

Hardwicke Parish Council

695

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 2 April 2007 at 7.30 p.m. in the Village Hall, Hardwicke

ATTENDANCE

Mrs J. Storton
Mrs T. Harrison
Mrs B. A. Hunt
Mr S. R. Jones
Mr A. J. King

Mr D. G. Middle
Mrs G. E. Oxley
Mrs J. D. Paul

Two parishioners, PC Mark Peer and the Clerk. **Apologies** were received from Mrs Fallows, Mr Newell, Mrs Smith, Mr Littleton (SDC) and Mr Tomlins (GCC) The **Minutes** of the meeting of 5 March 2007, having been circulated, were confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chairman. No **Declarations of Interest** were made.

39/07 **POLICE REPORT/COMMUNITY SAFETY REPORT**

PC Peer reported on the crime figures for March which had been very low, but public order reports were higher; there had been regular gatherings of youths at the Play Area and litter and glass left there. Three local young criminals had been imprisoned. A Noise Abatement Order had been served on The Starting Gate. A reply had been received to the Clerk's letter on opening hours at the St James station (to the effect that budgetary constraints meant insufficient staff for constant manning). PC Peer was asked several questions and was thanked for his work for the community. The Warden Service was to expand to the Severn Voice parishes, so Andy Foster would only be doing two days a week in Hardwicke (presently 2½) and from 1 April the charge would be £800 (from £1000). He would be asked to confine his Hardwicke reports to matters concerning Hardwicke, and to attend at the Play Area on Friday evenings where possible and at Green Lane between 4 p.m. and 6 p.m. when speeding was most likely.

40/07 **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

125/06 Traffic Warning Sign: a lamp post outside Pillar House on the B4008 had been identified and another outside the Village Hall would be suggested; the signs could not be put on trees, telegraph poles or houses so locating a sign in Church Lane or Sellars Road appeared to be impossible. A mobile speed gun to monitor traffic in Green Lane would also be requested and Mr Tomlins would be asked whether there was any progress on the 30 mph limit and weight restrictions which had been proposed for the B4008.

11/07 Crossing at the School: no progress yet

34/07 Fencing at The Green: Comment on its safety was awaited from Mr Portlock of Highways.

36/07 A request for extension of the 30 mph limit and weight restrictions in Pound Lane had been made (no reply to date).

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41/07 **CORRESPONDENCE**

From GAPTC/NALC: subscription request; Feb newsletter (incl advice that s137 limit is now £5.34 and that a new edition of The Parish Councillor's Guide by John Prophet is now available); Mar newsletter and invitation to enter the Bledisloe Cup (agreed)

From SDC; Statement of Community Involvement

From GCC: Roads bulletins; timetable for bus services to Frampton (passing Pilot Corner twice daily each way) following withdrawal of the Village Link service (it was noted that the no. 14 was to be rescheduled and would not stop in Hardwicke; this would be investigated)

Offer of aerial photography for parish mapping; letter from DCA on safety of church memorials; copy of accounts from the Village Hall; newsletter from Star Centre Ullenwood; posters from Glos Housing Assoc on open market homebuy; offer of postage franking; Housing Land Availability Scoping report, Glos City Council; Kingshill House events; Glos Wildlife Trust subscription request (agreed); insurance premium renewal (agreed); request for a suitable home for a 4ft high fir tree (the owner would be contacted with a view to planting the tree in woodland owned by Mr Newell).

42/07 **SEVERN VOICE**

Notes of the meeting on Monday 19 March at 7.30 at the Village Hall had been circulated and there were no objections to any of its content.

43/07 **PLANNING MATTERS**

The new response form was approved.

