

Hardwicke Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday July 4th 2011 at 7.30 p.m. in the Village Hall, Hardwicke

PRESENT

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| Cllr Ian Butler (Chairman) | Cllr Gill Oxley |
| Cllr Andy Clarke | Cllr Fran Welbourne |
| Cllr Lisa-Jayne Fallows | Stroud District Councillor Littleton |
| County Councillor Blackburn | |

In attendance.

PC Fraser Mackie, K.Lee Clerk, and nine members of the public

Apologies.

Apologies were received from Cllr Lyn Welbourne, Cllr. Caro Kingsnorth, Cllr Sharon Purvis and Cllr. Theresa Harrison.

Declarations of interest.

Cllr Andy Clarke declared an interest in respect of the Sellars Farm planning application. He advised the Council that he had no personal interest in the development but had assisted the pressure group, ASF, in the development of a web site. There were no other declarations of interest.

88/11 Vacancies, the chairman informed the Parish Council that there were two candidates for the two vacant positions of Parish Councillor.

John Perkin from Green Lane and David Mossman from Sellars Road were both elected unanimously to the Parish Council.

89/11. Public Consultation.

The meeting was adjourned for public consultation. Several members of the public spoke of their concern about the poor condition of the environment and surroundings in Maple Close. Residents described it as the 'forgotten land' They identified a range of issues that seemed to have been ignored by the district and county councils and issues of anti-social behaviour that had not been responded to by the Police. In particular they identified; the poor state of the roads, grass verges not being cut, litter not being picked up, broken glass and bottles left on the roads and footpaths and street wardens failing to visit the area. Further concerns were raised about local letting agents allowing tenants to leave properties in a poor state with abandoned cars and rubbish not being cleared away.

The Chairman informed residents that the Parish Council would do all it could to step in help residents. He agreed to arrange to meet residents to develop a planned approach with local councils and the letting agents.

Another group of residents reported that there were trees in Ploughman's way and Clover Drive that were overhanging their properties. They reported that they had written to Stroud District Council and they had been advised that the land belonged to the Parish Council.

It was agreed to follow this up and report back to the residents.

The Chairman thanked the residents for their attendance and for raising the issues. The meeting was reconvened.

90/11 Minutes

The Minutes of the Meeting held on June 6th 2011 were agreed as an accurate record and signed by the Chairman.

91/11 Matters Arising From the Minutes

- (a) The leaflet drop in respect of Sellars farm had been undertaken

92/11 Police Report.

There were 12 recorded crimes across Hardwicke parish through the month of June 2011. Over the same month last year there were 14 crimes.

No violent crimes, No burglaries, 1 ABH, 1 violent public order offence, 1 shoplifting, 5 fraud offences, 2 criminal damage offences, 1 for dangerous driving, and 1 theft from a dwelling.

There were 65 incidents reported to police, which will include the above 12 crimes, but also Anti-Social Behaviour, false alarms, Road Traffic incidents, concerns for safety and lost property enquiries. This is well above the 46 of the same period last year. There was a huge increase in the numbers of concern for welfare calls, as well as insecure premises or vehicle calls, which may account for this increase.

There were 5 reported road traffic collisions in the month of June. 3 were on the A38/Bristol Road, 1 on Green Lane and 1 on Bristol Road. None resulted in injuries

PC Mackie informed the council that he wanted to continue to build the HGD database, and hoped that parish Councillors would join, publicly stating that they will be a careful and considerate driver, and obeying all speed limits.

Members were assured that there would be access to the electronic data required in terms of speeds on various roads around, which it will be available for next panel meeting Weds. Sept 29th, at 1900hrs

Members thanked PC Mackie for his report and agreed to pay £75 for the stickers in respect of the Good Drivers Scheme.

93/11 District Councillor's Report.

Councillor Littleton commented that he recognised the problems with tenants and landlords in Overbrook Road and Maple Close; he agreed to meet with the Chair of the Parish Council to visit the area. He also reported that he would follow up the issues of the trees in Ploughman's way.

Cllr Littleton informed Members of the Parish Council of the Planning Committees decision to reject unanimously the planning application for Elmgrove Road. He informed the Council that the application had been rejected on the grounds of over development. He further added that a revised application was to be submitted but with a proposal for a smaller number of houses on the site.

Parish Councillors voted to oppose the revised planning application for Elmgrove Road on the grounds of; the size of the development, the type and size of the proposed properties and concerns about access and additional traffic onto Elmgrove Road.

