

DRAFT

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 7 September 2009 at 7.30 p.m. in the Village Hall, Hardwicke

ATTENDANCE

Mr I. Butler (Chairman)

Mrs V. Box

Mr A. S. Clarke

Mrs T. A. Harrison

Mr D. G. Middle

Mrs D. Mumford

Mr C. J. Newell

Mrs G. E. Oxley

Mr D. L. Welbourne

Five parishioners, Neighbourhood Warden Phil Drew, and the Clerk.

Before the meeting opened, a presentation was given by Ms Katie Smith, Community Engagement Officer at the County Council. She explained that she had been appointed to help communication between parish councils and the county council on issues such as policing and traffic, and asked for input on current problems which she might be able to follow up. Public participation was then invited and comment was made on the wall behind the Play Area, where children had been jumping off and breaking off coping stones (to be reported to SDC), potholes in Springfield and Bath Road sliproad, and permission asked for the use of the Playing Field for a charity football match on 20 Sept (granted providing it was not in use). The Chairman then opened the meeting itself.

Apologies were received from Mrs Fallows, Mr Plater, Mr Littleton (SDC), Mr Blackburn (GCC) and PC Mackie. There were no **Declarations of Interest**. The Minutes of the meeting of 3 August 2009, having been circulated, were confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

103/09 POLICE REPORT/COMMUNITY SAFETY REPORT

PC Mackie's report for August had been circulated. Phil Drew, new Neighbourhood Warden, introduced himself and invited reports on litter, abandoned vehicles, dog fouling and so forth. He would be added to the litter-contact address and had already noted complaints of litter on the Playing Field.

104/09 DISTRICT & COUNTY COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

Neither member was present; a suggestion was made for our County Councillor to write a monthly piece for Hardwicke Matters.

105/09 CORRESPONDENCE

From GAPTC/NALC: Notice of AGM of GRCC 1 Oct, and AGM of GAPTC 15 Oct (no volunteers)

From SDC: details of Glos Homeseeker (council tenancies online)

Letter copied from David Drew on PC role in planning decisions; also on "Up for Debate" meetings in Sept on the political system (including a meeting at Hardwicke Village Hall on 15 Sept to be chaired by Mr Butler); notice of Stroud CAB AGM on 17 Sept, 12 noon at Ebley Mill; Glos City Council letter on Greater Blackfriars Consultation; The Clerk and Clerks & Councils Direct magazines; Severn Voice agenda for meeting 28 Sept (Mr Middle would attend)

Email messages: a request to support for an amendment to the Sustainable Communities Bill would be followed up.

106/09 **PLANNING MATTERS**

Applications

S.09/1491/LBC internal alterations at Hardwicke Court (no objection)

Decisions Notified by the Planning Authority

S.09/0900/FUL fence at Quadrant Distrib. Centre (permitted)

S.09/0925/HHOLD conservatory at Brooklyn, Bath Rd (permitted)

S.09/1026/COU c/use from B8 to B2 at Unit B Quedgeley TE West (permitted)

S.09/1072/HHOLD ext at 34 Hembury Close (permitted)

S.09/1076/HHOLD cabin at Hardwicke Primary School (permitted)

S.09/1096/TPO works to trees at Ashgrove Close (permitted)

S.09/1250/HHOLD ext at 35 Springfield (permitted)

107/09 **FINANCIAL MATTERS**

The following accounts were approved:

HM Revenue & Customs (PAYE & NIC)	£120.85
Glos. County Council (pension)	£177.13
Clerk salary, August	£797.85
Mrs D. M. Edwards, August*	£312.00
St Nicholas' Junior Choir (99/09)	£200.00
GAPTC training course (Mrs Fallows)	£30.00
Glos City Council, Javelin Park flyer printing	£25.39
Mrs D. Mumford, GPFA entry, and bark for Youth Shelter	£24.90
Ringtone.net, for broadband	£24.28
Stroud DC, dogbin emptying	£151.80
Clerk, garden tokens	£64.00
Mr F. Cross, judges' fees	£100.00
Shurdington PC, ID cards x 6	£12.00
Dale Haines, churchyard grass	£320.00
ASG(uk)Ltd	£684.25
Dale Haines, churchyard hedge	£200.00
Chris Newell Trading, works to Pond	£276.00

* To be reviewed when Minimum Wage increase known

Bank Account

It was noted that a direct debit for Broadband had been set up.

Draft Budget 2010/11

First draft copied to all for consideration of items to be added or revised.

Monthly Financial Report

An amended report for July/Aug had been circulated.

