

Hardwicke Parish Council

Minutes of Meeting held on Monday January 5th 2015.

Present

Cllr Theresa Harrison (Chair)

Cllr Lyn Welbourne

Cllr Fran Welbourne

Cllr David Mossman

Cllr John Perkin

Cllr Andrew Gough

In attendance

County Councillor Tony Blackburn and Kevin Lee, Clerk.

1/15 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Mike King and Cllr Sarah Costello-Byrne

2/15 Declarations of Interest

There were none

3/15 Minutes of meeting of December 1st 2014

Resolved, to approve the minutes of the meeting held on December 1st 2014

4/15 Neighbourhood Development Plan

The Clerk gave an update on progress of the plan and reported on the responses to the business questionnaire. As at January 5th there had been twenty replies. Hunter Page had agreed to make contact with half of the businesses that had not replied and the Clerk would follow up the others. Hunter Page had suggested that ideally a total of 50 would provide a good response rate.

The Housing Needs Survey had been distributed with Hardwicke Matters and responses would be monitored by GRCC.

Cllr David Mossman reported on the meeting that had been held with the Chair of the Parish Council and Chair of the NDP Steering Group. Cllr Mossman had been made aware of proposals submitted by Hardwicke Estate suggesting that large areas of land in the Village would be suitable for housing development. Documents had been prepared in October 2013 which proposed development at 40 homes per hectare which, in total, would build around 1650 houses in the Village.

It was acknowledged that such a development would have a major impact on Hardwicke and significantly impact on the development of the Neighbourhood Plan. Cllrs noted that it was important to receive a large number of responses to the Housing Needs Survey. This would help to determine the type and quantity of housing for Hardwicke based on need. Members were asked to urge neighbours and colleagues to complete the survey.

Members further discussed draft proposals from the NDP group which identified where future small scale development could take place to meet local need. It was agreed that the established settlement boundaries in the Village should be maintained.

Resolved to; note the report and encourage a good response rate to the housing needs survey. To maintain the established settlement boundaries within the emerging Neighbourhood Development Plan.

5/15 County Councillor and District Councillor Reports

County Councillor Tony Blackburn reported that the decision in respect of the Incinerator at Javelin Park should have been announced in December but had been further delayed by the Secretary of State, Eric Pickles.

Cllr David Mossman referred to the press release issued on behalf of the Conservative Group on the County Council. The press release referred to the work of a sub-committee of the County Council which had examined possible alternatives to the Incinerator at Javelin Park. Cllr Mossman stated that the press release was a disgrace and was not an accurate reflection of the recommendations made by the sub-committee.

On other matters to report, Cllr Blackburn confirmed that Robinswood Academy Trust would be the organisation to run the new school for Hunts Grove.

In respect of Hunts Grove Development it was noted that there would be a delay in provision of the roundabout to support a new access to the development. Surprisingly, officers within the County Council were suggesting that a delay in providing the roundabout would also delay the provision of a 30mph speed limit on the B4008.

District Councillor David Mossman in his report gave an update on the progress of the District Council's Local Plan. At a meeting in December, Stroud District Council approved revised housing figures for the district. The revised assessment of Housing Need for the district through to 2031 was 11,200 homes. These revised figures had been submitted to the Planning Inspector and would be considered by the Inspector on January 29th and 30th

Cllr Mossman further reported that the new shop and post office, at the former Starting Gate would open on January 22nd 2015.

Resolved to note the reports

6/15 Planning Applications

The Parish Council considered its responses to the following applications;

S.14/2783/FUL Wayland

Resolved to object to the application on the following grounds;

- **Outside the settlement boundary**
- **Development in this area is not in the SDC plan to 2031 as agreed by SDC at its meeting on 9/12/14**
- **Unjustified protrusion into the country side**
- **These homes are not needed as per the Parish Council's emerging Neighbourhood Plan**
- **Unacceptable escalation of development south of Sellars Road setting precedent for the future**
- **Unacceptable increase in traffic on these lanes. Recent surveys show that traffic volumes are above Gloucestershire Highways predictions**

The Parish Council stated that it would ask that if officers are mindful to recommend support for the application then the application should be referred to development control committee.

