

Hardwicke Parish Council

Minutes of Meeting held on Monday March 3rd 2014.

Present

Cllr David Mossman (Chair)	Cllr Gill Oxley
Cllr Sarah Costello-Byrne	Cllr Helen Michael
Cllr Andrew Gough	Cllr Fran Welbourne
Cllr Theresa Harrison	Cllr Lyn Welbourne
Cllr John Perkin	
Cllr Mike King	

In attendance

District Councillors Graham Littleton and Russell Miles, PCSO Tracy Garcia-Cote, Sheila Goulding Hardwicke Youth Club, Kevin Lee Clerk and two members of the public.

24/14 Apologies.

Apologies for absence were received from Parish Councillor Victoria King-Lowe, and County Councillor Tony Blackburn.

25/14 Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on February 3rd were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

RESOLVED To approve the Minutes

26/14 Declarations of Interest

Cllr Sarah Costello-Byrne declared an interest in the agenda item in respect of the planning appeal for Waters Meet Barn and Cllr Lyn Welbourne declared an interest in the agenda item in respect of the Youth Club.

27/14 Neighbourhood Plan

The Clerk gave an update of the progress of the work on the Neighbourhood Development Plan. The steering group were meeting on a monthly basis and had been working closely with GRCC. The group had identified the key themes for further

work and were about to issue a questionnaire to all residents. The questionnaire would be distributed with Hardwicke Matters.

Members noted the very good work being undertaken by local resident Kevin Marsden, Chair of the Steering Group and recorded their thanks for his leadership of the group. There would be a presentation on the work of the Steering Group at the Parish Assembly on April 23rd at the Village Hall.

28/14 District Councillors Report

District Councillor Graham Littleton reported that Stroud District Council had set its budget with no increase in council tax. It was acknowledged that residents would see a rise in council tax bills due to an increase in the Police Commissioners budget.

Cllr Littleton informed Members of the changes to Section 106 funding and the introduction of the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL). It was noted that the CIL should be taken account of in the development of the Neighbourhood Plan.

29/14 Planning Applications

The Parish Council considered the following planning applications;

S.14/0215/HHOLD Rhodesia.

The Parish Council raised no objections but questioned whether residents in Hembury Close had been consulted.

RESOLVED. To raise no objections to the application but to ask SDC to ensure residents in Hembury Close had been consulted.

S.14/0407/REM Sellars Bridge. One additional dwelling.

RESOLVED No objections to the application.

Planning appeal APP/C1625/A/142212957

District Councillor Graham Littleton noted that planning regulations had become more relaxed since the original application for Waters Meet Barn had been refused by the District Council. The Parish Council had made its observations on the original application and had no further comments to make.

RESOLVED To make no further comments

30/14 Finance Report

The Clerk presented the finance report for the period ending February 28th 2014 and the list of payments for the month. It was reported that a new telephone line and internet service was required to enable effective operation of the Parish Council's CCTV. The new provision would also allow for the Parish Council to access the

internet at the Village Hall. Members agreed that a service should be provided and that the existing contract should be cancelled.

The Clerk reported that quotes had been received for the provision of a; safety fence alongside a length of the ditch in Green Lane at a cost of £240 and for the replacement of the broken/missing posts around the Village Hall and verges in Green Lane.

Members agreed to work for the safety fence and in respect of the replacement posts Members agreed in principle subject to confirmation of the exact number and location of posts to be replaced.

RESOLVED. The Parish Council approved;

The finance statement and payments for the period ending February 28th 2014

The provision of a new telephone line and internet provider to the Village Hall

The quote for the provision of a safety fence in Green Lane

The quote for replacement posts around the Village Hall and in Green Lane subject to confirmation of the number and location of posts to be replaced

31/14 Parish Councillor Reports

- a) Cllr Andrew Gough reported that he had observed that the attenuation pond at Sellars Bridge was showing signs erosion. The Chair, David Mossman agreed to raise this with Redrow.
- b) Cllr Sarah Costello-Byrne commented on the ditch clearance work that had been undertaken and enquired why the spoil had been left on the verges. It was noted that this was normal practice and the spoil would rot down over time. It was also more economic than taking to landfill.
- c) Cllr John Perkin expressed concern that there had been an increase in litter in the area. District Councillor Russell Miles informed the Parish Council that he had been in discussions with the Area Manager of McDonalds about the company's community projects, which included, litter picking. Cllr Miles agreed to go back to the manager to see if a project could be undertaken in Hardwicke. Cllr Perkin asked if the grill in the ditch near to The Plantation could be cleared. The Clerk agreed to raise this again with Gloucestershire Highways.
- d) Cllr Lyn Welbourne reported that the newly created entrance to Sellars Bridge, onto Sellars Road appeared to have covered over a pipe from the ditch. The Clerk was asked to report this to Gloucestershire Highways
- e) Cllr Fran Welbourne reported that the dog bin by Poplar Way had been removed. It was agreed that an order could be placed for the purchase and installation of a new bin.

