

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

ATTENDANCE

Mrs J. Storton
Mrs G. E. Oxley

Mr D. G. Middle
Mr C. J. Newell
Mrs R. L. Smith

Eleven parishioners, Mr G. R. Littleton (SDC), PC Mark Peer, and the Clerk. **Apologies** were received from Mrs Fallows, Mrs Harrison, Mrs Paul, and Mr D. L. Tomlins (GCC). There were no **Declarations of Interest**. The Minutes of the meeting of 4 June 2007, having been circulated, were confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

76/07 CASUAL VACANCIES

Mrs Hunt had resigned, making three vacancies in total but the latest would have to be advertised for the set period of notice. This period having expired for the first two vacancies, a ballot was held to elect two of the three candidates who had expressed their interest. Mrs Mumford and Mr Hunt were duly elected, signed a Declaration of Acceptance of Office, and took their places as members of the parish council.

77/07 POLICE REPORT/COMMUNITY SAFETY REPORT

PC Peer reported on the crime figures for the past month, the arrival of PS Clemett at St James, numbers of PCSOs, road adoption at The Plantation and a fisherman who had been pushed into the canal. He also said that there would be no increase in staffing levels to take account of the Kingsway development where 600 houses were already occupied (the council would write to the Chief Constable in support of a request for more officers) and answered questions from councillors and public. A report had not yet been received from Andy Foster, Neighbourhood Warden.

78/07 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

34/07 Fencing at The Green: Highways had advised that they would instal safety bollards.

36/07 Extension of the 30 mph limit and weight restrictions in Pound Lane: no reply so this matter would be chased up

41/07 Bus Services: an unsatisfactory reply had been received from the County Council; there was concern in the village over Service 14 re-routing and the Clerk would write again in protest.

71/07 Litter Picker: Mrs Edwards had accepted the renewal of her contract.

79/07 CORRESPONDENCE

From GAPTC/NALC: Local Council Review, July

From SDC: review of polling districts (to be forwarded to the Village Hall); poster advising that free energy saving lightbulbs would be given to tenants (displayed)

From GCC: notice of closure of Green Lane 24 July-3 Aug for carriageway works and Sellars Rd junction 26 July for junction works; also B4008 at Standish 9-28 July; update of progress of Rights of Way survey

Request for use of Village Hall Car Park for bouncy castle 21 July party there; notice that smoking inside the building was forbidden from 1 July; magazine from Fire & Rescue; notice of NHS meetings (displayed)

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80/07 PLANNING MATTERS**Applications**

S.07/1187/FUL 2 Pear Tree Close, deletion of planning condition (comment that it was not clear why this condition should not continue to apply)

S.07/1285/FUL 35 Stockdale Close, garage conversion (no obj, provided sufficient off-street parking was available)

Planning Training

Mrs Oxley, Mr Newell and Mrs Fallows had attended a session at SDC on 18 June; they felt that much of it had not been very helpful and had gone on too long; evaluation sheets should have been provided.

81/07 DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Mr Littleton reported on the progress of the Hunts Grove application, on maintenance at Dales Wharf and on waste collection and recycling. He advised that some of the Severn Voice parishes were concerned at the open-ended nature of the new Code of Conduct (councillors have to promise to abide by it and future revisions) and that a seminar on it would be provided at SDC towards the end of August.

The Chairman adjourned the meeting at this point for public consultation. Mrs Smith, Mr Littleton and PC Peer left the meeting. There had been flooding in several areas after recent heavy rain and residents were present to seek clarification of whose responsibility it was to clear road drains (County Council Highways) and roadside ditches, where blockages had contributed to the problems. Mr Middle explained that the adjacent landowner was usually responsible for ditches, and that he had been pressing for clearance of ditches belonging to the Estate for months. Resurfacing of Green Lane and an overgrown sign on the slip road were also discussed. The meeting was then reconvened.

82/07 FINANCIAL MATTERS

The following accounts were approved for payment:

Inland Revenue (PAYE & NIC)	£68.92
Glos. County Council (pension)	£108.02
Clerk salary, June	£646.45
Mrs D. M. Edwards, June	£139.10
Post Office Ltd, stamps	£15.60
Hardwicke Scouts donation	£360.00
Moonbeam May and June cuts	£540.00
Village Hall hire April/May	£58.63
Greenfields Garden Services, play inspection	£58.75
Clerk's expenses April-June	£193.63
I. A. Selkirk, internal audit	£105.00

Requests for Donations

MOMS breastfeeding service (it was agreed to find out what Quedgeley PC had contributed and to reconsider the matter next month); Scout Group for travel to summer camp (£360 agreed as above). It was also agreed to grant up to £275 for the removal of the holly tree at the Churchyard reported last month.

Audit 2006/7

The Internal Auditor's Report was read out; the completed Annual Return was approved and signed for submission to the External Auditor for 31 August. There were no matters to note.

Bank Signatory Form

The form would be passed round for completion by a few councillors and submitted after the August meeting.

83/07 PARISH MAINTENANCE**Church Lane & Green Lane ditches/hedges**

Highways had confirmed that it would clear the ditch if the School cut back the hedge.

Elmgrove Estate Play Area

The inspection report was signed. Greenfields had made a thorough inspection of the equipment and had concluded that the wooden multiplay should be removed so the surface was not worth repairing as agreed last month. Copies of the report and photographs of the relevant items were studied. It was agreed that the Clerk should write a piece for Hardwicke Matters concerning the multiplay to assess parishioners' reaction to its removal, and that Greenfields should be asked to carry out minor repairs as specified and to see whether some sort of rubberised coating could be applied to the multiplay unit. Replacement items and grants would be investigated later.

Playing Field & The Close

Rangers Tournament 30/31 June had been cancelled on the Sunday due to heavy rain. The field might need rolling as well as fertilising shortly. The blocked footpath at The Close had been re-opened, as the stile had been removed for mending by Rangers.

Churchyard

Mr Jones had sent in a written quote of £4100 for the works. The Clerk would try to get a breakdown of the costings, particularly for the materials, which had been delivered. The contractor hoped to start the foundations on 7 July, weather permitting.

Gardens Competition 2007

Presentations would be made at the September meeting.

Playscheme 2007

Confirmed for 20-24 August, hall booking and insurance had been arranged and bookings would be taken on 14 July.

84/07 PARISH PLAN REPORT

It was agreed that members would flag up items for discussion under this heading each month.

85/07 REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS

Mr Middle was to meet with the new Highways area representative, Mr Hill, on 3 July and would look at drainage in view of the recent floods.

86/07 DATE OF NEXT MEETING was confirmed for Monday 6 August at 7.30 p.m.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.25 p.m. A meeting of the Finance Committee (Mrs Storton, Mrs Oxley, Mr Newell and Mr Middle) followed immediately, to carry out internal auditing functions. The committee meeting closed at 9.40 p.m.