

Hardwicke Parish Council

Minutes of Meeting held on Monday February 2nd 2015.

Present

Cllr Mike King (Chair)

Cllr Sarah Costello -Byrne

Cllr Theresa Harrison

Cllr Fran Welbourne

Cllr Andrew Gough

Cllr Lyn Welbourne

Cllr John Perkin

In attendance

County Councillor Tony Blackburn, District Councillor Russell Miles, Kevin Marsden, Chair of NDP Steering Group, PCSO Chris Horwood-Jones, three members of the public and Kevin Lee, Parish Clerk.

16/15 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr David Mossman.

17/15 Public Consultation

Three members of the public attended the meeting to raise their concerns and opposition to the planning application for a proposed take away at the new One Stop Shop. It was felt that a take away service was not needed and not appropriate for a residential area. Concern was also expressed about the inadequate parking facilities and the traffic congestion that was being caused by large delivery vehicles blocking Elmgrove Road.

18/15 Minutes of Meeting held on January 5th 2015

Resolved to approve the Minutes of the meeting held on January 5th 2015

19/15 Neighbourhood Development Plan

Kevin Marsden, Chair of NDP Steering Group, gave an update on the progress of the Neighbourhood Plan. It was confirmed that the NDP Group would adopt the agreed Settlement Boundary in the policy development of the plan.

In respect of the Housing Needs Survey, approximately 250 survey forms had been returned and were being analysed by GRCC.

Two public consultation events had been arranged for Friday March 13th from 13.00 to 20.00 and March 14th from 10.00 to 17.00. At the events, members of the public would be given the opportunity to learn about the progress of the Neighbourhood Plan and to comment on the developing policy objectives.

It was noted that the joint meeting of the group and the parish council on February 11th would need to agree the options to put forward for the consultation events.

Resolved to note the report

20/15 County Councillor and District Councillor Reports

County Councillor Tony Blackburn, commented on the recent decision by the Secretary of State to approve the application for an Incinerator at Javelin Park. Cllr Blackburn informed Members that, a Motion to rescind the contract was being moved at the next meeting of the County Council on February 18th 2015. If carried, then the County Council would have to pay significant amounts of compensation to the contractor, UBB.

Cllr Blackburn expressed his concern over the continued delays in commencing the process to introduce a 30mph speed limit on the B4008.

The Chair, Cllr Mike King, commented on the poor quality of the recent road surfacing work on the B 4008. Cllr Blackburn agreed with comments and reported that he had recently referred complaint to Gloucestershire Highways.

District Councillor Russell Miles gave an update on Stroud District Council's Local Plan. The revised housing figures for the district through to 2031 were 11,200. These revised figures would now be considered by the planning inspector as part of the examination in public.

Cllr Miles informed members that all of the District Council's group leaders had written to state their opposition to the Ministers' decision to allow the incinerator at Javelin Park and suggested that with the advance of technologies an new approach was needed.

Resolved to note the reports

21/15 Police Report

PCSO Chris Horwood – Jones presented a verbal report outlining the latest crime figures for the three month period to February 2nd 2015 and compared the figures to the same period for the previous year. There had been an overall reduction in crimes. He also reported on the recent spate of damage to cars, investigations had commenced and a number of leads were being followed up.

Members reported on the increased number of complaints they had received about inconsiderate parking during school times including parking across residents driveways and leaving cars in the middle of the road. PCSO Horwood-Jones advised Members that officers were aware of the problems, particularly around the beginning and end of the school day. Officers would issue fixed penalty notices if they saw inappropriate parking.

Resolved to note the report

22/15 Planning Applications

The Council considered its response to the following application;

S.14/2689/FUL Waters Meet Barn

Resolved No Objections

S.15/0100/TPO The Clardens Pound Lane

Resolved no Objections

S.14/2849/FUL The Starting Gate

The application referred to permission for the operation of a 'take away' on the site of the new One Stop Shop in Elmgrove Road East. Representations had been made by a number of residents opposing the application. See Minute 17/15 above.

Parish Councillors expressed concerns over; inadequate parking provision, congestion caused by delivery lorries, a reduction in the provision of car parking spaces as set out in the original planning application and agreed with residents that a take away facility was not suitable for a residential area.

Resolved to object to the planning application on the ground of

- **Inadequate parking provision**
- **Congestion caused by existing facility**
- **A take away service was not appropriate for a residential area**

23/15 Highways Matters

The Chair introduced the report from the Area Highways Manger which set out the process, criteria and potential associated cost for pursuing a Quiet Lanes Policy for specified lanes in Hardwicke.

Members recognised the challenges in pursuing the policy but agreed that it was appropriate to request for the process to commence

Resolved to begin the process to adopt a Quiet Lanes Policy for specified lanes in the Village

24/15 Finance Report

- **Monthly Report.** The Clerk presented the finance report for the period ending January 31st 2015 and the list of monthly payments for approval.

Resolved to approve the report and payments schedule

- **Tree maintenance.** The Clerk presented a report from tree surgeons which showed that a horse chestnut tree in the Churchward was diseased and for safety reasons needed to be felled. A further report identified some maintenance work to a tree in the playing field adjacent to the footpath.

Resolved to approve both items of work

- **Budget and precept for financial year 2015/16.** The clerk presented a proposed budget for the new financial year commencing on April 1st 2015. The proposed budget froze the Council Tax for the third year with an overall net budget for the year of £45,363. This equated to an equivalent band D rate of 26.86. Members approved the overall budget

Resolved to approve the net budget of £45,363 for the year 2015/16

25/15 Section 106 projects

The Clerk presented a report which outlined discussions with Stroud District Council on potential Section 106 projects. Members were disappointed to learn that, contrary to previous advice, there would not be any Section 106 money from the development by New Dawn Homes in Elmgrove Road East. The impact of this would result in less outdoor fitness equipment being provided.

The Clerk outlined possible projects that could be supported from future S106 funding. These included; refurbishment of toilets at the village hall, providing an outdoor play area for the play group, conversion of the garage to provide additional office/storage space along with provision of additional storage for sports equipment and outdoor fitness equipment. These were not new projects but had been identified as a future need when funding became available.

Resolved to approve the report and confirm the list of possible future projects

26/15 Work Plan Update

The Clerk presented the updated work plan for the period ending January 31st 2015

Resolved to note the report

27/15 Parish Councillor Reports

- Cllr Fran Welbourne asked that approval be given for the replacement of the notice board at Wharfdale and for the provision of a litter bin within the Elmgrove Play Area. The Clerk was requested to ask Stroud District Council to provide dog notices.

Resolved to agree to the purchase of a litter bin and for a replacement notice board at Wharfdale

Meeting closed at 21.00