

Hardwicke Parish Council

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Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 3 September 2007 at 7.30 p.m. in the Village Hall, Hardwicke, following presentation of prizes for the annual Gardens Competition at 7.00 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

Mrs J. Storton (Chairman)

Mrs V. Box

Mrs T. A. Harrison

Mr B. J. S. Hunt

Mr D. G. Middle

Mrs D. Mumford

Mr C. J. Newell

Mrs J. D. Paul

Three parishioners, Mr D. L. Tomlins (GCC), PC Mark Peer, Warden Andy Foster and the Clerk.

Apologies were received from Mrs Smith and Mr Littleton (SDC). There were no **declarations of interest**. The **Minutes** of the meeting of 6 August 2007, having been circulated, were amended at item 87/07 to add "SDC", were confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

98/07 COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

As Mr Tomlins had another meeting to attend, his report was taken first. He was aware that speeding on the Bristol Road was a prime concern at present, and advised the council to write again requesting a flashing advisory sign and saying that it would make a financial contribution. This was agreed in principle.

99/07 POLICE REPORT/COMMUNITY SAFETY REPORT

PC Peer gave the figures for July (much reduced from last year's) and August (similar) and reported that gatherings at the Play Area had been a source of concern (he would support an initiative to instal lighting there). Neighbourhood policing priorities were to reduce noise and anti-social behaviour, criminal damage, and crimes against persons. Speeding was also a concern and he would support the provision of a flashing warning sign. Helen Devlin and Anna Tindall were allocated as PCSOs to the Hardwicke (and Quedgeley) area. Opening of the station at St James might be restricted because the receptionist had retired. Andy Foster reported that he would also support any request for lighting and would chase up the flashing sign loan from Community Safety. He was making a list of "grot spots" around the village and getting them cleared of flytipping, abandoned cars, etc. and would let the council know when a clearance would be undertaken in the Overbrook Road area.

100/07 APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIRMAN AND REPRESENTATIVES

Mrs Harrison was nominated as Vice Chairman and agreed to election. Mr Hunt would act as Road Warden to replace Mr Jones, including the proposed Land Drainage Warden duties as outlined in a letter from the county council.

101/07 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

11/07 Crossing at the School: Mrs Smith had visited the resident who had objected; PC Peer confirmed that yellow zigzag lines would only prevent parking during relevant school hours.

36/07 Extension of the 30 mph limit and weight restrictions in Pound Lane: no response

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41/07 Bus Services: another letter suggesting at the re-routing of Service 14 via B4008/Matalan had been sent (no reply). The Clerk was asked to write to David Drew MP.

77/07 Reply from Glos Constabulary to say that there were no plans to increase staffing levels at St James station but the situation was continuously under review.

87/07 Flooding: there had been several requests for feedback from various authorities by email; councillors felt that sufficient reports had been made.

93/07 Green Lane verges: ACER motorcycles had replied to say that they now use the RBL car park and move to the Village Hall occasionally on a Friday morning when RBL has deliveries, but only if the Village Hall car park is clear.

95/07 Potholes in Elmgrove Road East, overgrown hedge at Dales Wharf and lack of litter bins there (one at the canalside and one near Sellars Rd junction would be requested), obstructive sign on the roundabout (it was the same one, still not moved) and overgrown/uneven footpath EHA 22: all these matters had been reported to the relevant authorities.

102/07 **CORRESPONDENCE**

From GAPTC/NALC: August newsletter including requests for members, pay negotiations still inconclusive, adoption of Code of Conduct and details of training courses (Mrs Mumford would undertake two sessions at £40 and Mr Hunt & Mrs Box the Nuts & Bolts course at £60 each); notice of AGM at Tetbury on 13 October

From SDC: DVD on Global Warming (this was circulating); request for comment on Hardwicke Players' application for funding (support)

From GCC: the visit to a biological treatment plant had been re-arranged for 12 Sept to London or 29 Oct to Southampton (Mr Middle hoped to go); letter suggesting the appointment of local Land Drainage Wardens to check ditches etc (Mr Hunt, as above)

Annual Report from Glos Police Authority; letter from resident concerning poor state of footways around Elmgrove Estate (forwarded to SDC); letters of thanks from the Friends of St Nicholas Church, the Golden Age Club and GBSN for donations; request for bouncy castle on Playing Field 2 Sept (it had been put in the garden next door) and for Fire Walk on Sept 20 (full details had been received, and the council gave its permission providing that parking in Green Lane was monitored); Severn Voice meeting 17 September at Arlingham (Mr Middle hoped to attend); donation requests from Glos Wildlife Trust and Glos Chest Fund; notice of PCCM 5 Sept at RBL, and The Clerk and Clerks & Councils Direct magazines (an article on Planning would be copied to all).

103/07 **PLANNING MATTERS**

The Chairman requested all members to ensure that the third person to see an application had let the Clerk have a consensus of responses by the due date before passing the plans on, and to ensure that they had let her know if they would be away.