Members were informed that the Village Hall Committee needed to undertake urgent repairs to the roof of the building. An initial estimate for the repairs was £1500. Cllr Welbourne asked if the Parish Council would consider making a donation for the repairs. In response to questions about the impact of the Section 106 money that had been spent on the hall, Cllr Welbourne informed Members that the heating costs had already been reduced by one third. It was agreed that the Parish Council would make a donation of £750 towards the cost of repairs to the roof. Members requested that the Chair of the Village Hall committee be invited to a future meeting of the Parish Council to talk about the Village Halls future plans.

- f) Cllr David Mossman (Chair). Updated Members on the latest known position in respect of the Village Shop and Post Office. The national chains of stores 'One Stop,' had been in negotiations with the owners of the former Starting Gate Public House and were proposing to convert the premises into a local store and post office. Cllr Mossman added that he been in regular contact with some of the former employees of the post office. It was agreed that the Parish Council would support the use and hire of the lounge for ongoing discussions in relation to the former post office/shop.

Cllr Mossman informed Members that a further £600 of fines had been levied against HGV drivers not using approved routes to access the Sellars Bridge development. £300 would go to Hardwicke Scout Group one of the Council's nominated charities. The other £300 would go to Redrow's nominated charity.

RESOLVED; The Parish Council agreed to;

Replace the dog bin at Poplar Way

Make a donation of £750 for the repairs to the Village Hall Roof

Approve the hire of the Village Hall lounge for discussions in relation to the post office.

32/14 Boundary Commission Review for Stroud District Council

The Clerk summarised the report which had been previously circulated setting out the options relating to the Boundary Commission Review. It was noted that the district council currently held elections every year (except during County Council Elections) with one third of members retiring each year. The District Council was proposing to move to 'all out' elections every four years. In doing so it would save approximately £275,000 over four years.

RESOLVED The Parish Council agreed to support the proposal for elections every four years

33/14 Letter from the Leader of SDC re National Planning Policy Framework

The Parish Council considered the letter from the Leader of the District Council asking for support in writing to the Secretary of State to seek a review of the National Planning Policy Framework. Members supported the aims of the District Council and agreed to write to the Secretary of State to ask for amendments to the NPPF.

RESOLVED To write in support of the District Council's letter and seek a review of the NPPF.

34/14 Elmgrove Play Area

Cllr Fran Welbourne gave Members a report on the condition of the play area and identified areas of maintenance that were needed. A proposal to provide fencing around the area was also considered. It was noted that at its budget meeting in February the Parish Council had made provision for these works.

RESOLVED To commence the tender process for the maintenance work and the fencing for the Elmgrove Play area

35/14 Financial Regulations

The Chair, David Mossman, introduced the item and set out the proposals for changes to the Council's financial regulations in respect of its tendering processes. The amendments included the establishment of Finance and Scrutiny Committee. The report also proposed that the Clerk be given delegated authority to approve expenditure up to £500.

RESOLVED TO approve the changes to the Financial Regulations including the Clerks delegated authority. Members elected to the Finance and Scrutiny Committee were; Sarah Costello-Byrne, Theresa Harrison and Fran Welbourne.

36/14 Youth Club

The Youth Club Leader Sheila Goulding presented her report on the five year plan for the youth club. A main feature of the report was for the provision of a Portacabin which would be made into a hub for the older youth club members.

Parish Councillors agreed that the proposal should be discussed more fully and agreed to set up a working group to consider the plan and report back to the parish council.

RESOLVED To establish a working group to consider the proposals. Members elected to the working group were; Fran Welbourne, Sarah Costello-Byrne and Andrew Gough.

37/14 Litter

Members considered the article prepared by Cllr Theresa Harrison and agreed that this should be submitted for the next edition of Hardwicke Matters

RESOLVED To submit the article to Hardwicke Matters

Meeting Closed 9.28

Signed

Chair