

# **Hardwicke Parish Council**

Minutes of Meeting of the Council held on Monday June 1st 2015.

## **Present**

Cllr Mike King

Cllr Theresa Harrison

Cllr Sarah Costello-Byrne

Cllr Fran Welbourne

Cllr Andrew Gough

Cllr Lyn Welbourne

Cllr John Perkin

Cllr Graham Brearley

## **In attendance**

Jill Brearley, Ian Widdows, James Braine and Diane Green NDP Steering Group, Tony Blackburn, County Councillor, Russell Miles, District Councillor, two members of the public, Hywel James from Hunter Page and Kevin Lee, Clerk.

## **76/15 Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Cllr David Mossman

## **Resolved to accept the apologies**

## **77/15 Declarations of Interest**

There were none

## **78/15 Public Consultation**

Two members of the public expressed concern about the amount of weeds growing in the footpaths in Hildyard Close. The Chair, Cllr Mike King stated that this was normally the responsibility of the County Council. However because of continued complaints, the Parish Council had agreed to undertake Weedspraying in the area. The Clerk would speak with the Council's contractor to confirm when the work would be undertaken.

## **78/15 Minutes of Meeting held on May 5<sup>th</sup> 2015**

The minutes of the annual meeting of the Council and the Minutes of the ordinary meeting were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair

## **Resolved to approve the Minutes**

## **79/15 Neighbourhood Development Plan**

Ian Widdows gave an update to the Council on the progress of the plan. Much work had been undertaken in reviewing and re writing sections of the plan following the input from Hunter Page. The view from Hunter Page was that the Council/NDP Group was fairly close to having a draft plan for initial submission to the district council. The aim was to have a further draft circulated to Members and to Hunter page by the end of June.

It was noted that Stroud District Council has allocated certain times in the year for consulting on NDPs, and that confirmation would be needed with the Council's lead officer to confirm timescale.

It was also noted that the style and format of the plan had varied over the latest writing stages and it was agreed that the simplified structure/layout would be most appropriate for the public document.

Members were informed that a policies map would be needed and that the spatial extent of the plan and open spaces would be required. Hywel James agreed to check whether Hunter Page would be able to assist.

In respect of a dedicated website for the NDP, members agreed to continue hosting the pages on the HPC website. Cllr Theresa Harrison agreed to continue to update the pages.

It was agreed to hold a further update meeting on Wednesday June 10<sup>th</sup> at 19.00.

**Resolved to; note the update report, to agree to the revised format, to continue to use the Hardwicke Parish Council Website to host the NDP pages and structure of the report and to hold a further meeting on June 10<sup>th</sup> 2015**

## **80/15 County Councillor and District Councillor Reports**

District Councillor Russell Miles informed the Council that, following the local elections the administration would continue to be operated under a 'rainbow alliance'.

The district council had agreed a new waste collection contract under the name of ubico, which was a partnership of several local authorities. There would be two weekly refuse collections and residents would be issued with wheelie bins for their non-recyclable waste.

The Stroud Local Plan had been re-opened for examination by the planning inspector on May 12<sup>th</sup> and would be concluded on June 12<sup>th</sup> the housing numbers for the district had still be finalised.

County Councillor Tony Blackburn reported on the revised bus services and that the 12a and 66 buses would continue to serve Waterwells. It was expected that Section 106 funding would provide for a bus service to support Hunts Grove.

Councillor Blackburn was still pressing for the 30mph speed restriction on the B4008 to commence at the top of the slip road and not at the junction with Green Lane, which was the proposal by the County Council.

There had been a lot of opposition to the proposal to introduce remote controlled bridges over the canal. The proposal by the Canals and Rivers Trust would see the removal of the jobs of bridge keepers. Cllr Blackburn added that a full traffic survey to take account of the amount of traffic over the bridges had not been undertaken.

Cllr Blackburn informed members that a new round of grants from Active Gloucestershire would be available. Cllr Fran Welbourne suggested that a grant application could be made to provide a play area could be provided for younger children on the land adjacent to the main play equipment. It was noted that the land was in the ownership of Stroud District Council and permission would be required

**Resolved to note the reports and for the Clerk to seek permission from SDC for the use of land adjacent to the play area**

### **81/15 Elmgrove Play Area**

The Chair reported that further to complaints from residents the gates to the play area had been removed and a further inspection was to be undertaken by the suppliers.

The recent RoSPA report had identified some non-urgent improvements to the play area. It was agreed to seek quotations for the work and present to the next meeting of the Council.

**Resolved to seek quotations for the improvement work for the Elmgrove Play Area**

### **82/15 Outdoor Fitness Equipment**

Cllr John Perkin reported that three companies had been invited to quote for the provision of outdoor fitness equipment. Two companies presented proposals that matched the Council's requirements, Caloo and Hags SMP and had been asked to provide more detailed costings. Caloo were identified as the preferred contractor subject to confirmation of the full costs for the project including removal of all spoil from the site.

The Clerk informed the Council that the Grant from Active Gloucestershire was for £12,000. The additional costs to provide a bonded mulch surface would bring the cost of the project to £15,000 excluding VAT. Members supported the additional expenditure to provide a higher quality surface.

**Resolved to confirm Caloo as the preferred contractor subject to final confirmation of all costs and subject to confirmation to proceed with the contract with the additional costs agreed to cover the bonded mulch surface**

### **83/15 Planning Applications**

The Council considered its response to the following planning applications.

S.15/1019/HHOLD Rose Cottage, Sticky Lane

**Resolved no objections but to note the continued development of the site**

S.15/1044/HHOLD Avian Lea, Sellars Road

**Resolved no objections**

S.15/0826/HHOLD 6 Waterdale Close

**Resolved no objections**

### **S.15/0963/HHOLD**

Resolved no objections

S.15/1125/HHOLD

**Resolved No Objections**

### **84/15 Finance Report**

The Clerk presented the finance report for the period ending May 31<sup>st</sup> and the list of monthly payments.

The Clerk also presented the report from the internal auditor for the financial year 2014/15. The auditor had approved and signed the accounts. The Chair signed the audit report and annual statement for submission to the Government appointed external auditors

**Resolved to approve the; finance report and list of monthly payments and to approve the internal audit report and the submission of the external audit report.**

### **85/15 Playing Field Weed-spaying and Seeding**

The Clerk presented the quote for the weeding and re seeding of the playing field as requested by the grass warden. It was noted that the Council would need to put up notices to advise people not to use the field for 24 hours after spraying. Members felt that this would be unrealistic and agreed not to proceed with the work. It was further noted that it was probably too late in the year to re seed.

**Resolved not to progress with the work**

### **86/15 Work Plan Update**

The Clerk presented the report for the period ending May 31<sup>st</sup>.

**Resolved to note the report**

### **87/15 Parish Councillor Reports**

Cllr Lyn Welbourne raised concerns about the quality of the strimming of the verges in Green Lane, the Clerk to discuss with contractor.

Cllr Theresa Harrison requested that the County Council be approached to provide a hardstanding for the bus stop opposite the Pilot Inn. Cllr Harrison also reported that the footpath from School Lane leading to Maple Close was overgrown. The potholes in Hembury Close needed repair by Gloucestershire Highways.

Cllr Sarah Costello –Byrne commented on the increased quantity of empty drinks bottles and cans by the Youth Shelter.

**Resolved to note the reports and follow up action as required.**

Meeting Closed 21.05

Signed

Chair

Date