Applications

S.07/1684/COU c/use of former milking parlour for fencing contractors (support)

S.07/1724/CPL rear single-storey ext. at 2 Wharfdale Way (no obj)

S.07/1817/TPO remedial works to oak tree at 19 Ashgrove Close (no obj)

Decisions

S.07/1187/FUL 2A Pear Tree Close, removal of condition (permitted)

S.07/1392/FUL exts at Greenways, Elmgrove Rd West (permitted)

S.07/1685/FUL ext at Laburnum Cottage, Green Lane (permitted)

Hunts Grove

It was felt that the application had now gone so far that it would not be useful to discuss it with David Drew MP, but that he should be asked to make every effort to ensure that the council gained some benefit from the development such as a piece of land or a new Hall. A meeting with Mr Longmuir would be arranged, possibly at 7.00 p.m. before the October meeting.

104/07 DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

Mr Littleton had been unable to attend but had telephoned to say the Mr Nightingale was the SDC Drainage Engineer (Minutes had been altered accordingly), that Hunts Grove was unlikely to be called in by the Secretary of State, and that planning enforcement notices would be served on the Sticky Lane site and the Grove End Villas site. The Clerk was asked to write a précis of the Sticky Lane site history for the benefit of new councillors.

The Chairman adjourned the meeting at this point for public consultation. Churchyard maintenance was discussed and the meeting was then reconvened.

105/07 FINANCIAL MATTERS

The following accounts were approved:

HM Revenue & Customs (PAYE & NIC)	£68.92
Glos. County Council (pension)	£108.02
Clerk salary, August	£646.45
Mrs D. M. Edwards, new rate	£143.52
Post Office Ltd, stamps	£15.60
Mr F. L. Cross, Gardens Comp. judges	£100.00
Ms T. Evans, Playscheme	£150.00
Mrs J. Mander, ditto	£150.00
Moonbeam, half invoice for churchyard works	£2050.00
Moonbeam, grass July/Aug and bench repair	£60.00
Village Hall, pumphouse repair excess	£100.00

Requests for Donations

The Village Hall Committee had thanked the council; the insurers had now paid the claim apart from £100 excess, so it was agreed to pay this.

Bank Signatory Form

The form appeared to be lost, so another would be sent round. The Clerk had requested NatWest for details of better accounts as the present one paid only 1.96% gross.

Budget 2008/9

A Draft Budget was considered, together with last year's for comparison. Various items were discussed and the matter would be brought up at the next meeting.

106/07 PARISH MAINTENANCE**Church Lane & Green Lane ditches/hedges**

The Clerk had written to Mr Martin Bragg, new head teacher, and to Mr Menzies asking him to make all the details available to his successor. Assuming that all would be in order, the Clerk would ask Mr Portlock to carry out the ditch-clearance in early October. The state of the Pond in Green Lane was discussed at some length; the Wildlife Trust would be asked to advise on clearance and safety aspects.

Elmgrove Estate Play Area

The monthly Inspection Report was signed. Mr Paul had repaired another piece of the multiplay. Two responses had been received concerning its removal; one that it should be removed for safety and one that nothing should be spent on it.

Playing Field & The Close

The revised Wet Weather Policy directive document had been circulated. SGMS would be spraying the field as well as fertilising as agreed, in early September.

Churchyard

Mr Middle, Mr Hunt and the Clerk had inspected the works and drawn up a list of snags which had been reported to Mr Jones, who would be asked to a Churchyard Committee meeting on 11 Sept at 7.00 p.m. Maintenance of the churchyard had been discussed during the public adjournment, in particular the hedge & ditch from the Lychgate to Church House Farm which had not been cut/cleared for some time; Mr Jones would be reminded of his obligations under the contract. Mr Middle had suggested that stone benches at the cremation wall might be considered, and had costed suitable models.

Gardens Competition 2007

Presentations were made at 7.00 p.m., with the judges and several of the competitors present. Judges' fees were approved, and engraving of the Lizzie Prout Cup (approx £10). The Clerk would write to thank Blooms for their sponsorship.

Playscheme 2007

Leaders' fees of £150 each were approved; the final accounting showed a net loss of £209.

107/07 TRAFFIC

A letter concerning an accident on the Bristol Rd at the junction of Green Lane had been received (forwarded to Area Traffic Manager). Mr Hunt & Mrs Box had circulated emails (copied to Mr Tomlins) concerning problems on the Bristol Road, particularly speeding. Mrs Box had been told that a traffic counter would be in place shortly, and possibly a speed camera. It was agreed that extension of the cycle lane, a pedestrian crossing or at least a central refuge, extension of the 30 mph limit, and a flashing advisory speed limit sign (possibly with a financial contribution from the council) were needed. The Clerk would write to the county council requesting action.

108/07 BLEDISLOE CUP

The village had failed to get through the second round; the Reports were awaited.

109/07 PARISH PLAN

Mrs Burlow had requested a list of actions undertaken (Mrs Mumford would contact her).

110/07 ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

Some Declaration of Interest and Register of Interest documents were still awaited.

111/07 REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS

Roundabout maintenance, website training next week, Bristol Road crossing, and overgrown hedges were discussed.

112/07 DATE OF NEXT MEETING was confirmed for Monday 1 October at 7.30 p.m.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 10.00 p.m.

Date Signed