S.14/2814/FUL Calnee

Resolved to object to the application on the following grounds;

- **Outside the settlement boundary**
- **Development in this area is not in the SDC plan to 2031 as agreed by SDC at its meeting on 9/12/14**
- **Unjustified protrusion into the country side**
- **These homes are not needed as per the Parish Council's emerging Neighbourhood Plan**
- **Unacceptable escalation of development south of Sellars Road setting precedent for the future**
- **Unacceptable increase in traffic on these lanes. Recent surveys show that traffic volumes are above Gloucestershire Highways predictions**

S.14/2683/HHOLD 37 Hildyard Close

Resolved to raise no objections to the applications

S.14/2232/HHOLD 25 Clover Drive

Resolved to raise no objections

S.14/2708/ADV Unit k Quedgeley Trading Estate

Resolved to raise no objections

7/15 Finance Report

The Clerk presented the finance report for the period ending December 31st 2014 and the list of monthly payments. The Clerk also reported that Iain Selkirk FCA had submitted a letter offering to continue to undertake the independent audit for 2014/15 for a fee of £105

The Clerk was pleased to report that Stroud District Council had agreed the section 106 funding for the support to the Youth Club. The funding arose from the S 106 agreement for the former BP Depot. The first payment would be due in January 2015 and phased over the next few years. This would be in addition to the annual grant from the Parish Council.

Cllr David Mossman noted that additional funding may be required to complete the Neighbourhood Planning Process and proposed that the current year's budget be increased by £5000 and that the Clerk, in liaison with the Chair and Vice Chair, be authorised to spend up to that amount on the NDP work without reference back to a full meeting of the Council. Members supported the proposal.

Resolved to;

- **approve the list of monthly payments and agree the financial report for December 31st2014.**
- **agree the appointment of Iain Selkirk as Independent Auditor**
- **increase the current year's budget by £5,000 for additional work on the NDP and authorise the Clerk in liaison with the Chair and Vice Chair to spend on NDP work without reference back to a full meeting of the Council**

8/15 Grass Cutting Contract 2015-2018

The Clerk presented the tenders for the Grass Cutting Contract for the period 2015 to 2018. The contract included; the cutting of the field and surrounding areas, including The Green, The Planation and the verge in Green Lane. Weedspraying of footpaths around specified areas and hedge trimming adjacent to the British Legion.

Members agreed to the lowest tender which had been submitted by company A. The Clerk confirmed that company A was T W Hawkins, the existing contractor.

Cllr John Perkin proposed that an additional area of strimming along Green Lane between the Pond and Plantation be added to the contract, members supported the proposal.

Resolved to agree to the award of the contract to company 'A' T W Hawkins for the period 2015-18 and to request that additional strimming along Green Lane be added.

9/15 Church Fees for 2015

The Clerk submitted the report which listed the changes to the fee charges for the Church. The revised fees were in line with those proposed by The Church of England.

Resolved to agree to the revised changes to fees

10/15 Repairs to gates to Village Hall car park

The Clerk presented the quotations from Ironcrafts Ltd for repairs to the gates to the car park. The quotes provided options to replace the existing gates with a barrier or to repair the existing ones. Quotes to repair the existing height barrier were also received.

Members agreed accept the quote to repair the existing gates and to the repairs to the height barrier. The Clerk was requested to obtain a quote to also provide a pedestrian gate.

Resolved; to accept the quotes to repair the existing gates and for the repair to the height barrier, to request a quote for the provision of a pedestrian gate.

11/15 Hardwicke Football Club Perimeter Fencing

The Council considered the proposed agreement between the football club and the Parish Council for the erection of perimeter fencing during the football season. The provision of fencing was a requirement for the football club to progress to the next tier of football. Members agreed to support the agreement subject to; the addition of the wording "to the standard required by the Parish Council" to the first two conditions and an amendment to the first paragraph to clarify that the three year agreement would be renewable subject to approval of the Parish Council

Resolved to accept the agreement subject to the amendments stated above.

12/15 Work Plan Update

The Clerk presented the update report for the period ending December 31st 2014. It was noted that there were ongoing concerns about flooding in parts of Green Lane. Cllr Mossman agreed to pursue the matter with the MP, Neil Carmichael and with Stroud District Council.

Resolved to receive the report

13/15 Citizens Advice Bureau

The Parish Council considered the grant application and agreed to award a grant of £500.

Resolved to award a grant of £500 to Stroud Citizens Advice Bureau

14/15 National Pay Award for Parish and Town Clerks

Members approved the report and agreed to implement the national pay award which was for a two year agreement commencing in January 2014

Resolved to implement the national pay award for the Clerk

15/15 Parish Councillor Reports

- a) Cllr John Perkin noted that litter was still being dropped by the Youth Shelter even though a new bin had been provided and suggested that a notice be provided to ask residents to use the bin
- b) Cllr Theresa Harrison reported that she had received complaints about the overgrown hedge at the bus stop near to the Pilot Inn
- c) Cllr Fran Welbourne asked for approval to arrange for repairs to the notice board at Wharfdale
- d) Cllrs John Perkin and Fran Welbourne suggested that an additional rail be added to the fencing by the pond

Meeting Closed at 21.10