

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 6 August 2007 at 7.30 p.m. in the Village Hall, Hardwicke

ATTENDANCE

Mrs J. Storton (Chairman)

Mrs V. Box

Mrs L. J. Fallows

Mrs T. A. Harrison

Mr D. G. Middle

Mr C. J. Newell

Mrs G. E. Oxley

Mrs R. L. Smith

Eight parishioners, Mr G. R. Littleton (SDC) and Mr D. L. Tomlins (GCC)(briefly), and the Clerk. **Apologies** were received from Mr Hunt, Mrs Mumford, Mrs Paul, and PC Mark Peer. There were no **declarations of interest**. The **Minutes** of the meeting of 2 July 2007, having been circulated, were confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

87/07 WATER AND FLOODS

Heavy rains towards the end of July had caused widespread flooding in Gloucestershire; the water supply had been cut off for more than two weeks, and water bowsers and bottled water had been supplied to flooded areas. David Drew MP, who had described the situation as the biggest peacetime emergency the county had ever faced, had attended a meeting at the Village Hall on 26 July and had been informed that Severn Trent had confused Elmstone Hardwicke with Hardwicke, that drinking water was now desperately needed, and that less than 1/3 of the village still had mains water (from Mitcheldean). By the end of that week, thanks to huge efforts by the emergency services and the District Council, most of Hardwicke had access to water; the mains supply had just been restored by the time of this meeting.

Several parishioners were present to discuss the flooding which had taken place on 20/21 July in the Church Lane/Pound Lane area and bordering the Shorn Brook, affecting some 15 properties. Local councillors (and Mr Drew) had visited the sites and a meeting of representatives of the Land Drainage Board, local landowners, councillors and others had been held on site on 1 August. Some of the roadside ditches and those owned by Hardwicke Court Estate where blockages had contributed to the problems had now been cleaned out. A written report from Mr Bob Nightingale (Drainage Board engineer) was awaited and once received, the council would contact Highways to ensure that culverts under Pound Lane and Sticky Lane were cleared out, the Estate to continue ditch clearance, and those responsible for the new drain from the Plantation to complete the works at its junction with the brook (Stroud DC might help with identification of the owners). The parish council would endeavour to co-ordinate these necessary works.

Mr Littleton arrived at this point and reported further on these matters, and on the present planning situation at the Sticky Lane site. He and Mr Tomlins then left the meeting.

88/07 CASUAL VACANCIES

There were two candidates for the post left vacant by Mrs Hunt's resignation. Mrs Box was elected, signed a Declaration of Acceptance of Office, and took her place. Mr Dawe was thanked for his interest.

89/07 **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

125/06 Traffic Warning Sign: there appeared to be no progress on this

11/07 Crossing at the School: a letter had been received from no. 22 Westland Rd saying the proposed position outside no. 20 should be moved further south but as the council had not been consulted after the initial site meeting nor received a map, and had been under the impression that Highways would instal the crossing opposite no. 18, there seemed little that councillors could do. Mrs Smith would visit no. 22 to discuss.

36/07 Extension of the 30 mph limit and weight restrictions in Pound Lane: Highways had replied that this matter would be looked at in due course, probably in 2008/9. The Clerk would write to request that this date be brought forward.

41/07 Bus Services: a further letter concerning the re-routing of Service 14 had been received (the council felt that the service could reach Kingsway via the B4008 and Matalan without unacceptable delay, so a further letter would be sent); a further copy letter from Dursley TC re services 91 and 12 had also been received.

77/07 Glos Constabulary had advised that the letter on staffing levels at Kingsway had been passed to Inspector Johnson for reply.

