

Hardwicke Parish Council.

Minutes of meeting and AGM held on Monday June 11th 2012.

Present

Cllr Ian Butler

Cllr David Mossman

Cllr Fran Welbourne

Cllr Theresa Harrison

Cllr Lyn Welbourne

Cllr John Perkin

Cllr Mike King.

In attendance

County Councillor Tony Blackburn, District Councillor Graham Littleton, District Councillor Russell Miles Kevin Lee (Clerk)

Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Gill Oxley and Cllr Caro Kingsnorth

62/12. Declarations of Interest.

Cllr Lyn Welbourne declared an interest in the agenda item in respect of Javelin Park. This was a personal and non-prejudicial interest.

63/12 Minutes of Meeting held on May 14th 2012.

The Minutes of the meeting held on May 14th were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

64/12 District Councillor Reports.

Cllr Russell Miles, was welcomed to his first meeting of the Parish Council, Russell had been elected to Stroud District Council at the May elections. Cllr Miles provided members with a summary of his background and reported that he had been a resident of Hardwicke for eight years.

Cllr Graham Littleton reported that following the elections to the district council a new administration had been formed. Stroud District Council would now be run by a coalition of Labour, Liberal Democrats and Green Party. It was also likely that the council would revert to a committee system in a years' time and abandon the cabinet system of administration.

In respect of local matters Cllr Littleton and Cllr Miles had been taking up the issue of the pond in the property at the junction of Pound Lane and Bristol Road. Both the district council and Severn Trent Water Authority would be liaising with the property owners to resolve the problems.

65/12 County Councillor Report.

Cllr Tony Blackburn provided a summary of the planning process in respect of Javelin Park. Cllr Blackburn reported that he thought that the application would not be submitted to the County Council's Planning Committee until the autumn.

Cllr Blackburn reported on an issue in respect of local bus fares where there was a significant difference in fares between two nearby stops in the Village for the No 14 bus. The matter had been taken up with the bus company and changes would be made so that fares from both stops would attract the lower cost.

66/12. Sellars Farm.

The Chair, Ian Butler introduced the discussion to examine what action the Parish Council could take to try and mitigate the impact of the development at Sellars Farm.

Members expressed their huge disappointment at the outcome of the planning appeal and voiced their concerns about the role played by planning officers at the district council. Concern was expressed that Stroud District Council had been unable to maintain a five year land supply for development and that this had led to the Sellars Farm development being approved. The Parish Council also took the view that the District Council had failed to have updated its core strategy in sufficient time and again this led to developments being granted in an unplanned and uncoordinated way. The view was expressed that unless these two issues were resolved then villages would be prone to inappropriate developments

In respect of the highways impact of the development, Parish Councillors discussed a range of possible alternatives to try and reduce the impact of additional traffic on Church Lane, Green Lane and Pound Lane. It was recognised, however, that any proposals would need to be subject to consultation with local residents.

The Chair reminded Members of the range of conditions attached to the planning consent. In particular, the sum of money to be provided for highways and traffic measures and the conditions for the timing of work on the site.

The Parish Council Resolved to;

- seek a meeting with the Head of Planning and the relevant Committee Chairs and Portfolio Holders at Stroud District Council to express the Parish Councils concern about delays to the adoption of a new core strategy,
- to ensure that the parish Council would be fully involved in discussions with the developers in respect of the planning conditions
- to ensure that the Parish Council are fully involved in the discussions and proposals for highways and traffic related matters.

District Councillor Graham Littleton agreed to take this forward on behalf of the Parish Council and to arrange suitable dates for the meetings.

67/12 Javelin Park

The Vice Chair, David Mossman provided Members with an update on discussions that had been taking place with neighbouring parish councils on the opposition to the incinerator at Javelin Park.

Members were informed that GlosVain were leading the campaign with support from parish councils. The next part of the campaign was to produce a 3D video 'mock up' of the site. Cllr Mossman reported that the cost of the DVD would be £500 and it was intended that this cost would be shared between parish councils. Members agreed unanimously to support the production of the video.

The Parish Council **Resolved to spend up to £500 on the production of the 3D video.**

68/12 Finance Report.

The Clerk produced the financial report for the period ending May 31st and the list of cheques and payments to be made.

In response to questions about delegated authority to commit expenditure for certain items Members were reminded of the recently agreed financial regulations which covered this. (Financial Regulations 3.1)

The Clerk informed the Parish Council that advice received from GAPTC showed that the current mileage rate for business miles was 45p per mile. It was acknowledged that this rate should apply to Parish Councillors when undertaking official business, including attendance at training courses. The Clerk was requested to develop an appropriate claims form for the reimbursement of expenses.

Resolved, Members approved the financial statement and associated payments and confirmed the acceptance of the 45p mileage rate for business miles.

69/12 Fees for Use of Sports Field.

The Chair informed Members that this item had been raised in response to comments from a member of one of the sports clubs who felt that the pitch fees were too high. Members were reminded that the pitch fees had remained constant for a number of years at a time when other costs were increasing. Members acknowledged that costs for the sports clubs were increasing too but felt that the existing fees should remain particularly as the Parish Council had not increased its precept for the current year.

Resolved, the Parish Council agreed keep the fees the same for the current year.

During the discussion members expressed concern over damage to the fencing caused by players climbing on the fence. There was also concern that the rollers for the cricket pitch had again been unchained and pushed into the youth shelter.

Resolved, the Clerk was asked to write to the sports clubs about damage to the fencing and to make urgent contact with a representative from the cricket club to ensure the rollers were secured.

70/12 CCTV and Security Cameras for Village Hall

The Clerk presented the quotes for the provision of a security light at the entrance to the village hall and for the provision of two additional CCTV cameras.

Resolved, Members agreed to the additional cameras and security lighting at a cost of £1332 and £215 respectively.

71/12 Parish Councillor Updates

1. Cllr John Perkin provided an update on the meeting of the Churchyard Committee. Members were informed that the Church expressed its appreciation for the care and attention that was given to the grass cutting around the churchyard. It was agreed to write to Dale Haines to pass on the thanks and appreciation. There was one issue that needed attention and that was for work to the lych-gate and the surrounding stonework. The Parish Council acknowledged that it had a responsibility for repair and maintenance of the gate.

Resolved that Cllr John Perkin and the Clerk would visit the Church and make arrangements for a contractor to supply an estimate for the work.

2. Cllr David Mossman and Cllr Fran Welbourne reported on their meeting with a representative from Gloucestershire Highways. Glos Highways had identified a sum of £50,000 to undertake maintenance work to the footpaths in Elmgrove Estate. The Parish Council had been invited to identify the areas that it felt were more of a priority

Resolved Members agreed with the priorities identified

3. Cllr David Mossman raised concern about the state of ditches around the village. It was acknowledged that ditches were the responsibility of the landowner and that it would be useful to have a list of respective owners.
4. Cllr Ian Butler, Chair, reported on a letter he had received from a resident who expressed concern about the impact of traffic on the lanes following the approval for the development at Sellars Farm.

The Meeting Closed at 22.15

SignedChair.....Date.....

