

Hardwicke Parish Council

Minutes of Meeting held on Monday August 4th 2014.

Present

Cllr Mike King (Chair) Cllr Lyn Welbourne
Cllr Sarah Costello-Byrne Cllr Fran Welbourne
Cllr John Perkin

In attendance

District Councillor Russell Miles, County Councillor Tony Blackburn, Bev Hemming of Third Sector Services, PC Steve McGoldrick and Kevin Lee, Clerk

88/14 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Parish Councillors Andrew Gough, Theresa Harrison and David Mossman.

89/14 Declarations of Interest

Cllrs Lyn Welbourne and Fran Welbourne declared an interest in the item on the Village Hall.

90/14 Police Report

PC Steve McGoldrick presented an update on the latest crime figures for the area. Overall the figures were down on last year, the main current issue was damage to vehicles. PCSOs were regularly patrolling the areas around the Village. Consideration was being given providing a mobile speed camera in parts of Hardwicke and the Parish Council was asked for suggested sites.

The Chair, Cllr Mike King, commented that there had been a number of complaints from residents about the inefficiency of the 101 telephone number for reporting non-emergency incidents. It was agreed that the Chair would seek to raise this issue with the Police Commissioner at a meeting in September.

91/14 Third Sector Services

Bev Hemming from Third Sector Services was welcomed to the meeting and gave a presentation on the community transport services that the charity provided. The

charity was founded in 2006 and brought together the services previously provided by three separate organisations including Gloucester Dial a Ride.

The Organisation provides community transport across the county, to help less mobile people retain their independence by offering a transport service for access to shops, GP, and hospital appointments. A range of minibuses with wheelchair facility and cars were available to meet the needs of individuals. A bespoke service could be provided for rural areas such as Hardwicke.

People wishing to use the service could register for an annual fee of £10 and each journey would be charged separately.

The Parish Council thanked Bev for the presentation and agreed to raise awareness of the services to residents.

92/14 Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on July 7th 2014 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair

Resolved. To approve the minutes of the meeting of July 7th 2014

93/14 County Councillor and District Councillor Reports

County Councillor Tony Blackburn reported that the County Council was being led by a minority conservative administration. It had been identified that the Council would need to make a further £25m of savings for each of the next three years. Each County Councillor had been allocated a sum of £20,000 for road repairs in their division. Cllr Blackburn confirmed that money had been set aside for the work associated with the speed limit reduction on the B4008.

District Councillor Russell Miles reported that Stroud District Council had received planning applications for three supermarkets in Stroud and Stonehouse. A decision on which one to approve would be considered by the Council's Development Control Committee in September 2014.

Cllr Miles informed members that the District Council was introducing on line electoral registration which would need to be completed on an individual basis.

Resolved to note the reports

94/14 Neighbourhood Development Plan

The Clerk presented a report on the work of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group. The report had been prepared by Kevin Marsden, Chair of the Steering Group.

The group had continued to work on developing the priorities which were identified through the initial workshop and confirmed by the public survey, they were summarised as follows;

- **Themes**
 - Improved Services and Facilities –
 - Enough evidence to start NDP entry
 - Identified need for a Village centre
 - Area provisionally located
 - Facilities prioritised
 - Medical (doctor surgery)
 - PO
 - Shops
 - Maintaining the community
 - Need annual Hardwicke events
 - Green and open spaces important
 - Need to understand Village identity
 - Protecting the environment
 - Reviews underway by external mandatory consultants to identify important wildlife
 - Green space audits in progress
 - Communication and transport
 - Road safety
 - Speeding
 - Traffic volume
 - All current issues so not for NDP but being pursued by Parish Council
 - Homes to meet local needs
 - Initial needs analysis methodology under validation with GRCC
 - Outcome will be presented to Parish Council
 - Methodology with need validation by Stroud District Council
 - Age profile changing in Hardwicke – at current rate over 45yr olds will outnumber under 45yr olds just after 2021
 - Housing type review and mix commenced
 - Enhancing the local economy
 - Nil responses to letters sent by group to all local businesses
 - Content will be heavily reliant on SDC policies

The group had agreed to provide an information stand for the Hardwicke Village Hall family day on August 17th. Residents would have the opportunity to give comments.

The Group was now at the stage of needing to engage a professional planning officer to assist with the policy writing. Parish Councillors supported the work of the group and approved the process for engaging professional input.

Resolved, to agree the work and direction of the Steering Group and to agree to the engagement of a professional planner.

95/14 Village Hall

Councillor Fran Welbourne presented a report on behalf of the Village Hall Committee which set out the likely costs of the replacement of the roof. The Parish Council confirmed that it would provide financial support for the repairs. This would be funded partly through Section 106 money £7,000 and the remainder being by way of a loan up to a maximum of £20,000.

Resolved to provide the necessary funding for repairs to the roof of the Village Hall. £7,000 to be provided by section 106 money and the balance, up to a maximum of £20,000 by way of a loan.

96/14 Pride in our Neighbourhood

Councillor Lyn Welbourne gave an update on the recent meeting that had been held with the Neighbourhood Warden. The meeting had considered a number of options for improving the overall appearance of the Village. District Councillor Russell Miles reported that McDonalds would offer to undertake litter picking in a defined area. Members discussed the possibility of undertaking weed spraying across the Village. It was acknowledged that it was too late in the year for weed spraying to be effective but financial provision should be made for future years.

Resolved to note the report and support the proposed actions and to make future budgetary provision for weed spraying.

97/14 Parish Councillor Reports

- Cllr Lyn Welbourne reported that a large branch of a tree had been damaged and was leaning across the footpath near to the Youth Shelter. Some cutting had been undertaken to the school hedge adjacent to the footpath but it needed to be cut back further.
- Cllr John Perkin reported that a tree had fallen near to the Pond and needed to be removed. He added that highway drains should be installed near to the pond; this would help prevent flooding of the highway. Cllr Perkin also reported that the surface to the play area at the Plantation would need improvement at some point in the future. It was agreed to obtain quotes to consider if the work could be undertaken in the current financial year.
- Cllr Fran Welbourne confirmed that she had been seeking quotes for the provision of fencing around the Elmgrove Play Area.

Meeting Closed at 21.20

Signed