90/07 **CORRESPONDENCE**

From GAPTC/NALC: Local Council Review, July; The Playing Field magazine, summer 2007

From SDC: complaint from resident that the litterbin at The Plantation had not been emptied for 3 years (this area was still in the ownership of the developer, had not been handed over to SDC or to the Parish Council yet, and matters were being sorted by SDC Legal Dept, but the Clerk had passed the request to SDC and it appeared that the bin had now been emptied); new Licencing Policy for comment; DVD on Global Warming (this was circulating); offer of help with website (Mrs Mumford and Mrs Harrison would take this on)

From GCC: copy of 2nd edition The Gloucestershire Charter; details of Joint Municipal Waste Strategy (the trip arranged by SDC 24 July to see an in-vessel composting plant in Southampton, similar to that proposed for Javelin Park, had been cancelled); notice of pilot scheme on part night operation of street lighting and request for local input on which lights could be switched off; details of Village Agent scheme; notice of seminar on housing on 6 Aug, Shire Hall (later cancelled) and Highways Maintenance Seminar 10 Oct at Oxstalls; request for details of flood damaged rights of way and letter concerning prioritisation of road repairs (potholes, unless dangerous, would not be patched for a while); Rural Economic Strategy; Speed Management Conference 11 Sept

Hansard extract on Planning and Flooding from David Drew, with thanks for letter on Hunts Grove and offer to attend a meeting to discuss Hunts Grove; The Clerk and Clerks & Councils Direct magazines, July; letter from English Basketball Assoc saying their scheme had now ended; Cycling Maps from Stroud Valleys Cycling Campaign with order form for more; confirmation that Hardwicke was through to the second round of the Bledisloe Cup; request for permission to dig a cable across The Green to Green Farm (the Wayleave Agreement was approved and signed); copy letter from resident at The Old Thatch concerning the recent flooding there (this resident was present at the meeting); suggestion that a letter should be sent to John Menzies on retirement (this was approved); request for use of the Playing Field on 28 Sept for a Charity Fire Walk (the council was not in favour of this but would consider a written application with full details of insurance, turf reinstatement etc at the next meeting).

91/07 **PLANNING MATTERS****Applications**

S.07/1392/FUL 2-storey ext. at Greenways, Elmgrove Rd W (no obj)

S.07/1570/FUL installation of fuel tank at Unit 11 Quedgeley West Trading Estate (no obj but comments on safety aspects, contamination risk, traffic & hours of use)

S.07/1598/FUL erection of gym and garage at Ellis Farm, Sticky Lane (no obj)

S.07/1631/CPL Loft conversion at 8 Waterdale Close (no obj)

S.07/1685/FUL 2-storey ext. at Laburnum Cottage, Green Lane (no obj, comment on window)

Decisions

S.07/1285/FUL 35 Stockdale Close, garage conversion (permitted)

Hunts Grove

David Drew MP had offered to attend a meeting during parliamentary recess to discuss (this would mean the Sept meeting at which there was already the Gardens Competition presentation; so it was agreed that he would be asked to present the prizes and then discuss Hunt's Grove).

The Chairman adjourned the meeting at this point for public consultation. Weight restrictions and damage to verges in Green Lane through parking on them were discussed. The meeting was then reconvened.

92/07 **FINANCIAL MATTERS**

The following accounts were approved for payment:

Inland Revenue (PAYE & NIC)	£68.92
Glos. County Council (pension)	£108.02
Clerk salary, July	£646.45
Mrs D. M. Edwards, July	£139.10
Post Office Ltd, stamps	£15.60
Friends of St Nicholas (82/07)	££275.00
Greenfields Garden Services, mat repair	£48.18
Village Hall, hire June/July	£56.00
T. W. Hawkins & Sons	£1116.25
Glos Breastfeeding Support Group (see below)	£100.00
Quedgeley & District Golden Age Club (ditto)	£150.00

Requests for Donations

MOMS breastfeeding group: it was agreed to grant £100. Quedgeley PC had not awarded the group a grant.

Village Hall Committee for pump-house repair: it was still not clear whether the insurance would cover this invoice but if not, the council agreed to support the Hall from its s106 account held at Stroud for use for recreational facilities.