Applications

S.07/0570/FUL Single-storey ext. at The Firs, Elmgrove Road West (no obj)

S.07/0694/FUL Single storey ext. at Elm Farm, Bristol Rd (no obj)

S.07/0759/FUL 2-storey ext. at 10 Barley Close (no obj, possible comment)

S.07/0774/FUL Conservatory at 117 Wharfdale Way (no obj)

Decisions

S.07/0118/FUL Ext. at 10 Ashgrove Close (permitted)

S.06/3020/FUL ext. at 17 Barley Close (permitted)

S.06/2581/COU c/use land at Villas Barn (refused)

Amendments

S.07/0420/FUL Unit D, Quedgeley West (RAF no 2): fencing only, not outside storage

S.06/1429/OUT Design & Access Statement for Hunts Grove and proposed A38 junction arrangements

Appeal

S.06/0818/FUL new dwelling at Elm Cottage, Elmgrove Rd W (appeal against refusal dismissed)

The Chairman adjourned the meeting at this point for public consultation; a large new caravan at the Sticky Lane site was reported. The meeting was then reconvened.

44/07 **PARISH PLAN REPORT**

The steering group would meet shortly and would continue with plans for the launch on 15 May at the annual Parish Assembly which was confirmed for 7.00 p.m.in the Main Hall, with parish council business first (short reports only) followed by the Parish Plan details.

45/07 **FINANCIAL MATTERS**

The following accounts were approved and signed:

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| Inland Revenue (PAYE & NIC) | £81.50 |
| Glos. County Council (pension) | £108.02 |
| Clerk salary, Mar | £635.67 |
| Mrs D. M. Edwards, Mar | £139.10 |
| D. Kent Fencing & Building (multiplay repair) | £48.00 |
| GAPTC (sub 2007/8) | £630.97 |
| NALC (for Local Council Review magazine) | £13.50 |
| Clerks quarterly expenses Jan/Mar | £204.31 |
| Frampton Parish Council for Severn Voice | £15.00 |
| Stroud Valleys Cycle Campaign (agreed last meeting) | £25.00 |
| Allianz Cornhill insurance premium | £1172.49 |
| Glos Wildlife Trust sub | £25.00 |

Audit 2006/7

Internal Audit had been set for mid-June and External Audit for 30 June but the Clerk had requested an extension of time so that the council could complete the Annual Return.

End of Year Accounts

These were not yet finalised but a Cashflow Summary was distributed.

Pitch Hire Fees

The Sunday Football Club had been invoiced but had not yet paid; the season would end this week.

46/07 **PARISH MAINTENANCE****Church Lane & Green Lane ditches/hedges**

Mr Middle would meet with Mr Portlock of Highways to discuss these matters.

Elmgrove Estate Play Area

Inspection report was signed. The RoSPA inspection would be carried out this month.

Playing Field & The Close

The contractor had begun the grass cutting. There were now four youth cricket teams. Ownership of a piece of land adjacent to The Close was discussed; it was apparently intended as a bird sanctuary.

Churchyard

Mr Jones had still not commented on the proposals or sent in any paperwork but had recently mowed the churchyard. The Vicar had requested permission to erect a wooden cross on Church Green this week (agreed).

Gardens Competition 2007

Blooms had agreed to continue sponsorship.

47/07 **PLAYSCHEME 2007**

Ms Evans and Mrs Mander had written to say they would not be continuing. They would be asked whether they would reconsider; if not, the positions would be advertised in Hardwicke Matters and councillors would try to find replacements.

48/07 **REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS**

Mr King reported that he might stand down but would still be able to prevent use of the field in adverse weather conditions; the bus stop at Pound Lane had had hard standing installed and potholes in Pound Lane and Elmgrove Road West had been filled; motorcyclists were passing the bollards in Elmgrove Road West at night (to be reported to the Neighbourhood Warden); a Goods Vehicle operator's licence application at a property in Green Lane was discussed (the council would object on grounds of access).

49/07 **ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS**

Clerk's Contract: a list of revisions had been received together with a NALC publication on Good Employment Practice. It was agreed that the Chairman and Vice Chairman (and/or other councillors) should go through the Contract with the Clerk and make suggestions on it for the council's consideration.

50/07 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The AGM was confirmed for 7.30 p.m. on Tuesday 8 May, later amended to 7.00 p.m. so that various financial processes necessary for Audit could be considered.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.15 p.m. A meeting of the Finance Committee (Chairman, Mrs Hunt, Mr King, Mrs Paul) followed immediately to carry out internal auditing functions and to consider the processes required by the External Auditor which would require full council approval at the next meeting (to be set half an hour earlier). The Finance Committee meeting closed at 9.30 p.m.

Date Signed