108/09 **PARISH MAINTENANCE**

Grass cutting

Both contractors would be asked to quote for next year's contracts, as both areas had been well maintained this season. Mr Haines had asked whether he could exceed 12 cuts at the churchyard; this was agreed.

Elmgrove Estate Play Area

The inspection report was signed. Mrs Box agreed to inspect the new equipment weekly to tighten bolts while it is new, as a piece had been removed by the children; Wicksteed had sent some bolts and she had re-fixed the piece.

Youth Shelter

Mr Paul had fixed the aerial on the roof, Mr Welbourne had cleaned off graffiti, and the council's insurers had clarified its position on liability. A quote for concreting the paths had been received, and others would be sought. There was considerable discussion on the problems at the shelter and a proposal to use anti-climb paint on the roof, and warning signs, was carried by a majority vote but no firm decision was made.

Youth Club

A proposal to set up some sort of Club at the Village Hall, to be run by a youth group or council as suggested by Mrs Mumford previously, was discussed. Karen Toole (SDC) had said that s106 funding could not be used for this, so a donation of £500 towards setting-up costs was agreed. Members were asked to vote online for funding for the project set up by PC Mackie.

CCTV

One cable was still needed at the Village Hall for full use of the Broadband there; ASG had submitted an invoice for vandal proof housing for the cameras, etc. which would be paid once everything was up and running satisfactorily. The cost of CCTV had been considerable and members felt it should have been met from s106 funding, so a meeting with Karen Toole to discuss the s106 agreements, possibly involving Phil Sullivan (Community Safety) at SDC would be arranged (and copies of the Agreements circulated).

Pond

Mr Newell had undertaken necessary tree pruning at the Pond and would contact the School concerning the opposite bank.

Bollards at The Pond

Mr Newell had worked out a cost of approx £1000 on the basis of the specification. There was insufficient in the Budget to cover this at present so perhaps the top part could be done first; the Clerk would investigate utilities in Green Lane and further estimates would be sought.

Ditches

Ian Kear (SDC) had written requesting the Estate to clear the ditch and fallen trees at Church Green (if time permitted, Mr Clarke would cut the trees).

Litter

Mr Drew would suggest further meetings with Mr Novoth.

Churchyard

At the Churchyard Meeting on 5 August it had been agreed to ask a monumental mason about the chipped monument; his report was awaited and would be forwarded to the complainant to take further with the council's contractor's insurers if he so wished. A parishioner had requested the pruning of a memorial tree in the closed churchyard, but the council felt that this was not part of churchyard maintenance. It was noted that there had been problems with goats getting into the churchyard (Mr Clarke had done a great deal of preventative fencing there).

SDC Maintenance

Stroud DC wished to arrange a site meeting at Dales Wharf to discuss maintenance. Mrs Harrison would attend; she reported that roundabout-cutting there had involved removal of all the shrubs and bushes, and residents were extremely unhappy. Various other areas had been reported to SDC as needing maintenance.

Gardens Competition

Presentations would be made by the Chairman at 7.00 p.m. before the October meeting. The Clerk had purchased National Gardens tokens from Highfield. Results would be circulated before the next meeting but the winners had already been notified and the Village Hall booked for 7.00 p.m.

109/09 **ROADS & TRAFFIC**

Highways List

Notes of "replies" to items on the list, and the (amended) list, had been circulated following the meeting on 24 August. The lack of progress was disappointing; further meetings of the Roads & Safety Group would be held to try to find a way forward.

110/09 **JAVELIN PARK**

Considerable publicity had resulted from the Public Meeting on 22 July. A proposal to join GlosVAIN to oppose a giant incinerator was carried by a majority but it was noted that one member supported incineration. Some councillors would be present at a demonstration outside Shire Hall on 9 September (Clerk to contact GlosVAIN).

111/09 **REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS**

The Estate had still not undertaken any work on the Plantation ditch (a site meeting would be suggested). There had been concern over gipsies camping near the Cross Keys. A blocked ditch in Pound Lane would be reported. The Recreation Group would not be pursuing the Barley Close land for the present and would concentrate on refurbishment of the existing play equipment, as this would attract more funding than purchasing new; SDC would be requested to replace the play area wall with a fence. A hollow oak tree on the Playing Field had been reported to SDC tree officer. It was proposed that a second informal meeting be held, perhaps two weeks after the monthly council meeting, to discuss ideas and policies on matters such as youth provision and road safety so that notes could be circulated and decisions made more quickly at council meetings without compromising the time available for public input. There was general agreement to go ahead with this idea.

112/09 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

This was confirmed for Monday 5 October following presentation of the Gardens Competition prizes at 7.00 p.m.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.40 p.m.

Date Signed