Quedgeley & District Golden Age Club: a grant of £150 as last year was agreed.

Bank Signatory Form

This was still circulating and would be sent on to the Clerk or brought to the next meeting.

93/07 **PARISH MAINTENANCE****Church Lane & Green Lane ditches/hedges**

These had been discussed under the first item on the Agenda and in the open session: it was agreed that the Clerk would contact the new head teacher (Mr Martin Bragg) as soon as school reopened, in order to get things moving on the hedge at The Pond. Extra bollards would be requested from Mr Portlock of Highways, to prevent parking on verges in Green Lane; the Clerk would also contact ACER motorcycle training group which used the Village Hall car park (and the Legion) with a view to ensuring that they gave priority to parking when football matches were in progress, to reduce the need to park on the verge. Two of the wooden bollards by the Pond had been torn out (Mr Kent to replace before they were thrown in the Pond). Imposition of weight restrictions in Green Lane (recently resurfaced but already breaking up) would be investigated.

Elmgrove Estate Play Area

Inspection report was signed. Responses to piece on removal of the wooden multi-play were awaited. Greenfields had sent a catalogue and had said rubber solution painted on the wooden members would be expensive but ineffective.

Playing Field & The Close

A complaint from Cricket Club had been received, concerning footballers training in adverse conditions on the cricket outfield. It appeared that the football club also had concerns over use of the storage facilities shared by the two clubs and it was felt that they should get together to sort out their difficulties. A fourth clause would be added to the present Wet Weather Policy directive to the effect that football training on Tuesdays & Thursdays should not take place on the field in adverse weather conditions. Mr Dawe agreed to attend council meetings from time to time to report any concerns from the football club's point of view, and possibly to take over as "groundsman" from Mr King.

Churchyard

Mr Jones had started the trenches in straight lines so Mr Middle had met him on site to discuss the matter and to ensure that the foundations would be in a smooth curve as per drawing. Grass-cutting had been adversely affected by the wet weather and there had been complaints, but Mr Middle had discussed this with Mr Jones who would be clearing up soon. Mrs King had requested replacement of a bench (the parish council Centenary bench) at the churchyard which she stated was in disrepair but Mr Jones had quoted £60 (the Clerk had accepted this quote) and made an excellent job of cleaning it up. The Vicar had been consulted and had agreed to let Mrs King instal a bench, in memory of her baby.

Gardens Competition 2007

Results had been received and would be publicised in the September edition of Hardwicke Matters. David Drew MP would be asked to make the presentations at 7 p.m. at the September meeting.

Playscheme 2007

Registration had taken place on 14 July and the Scheme would go ahead on 20-24 August.

94/07 **PARISH PLAN REPORT**

Members felt that there was insufficient time to flag up items but that several issues raised by the Plan were being dealt with.

95/01 **REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS**

Potholes in Elmgrove Road East, an untidy hedge and lack of litter bins at Dales Wharf, an obstructive sign for Quedgeley at the Dales Wharf roundabout nearest the Pilot, and an overgrown and uneven footpath EHA 22 running from the A38 past the former RAF no. 2 site to join EHA 18, would be reported to the various authorities concerned.

96/07 **ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS**

The Revised Code of Conduct would be compulsory from 1 Oct and members were requested to adopt it as from 1 Sept to take advantage of advertising by Stroud DC. Members agreed to adopt the Code including para 12(2), which gives members with a prejudicial interest the same rights as members of the public to speak to a meeting on the issue and then leave before discussion and voting takes place, so that members may have full information on a subject even if one of their number has a prejudicial interest in it. Revised Declaration of Acceptance of Office forms and revised Register of Members' Interests forms were also completed and would be forwarded to Stroud DC shortly.

97/07 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

This was confirmed for Monday 3 September following the Gardens Competition presentations at 7.00 p.m.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.45 p.m.

Date Signed