

Hardwicke Parish Council

Minutes of Meeting held on Monday September 1st 2014.

Present

Cllr Mike King (Chair) Cllr Lyn Welbourne
Cllr Sarah Costello-Byrne Cllr Fran Welbourne
Cllr Andrew Gough

In attendance

County Councillor Tony Blackburn, Carol Novoth Neighbourhood Warden (SDC)
Two Members of the Public and Kevin Lee, Clerk.

98/14 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Parish Councillors John Perkin, Theresa Harrison and District Councillor/Parish Councillor David Mossman.

99/14 Declarations of Interest

Cllrs Lyn Welbourne, Fran Welbourne declared an interest in the item on the Village Hall as Members of the Village Hall Committee and Cllr Andrew Gough declared an interest in the same item.

100/14 Public Consultation

Two members of the public from Hildyard Close, Hardwicke, raised concerns about the state of the footpaths and general appearance of the area including weeds and overgrown verges. The Chair, Cllr Mike King informed the residents that the Parish Council had been made aware of the problem and had discussed this with Gloucestershire Highways. Some work had been carried out by Highways but there were still areas needing attention. The problem had been caused by a reduction in spending on such work both by the County Council and the District Council. In response, the Parish Council would be making budgetary provision in 2015/16 to appoint contractors to undertake weed spraying work.

101/14 Neighbourhood Warden

Carol Novoth, Neighbourhood Warden gave an update on some projects that she had started in the area. These included; looking to establishing a Neighbourhood Watch Group in one small area of the Village. Carol outlined some other projects that were in their infancy and agreed to give an update at a future meeting.

Members were informed that requests had been made to the Open Spaces Team at the District Council to undertake weed clearance and cutting back of brambles along a number of footpaths, particularly those leading to the school.

The Chair, Cllr Mike King, identified several other areas requiring attention and Carol agreed to add these to the list.

Resolved The Parish Council noted the report

102/14 Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on August 4th were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair

Resolved to approve the minutes

102/14 County Councillor Report

County Councillor Tony Blackburn reported that he would allocate some of his highways budget to footpath clearance in the areas identified by the residents and by Parish Councillors. Some hedge cutting work had been undertaken. Land owners had been contacted by Gloucestershire Highways requesting them to undertake the necessary cutting back of hedges.

Cllr Blackburn gave an update on the progress of the design for the Hunts Grove Roundabout on to the A38. He was still pursuing the provision of an additional pedestrian crossing near to the former Starting Gate.

Resolved to note the report

103/14 Neighbourhood Plan

The Clerk gave an update on the progress of the plan. The Steering Group was at the stage of needing to appoint a professional planner to assist with the policy writing. Three companies had been written to inviting them to tender for the work. One had responded to date and an initial discussion had been set for September 12th 2014.

Resolved to note the report and confirm the approach to appointing professional input

104/14 Hardwicke School

The Chair, Cllr Mike King informed Members of an approach made to the Parish Council from the school asking for support in its bid to become an academy. The pursuit of academy status, being made by the Diocese, included making a bid to incorporate the new Hunts Grove School. Members discussed the request and voiced concern about any increase in school size at Hardwicke School. It had been suggested that an additional 120 places would need to be provided at Hardwicke School until the new Hunts Grove School was open. The concern centred on the existing parking and access problems to the school and the numerous complaints from residents about inconsiderate parking by parents collecting children from school.

The Parish Council agreed to support the bid for academy status but stated its opposition to any expansion on the existing Hardwicke School site.

Resolved, to write to the School to support its bid for academy status and to make clear the Parish Council's opposition to an expansion of the School.

105/14 Finance Report

The Clerk presented the finance report for the period ending August 31st 2014 and the list of monthly payments for approval. The Clerk also reported that the Parish Council's final accounts for the year ending March 31st 2014 had been approved and signed by the external auditors Grant Thornton.

The Clerk presented a quote for the repair to the fencing by the church which had been damaged.

Resolved to approve the finance report and the list of monthly payments. To agree for the work to repair the fencing by the church is undertaken.

106/14 Dropped Kerb, access to Village Hall

The Clerk presented the response and report from Gloucestershire Highways which showed that the footpath/kerb leading to the car park was the responsibility of the Parish Council. The request for a dropped kerb would be to enable wheelchair users to gain easier access to the village hall.

Resolved to agree to seek quotes for the work to be undertaken

107/14 Planning Applications

The Parish Council considered the following planning applications;

- S.14/1925/HHOLD 13 Oak Tree Close, single storey extension
- S.14/1775/HHOLD 64 Darleydale Close, two storey extension

Resolved, the Parish Council raised no objections to either application

108/14 Ditch Clearance

The Chair, Cllr Mike King reported on an issue raised by Cllr David Mossman in respect of the ditch clearance programme. In particular, the state of the ditch along Church Lane and the need for residents to be aware of their responsibility to ensure the area of the ditch outside their property was properly maintained to prevent flooding. The Chair identified that the ditch outside the church was again overgrown.

Resolved to undertake ditch clearance work by the Church and for the Clerk to meet with the appropriate officers at Stroud District Council to progress the issue of ditch clearance along Church Lane.

109/14 Parish Councillor Reports

1. Cllr Sarah Costello–Byrne presented Members with a number of photographs showing vehicles parked on the verges outside the Village Hall. This had arisen during an evening football match. The Clerk was asked to contact the football club to ask them to ensure that vehicles were not parked on the verge. It was also agreed to arrange for additional post to be inserted in to the verge and if possible to be incorporated into the work for dropping the kerb as per item 106/14
2. Cllr Fran Welbourne reported that the Village Hall Committee had appointed a contractor to undertake the repair to the roof of the Village Hall. Cllr Welbourne reported that the Bus Shelter on the A 38 near to Pound Lane had been vandalised and that there was a willow tree with overhanging branches that needed to be cut back.
3. Cllr Andrew Gough reported that the hedge bordering the school had been cut back but not to the extent requested by the Parish Council

Resolved to; arrange for additional post to be installed on the verge outside the village hall, to ask the football club to ensure that vehicles did not park on the verge and for the Clerk to arrange for the willow tree be cut back near to the bus shelter.

110/14 Work Plan

The Clerk presented the update work plan and reported on the progress of a number of key items. The additional litter bins had been ordered and the work to clear the pipe by the pond would be completed by the end of September.

Resolved to note the report

111/14 Boundary Review

The Clerk informed members that the consultation process had commenced for a review of boundary changes within the Stroud District. As the consultation was open until November it was agreed to add this item to the October meeting of the Parish Council

Meeting Closed at 8.25 pm