

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 3 December 2007 at 7.30 p.m. in the Village Hall, Hardwicke

ATTENDANCE

Mrs J. Storton (Chairman)

Mrs V. Box

Mrs T. A. Harrison

Mr D. G. Middle

Mrs D. Mumford

Mr C. J. Newell

Mrs J. D. Paul

Two parishioners, Mr G. R. Littleton (SDC), the Clerk. **Apologies** were received from Mr Hunt, Mrs Oxley, Mrs Smith and Mr D. L. Tomlins (GCC). There were no **Declarations of Interest**. The **Minutes** of the meeting of 5 November 2007, having been circulated, were confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

138/07 CASUAL VACANCY

Mr Ian Butler, present at the meeting, introduced himself as a candidate so was co-opted and signed a Declaration of Acceptance of Office. Mrs Paul tendered her resignation, due to pressure of work, which was reluctantly accepted by the council. This further vacancy would be published.

139/07 APPOINTMENT OF WARDENS

It was hoped that Mrs Smith would take on the duties of the Play Area Warden from Mrs Paul; Mr Butler was appointed Road Warden and Mrs Storton was appointed Snow Warden. Mrs Paul agreed to continue as Notice Board Warden.

140/07 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

102/07 Composting site: the county council had replied to the council's concerns and had said that details were available on its website.

111/07 Website: there had been a delay in setting it up but it appeared that the cost would be cheaper than anticipated. Minutes and Agendae would be posted by Mrs Mumford or Mrs Harrison.

125/07 Maps of the Shorn Brook area, and of the parish area, had been copied for members.

141/07 CORRESPONDENCE

From GAPTC/NALC: newsletter Nov 2007 including new pay scales (see below) and notice of Clerks' Training Day 4 Dec £10 (Clerk would attend) and next Nuts & Bolts training course 30 Jan

From SDC: DVD on Global Warming still circulating; Statement of Community Involvement (Nov)

From GCC: Highway Maintenance newsletter, Oct; copy of letter to Mr Botham, The Old Thatch, concerning the stream bank in Church Lane; forecast of Gypsy Site provision

Clerks & Councils Direct and The Clerk magazines; letter from Hardwicke Rangers asking permission for their Tournament on 5/6 July 2008 (granted, provided neighbours near The Close and the Cricket Club were informed); letter from Hardwicke AFC accepting the offered grant of £1700, enclosing pitch fees for the season, and acknowledging receipt of letter concerning bad language (131/07); Quedgeley PC Minutes, Oct

142/07 **PLANNING MATTERS**

Applications

S.07/2300/LBC Internal alterations at The Old Thatch, Church Lane (no obj)
 S.07/2316/FUL entrance at Markeys Unit Q1, Quadrant Distribution (no obj)
 S.07/2317/FUL fence at 3 Wharfdale Way (no obj but comment that it was obtrusive)
 S.07/2395/FUL rear ext. & conv. garage at 2 Oak Tree Close (no obj)
 S.07/2483/FUL conservatory at Adsborough, Sellars Rd (no obj)

Decisions Notified by the Planning Authority

S.07/2005/FUL demolition & rebuilding at Beardsmead, Church Lane (withdrawn)
 S.07/2035/FUL ext. at 2 Cornfield Drive (permitted)

143/07 **FINANCIAL MATTERS**

The following accounts were approved for payment:

HM Revenue & Customs (PAYE & NIC)	£78.17
Glos. County Council (pension)	£108.02
Clerk salary, Nov	£637.20
Mrs D. M. Edwards*	£168.52
Canon UK Ltd, photocopies	£27.95
Staples Ltd, stationery (Shurdington PC to pay half)	£43.64
GAPTC for Parish Councillor's Guide (Mrs Box)	£16.19
Post Office Ltd, stamps	£23.04
T. W. Hawkins SGMS, grass Nov	£724.98
Hardwicke AFC (130/07)	£1700.00
Moonbeam, grasscutting Oct	£270.00
Moonbeam, second half Cremation Wall payment	£2050.00
SLCC membership (Shurdington PC to pay half)	£64.50

* + Christmas bonus £25

Request for Donation

Home Start Stroud & Dursley

Clerk's Contract/Salary Review

The National Pay Agreement for Local Government had finally been set at 2.475% backdated to April 2007. The Clerk had consulted with the Chairman & Vice Chairman over a revised Contract (copied to all members) and had requested an increase in hours from 12.81 (set in 2005) to 14.5 per week. This was agreed (resulting in an annual salary for 2007/8 of £9815) and the revised Contract was signed by the Chairman and Clerk.

Budget 2008/9

The Budget was discussed further, and the Precept agreed at £30,000 for 2008/9. A final Budget would be produced later.

144/07 PARISH MAINTENANCE**Grass Cutting Contract (Churchyard)**

Four tenders for 2008, one with an alternative, had been received. These were discussed and the tender from Mr Jones of Moonbeam was accepted. It was noted that Mr Jones had not finished the landscaping works behind the new Cremation Wall but that he had installed kerbing to the front and was making up the surface there to level it. A Churchyard Committee meeting would be held shortly, to finalise procedures for cremation interments there.

Ditch clearance

Mr Middle reported that the Estate had arranged the clearance of the Shorn Brook and the ditches in Church Lane. The Estate had also proposed to clear ditches at The Green through to the Shorn Brook and would be invoicing the parish council for clearance of the section from the Old Barn down under the road to the far edge of The Green. Mrs Box was still concerned over the danger of the deep ditch at The Pond in Green Lane, where Mr Tomlins had said he would investigate fencing. During Budget discussion, the creation of edging areas at the Pond was discussed further. Mr Newell would see whether FWAG could help with advice.

Elmgrove Estate Play Area

Mrs Paul signed the Inspection report. The Working Group, now to be organised by Mrs Mumford, reported that Julie Tegg of GPFA had given them useful advice but more members were needed (the Clerk would write a piece for Hardwicke Matters).

Litter

It was agreed that more litter-picking was needed. Mrs Edwards would be asked whether she would consider taking on more work.

Playing Field & The Close

Mr King received the cheque for improvement of the Village Hall showers on behalf of the Football Club. He reported on the Club's success in the County League this season despite damage to the pitch from motorcycles and bicycles crossing it in wet weather, and requested the council to consider installing a fence to prevent this.

Mr Gregory advised that the Rangers had taken over the lease of The Close and paid it from 16 June so the Estate had now refunded £278.62.

The Cricket Club had requested permission to reinstate the lower wickets on the Cricket Square removed a few years ago (this was agreed).

Mr Littleton, who had joined the meeting straight from a meeting at Haresfield, gave his report here and gave Mr Tomlins' apologies as he was still at that meeting.

145/07 DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORT

Mr Littleton reported on the Javelin Park proposals, the Hunts Grove Enquiry, the Shorn Brook and the proposed culvert under Church Lane. He also updated members on the matters brought up at the last meeting.

146/07 TRAFFIC

Mrs Oxley had advised that she would meet with County Council colleagues shortly and that she could not chair the Road Safety Group (this would be looked at in January).

147/07 **BLEDISLOE CUP**

The organisers had requested comments, to encourage other parishes to take part (the Report highlighted weak spots and encouraged the community to tidy up and take pride in their community).

148/07 **REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS**

Savage cutting of a hedge at Dales Wharf, and slow progress in setting up consultation with the Tree Officer were reported.

149/07 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

This was confirmed for Monday 7 January 2008 at 7.30 p.m. A draft schedule of Meetings 2008 was approved.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.40 p.m. with best wishes for a happy Christmas to all those present.

Date Signed