

S106 Money/Land behind the School: Mrs Burr has this in hand.

15/063 Green, Cemetery and Churchyard

- (a) Cemetery

Headstones: No progress as yet.

Extension Layout: Cllr Pask had spoken to Mr Ian Leigh, who very kindly offered to provide a plan of the Cemetery (together with

marked plots).

Mr Cornish is currently seeding this area.

(b) The Green

Ditch near Parsons' Walk: See Min 059 above re Co Cllr Kemp's report.

Diseased Horse Chestnut Tree: Our Tree Warden, Mr Michael Feather, had recommended that this tree should now be felled. To that end, an application will be submitted to BDC. Upon approval, Messrs Eco-Systems will be asked to undertake the work.

15/064 Highways and Footpaths

Traffic Management:

Paul Gant of SCC had updated the Clerk as follows:

*Pilgrims Lane: Inspected and no defects needing urgent attention were identified; this road has been included on my provisional programme for surface dressing next year (subject to funding) – provided that this is forthcoming, the road will be patched, some areas of overlay to remove the low areas and then surface dressed.*

Footpaths

*The footpath defect by The Warrens was a defective reinstatement by BT; – we made this safe and, by now, it should have been permanently reinstated by them..*

*Smithbrook Lane, at the Brockley Road end, was inspected and nothing found needing urgent attention.*

"Jack's Bench", Hartest Hill: Nothing further to report at present.

Speeding on Hartest Hill

*The PC's attention had been drawn to this problem by a resident on Hartest Hill, which was forwarded to Paul Gant of SCC, who advised the following:*

*"Speed limits*

*All our current speed limits meet the guidelines set by the Department of Transport. However, you can request a speed limit change through your councillor.*

*Speed limits*

*A recent review of speed limits on all A and B class roads has shown they all follow the guidance from the Department of Transport.*

*We are confident that speed limits are largely appropriate across Suffolk.*

*Most requests for a speed limit change will not now meet the requirements for reconsideration.*

*We will consider an alteration if there has been a change in circumstances (such as a new development) or it is part of a specific project.*

*Any County Councillor, who believes a request from their parish or town council, requires a full assessment should contact the*

**Cabinet Member for Roads and Transport.**

*You can read our **speed limit policy** for full background and details on speed limits in Suffolk."*

*If the Parish Council supports this request, then you will need to speak to Councillor Richard Kemp; if he supports the request, then he will contact us to initiate the process to assess the request.*

Post Box – Hartest Hill: Although advised by Royal Mail that this would be replaced by end June, it is still outstanding. The Clerk will expedite.

15/065 Correspondence: None

15/066 Matters of Report Only: None

15/067 Matters for Consideration at the next meeting: None

15/068 Date of next Meeting: Wednesday 14 October at 7 p.m.-Institute

**Approved at the PC Meeting held on 14 October 2015**

