

Draft minutes of the meeting held on Monday 4 February 2008 at 7.30 p.m. in the Village Hall, Hardwicke

ATTENDANCE

Mrs J. Storton (Chairman)
Mrs V. Box
Mr I. R. Butler
Mrs T. A. Harrison

Mrs B. A. Hunt
Mr C. J. Newell
Mrs G. E. Oxley

Three parishioners, Mr G. R. Littleton (SDC), Mr D. L. Tomlins (GCC), PC Mark Peer and the Clerk. **Apologies** were received from Mr Middle, Mrs Mumford and Mrs Smith. There were no **Declarations of Interest** and all but one Register of Interest forms had now been completed. The Minutes of the meeting of 7 January, having been circulated, were confirmed as a true record.

12/08 **POLICE REPORT/COMMUNITY SAFETY REPORT**

PC Peer had forwarded a written Report copied to all. He commented on the crime figures which had decreased, and on initiatives for youth, neighbourhood policing and agreed priorities (anti-social behaviour, criminal damage and speeding traffic were the three most important issues at present but these could be changed or expanded, to be discussed at the next meeting).

13/08 **DISTRICT & COUNTY COUNCILLORS' REPORTS**

Mr Littleton reported on barbed wire near the School, the "den" in Oak Tree Way, flooding on 11 Jan and work carried out by Hardwicke Court Estate since, an increase of 2½% in council tax, council housing, planning enforcement and the Hunts Grove Inquiry due to end 5 February. He was asked questions on planning issues. Mr Tomlins reported on a malfunctioning street lamp in Elmgrove Road East (PC Peer would report it).

The meeting was adjourned at this point for public participation and there was considerable discussion on the recent flooding. The meeting was then reconvened.

14/08 **DITCH CLEARANCE**

There had been discussion on the parish council's part in flood prevention and it was agreed that the Clerk should write to the Estate, the SDC Land Drainage Officer (who was leaving but would be replaced) and the owner of Puddleducks Nursery concerning the proposed new culvert under Church Lane. Mr Littleton would find out whether his council could enforce completion of the Plantation drain. An offer of sandbags from the depot at Whitminster had been made. A letter had been received from the Estate advising that the Church Lane ditch near Kurna was Highways' responsibility (the Clerk had forwarded a copy), that they were still investigating ownership of ditches at The Green, and that ditches at Church Green were the parish council's responsibility (this was contested as these ditches were boundary ditches and not mentioned in the conveyance of Church Green). Mr Littleton and Mr Tomlins left the meeting at this point.

15/08 **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

7/08 Councillor Training: Mr Hunt and Mrs Hunt had been booked on the BAGC course at Longford on 20 March

8/08 Mrs Edwards had agreed to double her hours and would be paid double from March 2008.

8/08 The residents at The Old Telephone Exchange had been asked for comments on the use of the bus shelter at the A38 and had requested a meeting with their nearest councillor (Mrs Oxley) to discuss it.

8/08 Mr Kent had estimated £795 for fence renewal near the Youth Shelter. Further estimates would be obtained.

10/08 School Crossing: dropped kerbs would be installed 18 Feb

16/08 **CORRESPONDENCE**

From GAPTC/NALC: Rural Regeneration newsletter January; GAPTC newsletter January

From SDC: notice of Spring Clean 2008; posters for Care & Repair; Code of Conduct training events and Parish & Town Council Meeting at Hartpur

From GCC: notice of bridge closure 7 p.m. to 6 a.m. 18-21 Feb at junction 12

Letter from David Drew on Surface Water Drainage for hospitals, schools and community buildings (the council supported his case and the Clerk would write to the Environment Minister, Defra); notice of Gloucester Road Race Sunday 2 March at Frampton round Longney & Elmore & back; consultation document on the Conduct of Local Authority Members; copy of letter from Mr Dando at Elm Villas to Stroud DC on flooding; message from the School concerning fencing on their side of the Pond (Mrs Harrison would investigate, as the council did not want it to look wrong); message concerning dog fouling on the Playing Field and in alleyways near the School (the Clerk would contact the Dog Warden and Mrs Harrison would write a piece for Hardwicke Matters); resident's complaint of newspapers dumped in alleyways near Sellars Road (the Clerk had written to the newspaper and asked Mrs Edwards to clear up).

17/08 **PLANNING MATTERS**

Decisions Notified by the Planning Authority

S.07/2395/FUL rear single storey ext at 2 Oak Tree Close (permitted)

S.07/2483/FUL conservatory at Adsborough, Sellars Rd (permitted)

S.07/2605/COU barn at Green Farm to live-work unit (withdrawn)(planning enforcement officers were making investigations at the site)

Hunts Grove

Several councillors had attended the opening of the Inquiry on 22 January but felt that the public had not been properly catered for and that the opportunities for speaking had been badly managed. An invoice from Haresfield PC for printing, circulation, and coach hire was awaited.

18/08 **FINANCIAL MATTERS**

The following accounts were approved:

HM Revenue & Customs (PAYE & NIC)	£205.34
Glos. County Council (pension)	£171.65
Clerk salary, Jan	£965.12
Mrs D. M. Edwards, Jan	£143.52
Post Office Ltd, stamps	£15.60

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Requests for Donations

Hardwicke Rangers had requested help with portable modular buildings for The Close, which could be relocated if necessary. The council felt that the club did a great deal for the youth of the village and should be helped, so a grant of £7500 for a shower block was approved, to be paid from the s106 funding held at SDC. The Village Hall had requested major funding for roof alterations and an investigative survey/repair in the meantime. The survey costed at £1685 was approved, from the same funding.

S106 Funds

Members were given details of the two funds held by SDC on the council's behalf: one had been paid by the developer of The Plantation to include play area and tree maintenance there and the improvement of existing recreation facilities, and the other by the developer of Dales Wharf to provide new youth & community facilities. The balances at 31.3.07 stood at £32,585.55 and £128,197.19 respectively.

Churchyard Meeting

Notes of meeting 24 Jan had been circulated. The council approved proposals for the new wall including the purchase of flower holders and two notices in cast bronze.

Pitch Hire Fees

Fees for AFC and HCC had been raised by £10 to £200 each last February. In view of costs of other pitches the fees would be increased to £220 for next season.

19/08 PARISH MAINTENANCE**Elmgrove Estate Play Area**

The Inspection report was signed. The Working Group had made a suggestion to use an area to the east of the present Play Area for young children's equipment, fenced off. Members would consult the neighbours first. Use of the area around the Youth Shelter was also discussed. Youths had been drinking at the Play Area.

The Pond

Mr Newell reported that his contact at FWAG had left but the matter had been passed to a colleague.

20/08 TRAFFIC

Mr Butler had arranged a meeting for 12 February, probably at the Village Hall (this was approved). The group would discuss speeding, blocked drains, speed humps, damage to road edges, and traffic surveys, and Highways' Stakeholder Manager had been invited.

21/08 EMERGENCY PLAN

Mr Butler had asked the council to consider whether a Plan should be in place; he would try to attend a meeting on this subject on 11 Feb at Ebley Mill 7.30 p.m. and the matter would be discussed further.

22/08 REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS

Graffiti at the Starting Gate bus shelter and maintenance of grass verges was discussed.

23/08`DATE OF NEXT MEETING was confirmed for Monday 3 March 2008 at 7.30 p.m.

It was agreed that Angela Burlow be asked to the Parish Assembly on 15 April to brief newer councillors (and the public) about the Parish Plan, and perhaps a Planning Officer from SDC, to discuss consultation on planning applications, grounds for objection, etc.

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

Date Signed