Referring to a later agenda item Cllr. Littleton informed the Council that he had already registered his opposition to the proposed development at Sellars Farm.

Cllr Littleton was thanked for his report.

94/11 County Councillor's Report

Councillor Blackburn reported that he was opposed to the development at Sellars Farm and it would be registering his formal objection. He added that he was very disappointed that pre planning discussion had been held between the Developer and Highway Authority.

Councillor Blackburn informed the Council that the County Council was holding a public exhibition at Javelin Park to allow members of the public to meet and ask questions of the potential contractors about the proposed 'residual waste' facility. In response to a question from Cllr Mossman about dioxin levels Cllr Blackburn informed the council that the reports to the County council had stated that the 'levels were generally safe'.

Councillor Blackburn gave an update on the Travellers on land on the B4008 near the motorway junction. He advised the council that the land belonged to the Highways Agency and not the County Council. The matter had been reported to the Agency and they had been informed of the Parish Council's concerns.

Councillor Blackburn was thanked for his report.

95/11 Planning Applications.

- (a) **Sellars Farm.** Councillor Clarke declared an interest in this issue and did not vote on any recommendations made by the Parish Council. The Chair reported that he had been in discussion with Stroud District Council about the length of time in which the Parish Council had to respond to the planning application. The official date for responses was July 18th, however the planning department had indicated that they would receive comments up until the time the application would be submitted to the planning committee. The

Chair stated that even though the deadline for representations had theoretically been extended he wanted the Parish Council to meet the timeline stated in the formal letter ie July 18th. There was an extensive discussion on the proposed development and Parish Councillors raised issues about the impact of; the density of housing, flooding, traffic congestion, road safety and lack of local amenities and services. The Parish Council voted unanimously to object to the development and agreed to hold an extraordinary meeting on July 12th at the Village Hall Hardwicke to develop its formal response.

- (b) **Elmgrove Road.** The Parish Council considered the resubmitted planning application for the development at Elmgrove Road. The previous application had been rejected by Stroud District Council. The Parish Council voted unanimously to object to the revised application for the following reasons; too many houses for the site, the proposed buildings were out of character and not in keeping with surrounding properties. There were concerns about increased traffic and it was felt that the proposal was misleading in that the plans indicated a development of five houses but retained the existing property.

96/11 Correspondence.

- Gloucestershire County Council has commenced a consultation process on its Waste Core Strategy, further details to be provided at next meeting.
- Further correspondence from GlosVain on its continued action to oppose the Residual Waste Facility – Incinerator- at Javelin Park

97/11 Councillors Reports

- **Cllr F Welbourne.** Had received a request from the Playgroup to put up a notice on the fence. **Agreed.**
- **Cllr Welbourne** reported that lead had been stolen from the roof of the village hall.
- **Cllr A Clarke.** Updated members on the Hardwicke Good Drivers Scheme and urged parish Councillors to set an example and sign up to the scheme.
- **Cllr Clarke provided members with a full update on the project for establishing a community radio station.** A station had been set and was now running on the internet. He had investigated the possibilities of broadcasting on FM and had identified that a temporary licence could be applied for which would allow broadcasting for twenty eight days, twice a year. The Vicar from Hardwicke Church had also shown an interest in the radio station and offered his support. It was agreed to support the project and members asked for Cllr Clarke to provide a further update and draft business for the next meeting of the parish council.
- **Cllr. Clarke** Recommended that all Parish Councillors should cease using personal e mail addresses and use the Hardwicke PC domain. – **Agreed.**
- **Cllr Fallows** Suggested that Parish Councillors should have identity badges which would be worn at public events, and undertaking certain activities such

as traffic monitoring. It was **Agreed** to do this and councillors were asked to email photographs to Cllr Fallows who agreed to prepare the badges. The Chairman added that Cllrs should be issued with reflective high visibility jackets for use when undertaking traffic monitoring. It was agreed to consider this at the next meeting.

- **Chairman.** The chairman informed that Parish Council that it needed to develop a range of policies to ensure that the council could meet the demands now placed on it. This included the development of; an updated asset register, information pack and induction programme for new councillors, codes of conduct and practice and the development of an intranet. **It was Agreed** to consider the development and use of Intranet at the next meeting. The Clerk was requested to begin the development of other policies.

The Meeting Closed at 22.00

Signed..... Chairman.

Date.....