

Hardwicke Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday February 6th 2012 at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall Hardwicke.

Present

Cllr Ian Butler Chairman
Cllr. Lyn Welbourne
Cllr. John Perkin
Cllr. Mike King

Cllr. Fran Welbourne

Apologies.

Apologies were received from Cllr Gill Oxley, Cllr Caro Kingsnorth, Cllr Theresa Harrison and County Councillor Tony Blackburn.

In attendance

District Councillor Graham Littleton, PC Lucy Kay, Kevin Lee, (Clerk) and six members of the public.

11/12 Chairman.

In the temporary absence of the Chairman, Cllr John Perkin was nominated and voted as Chair for the meeting.

12/12 Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest in respect of items on the agenda.

13/12 Public Consultation.

The meeting was adjourned for a period of public consultation. Ellen Winter from Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust introduced five members of the public who had put their names forward to be conservation volunteers for the village. Ellen outlined the role of the volunteers and informed members of the important work they could do in partnership with the Parish Council.

Ellen then outlined the project proposals that were being developed in partnership with the Council to improve the area around the pond in Green Lane. Ellen had previously met with Cllr John Perkin and the Clerk to explore the type of project that could be undertaken. Ellen reported that a meeting was to be arranged with the Head Teacher of Hardwicke School and that a final project plan would be submitted to the Parish Council for approval.

14/12 Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on January 9th 2012 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

15/12 Police Report.

PC Lucy Kay gave a brief update on the changes to the staffing at the local police station; this included the changes for Fraser Mackie who was working on the Podsmead Area. PC Kay reported on the visits that had been made with Cllr Littleton to several farms in the area. This was to make farmers aware of the weight restriction issues in the parish in order that they could pass on the information to the milk tanker drivers.

16/12 District Councillor Report.

Cllr Graham Littleton provided members with an update on recent issues for Stroud District Council. He highlighted that the District Council had won its judicial review case concerning the M5 service station. In respect of the Sellars Farm appeal Cllr Littleton reported that the district council had dropped its opposition on the grounds of flooding and would focus on planning policy and highways matters.

17/12 Finance Statement.

The Clerk provided members with an updated finance statement for the period ending January 31st 2012. Members approved the statement and agreed to the format of the report. A copy of the report is attached to the signed copy of the minutes.

The Parish Council approved the appointment of Ian Selkirk as Auditor.

18/12 Parish Assembly.

The Parish Council agreed to hold its annual Parish Assembly on April 25th 2012. It was agreed to confirm the format for the assembly at its meeting in March

19/12 Vacancies for Parish Councillors

Following the recent resignations it was confirmed that there were two vacancies for parish councillors. Cllr Welbourne suggested that due to the lack of notice boards in parts of the Parish, then a leaflet drop could be undertaken in areas such as Cross Keys and Hunts Grove. The Clerk agreed to check the validity of pursuing this.

The Parish Council agreed to the purchase of further notice boards at the following locations; Hunts Grove, Cross Keys, the Post Office and the Shop in Westbourne Drive.

20/12 Parish Councillor Reports

Cllr John Perkin gave an update on the proposed projects that could be supported through S 106 money. (This is in addition to the pond project reported under item 13/12)

The projects included additional facilities and support for the following groups;

Brownies, Scouts, and Guides this would mainly be for the purchase of equipment. But some support for revenue projects may also be available. In respect of the Youth Club, Cllr Lyn Welbourne proposed that the projects include revenue support to allow for the provision of additional youth worker hours which allow the club to open more evenings per month. The Parish Council agreed to support the request for additional hours and the clerk was requested to make further enquiries with Stroud District Council.

Members discussed the wide range of projects that may be needed for the Village Hall. It was agreed that the Village Hall should have funding for major improvement works. Cllr John Perkin also identified that consideration should be given to providing suitable storage facilities for the clubs who use the Village Hall and sports field.

It was agreed to arrange a meeting with a representative from the Village Hall Committee to develop an appropriate project plan

21/12. Planning Applications

- **S 12/0110 McDonalds** Members noted the application and made no objections to the proposal
- **S 12/0183/VAR 41 Springfield Hardwicke.** Members made no objection to the application
- **S 11/0602 Full. Wind Turbine, Land at Velthouse Farm.** The Parish Council revisited the application in response to approaches from members of the public. Cllr Fran Welbourne had visited the area of the proposed development and reported on her discussions with residents. It was believed that the proposed development would be too close to residential premises.

The Parish Council resolved to object to the application on the grounds. that it will be too close to neighbouring residential premises. In doing so, the Parish Council refers to; the House of Lords, Wind Turbines (Minimum Distances from Residential Premises) Bill. The Bill states that; if the height of the wind turbine generator is greater than 25m but does not exceed 50m, and then the minimum distance requirement is 1000m.

22/12 Height Restriction Barrier at Village Hall Car Park.

Members discussed the proposal to install a height restriction barrier at the entrance to the village hall car park. This was in response to concerns about overnight parking from large vehicles. Members agreed to the proposal to provide a barrier at a height of 2.1m and accepted the tender price of £1300.

The Meeting Closed at 22.18

Signed.....Chairman.

Date.....

