

Draft Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 1 December at 7.30 p.m. in the Village Hall, Hardwicke, following an update on the progress of flood relief measures in Church Lane from Mr Pat Mooney, Mr Simon Smith and Mr John Longmuir

ATTENDANCE

Mrs J. Storton (Chairman)
Mrs V. Box
Mr I. R. Butler
Mr A. S. Clarke
Mrs T. A. Harrison

Mr D. G. Middle
Mrs D. Mumford
Mr C. J. Newell
Mrs G. E. Oxley
Mr A. G. V. Plater

Twelve parishioners, Mr G. R. Littleton (SDC), Mr D. L. Tomlins (GCC), PC Mark Peer, PCSO Helen Devlin, and the Clerk. **Apologies** were received from Mrs Hunt. Mrs Harrison declared her interest in the donation request from the Scout Group. The Minutes of the meeting of 3 November 2008, having been circulated, were confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

131/08 **POLICE REPORT/COMMUNITY SAFETY REPORT**

PC Peer reported on the crime figures for the last few weeks, and on the problems with gatherings of young people near the shop in Westbourne Drive which stayed open until 9 p.m. most nights and had proved an attraction for the youths. This had involved a great deal of police resources including the provision of the Mosquito device which was to be installed shortly. PC Peer recommended obtaining a dispersal order and after some discussion this was agreed. PC Peer also reported on the recent speed camera study, speeding traffic in the lanes, and his retirement at the end of the year (replacement to be PC Fraser Mackie).

132/08 **DISTRICT & COUNTY COUNCILLORS' REPORTS**

Mr Littleton said it was good to have positive news on the flooding problems in Church Lane, and talked about the restoration of the Stroudwater Canal. He had attended the meeting on Javelin Park on 6 Nov which had been informative and well attended, and he thought that compulsory purchase of the site would have gone through by now. Mr Tomlins had little to add except that the discussion on flooding had been useful, and thanked the council for arranging it.

The meeting was adjourned at this point for public participation. Residents from Elmgrove Road West and Westbourne Drive related their problems with the youth gatherings and asked for something to be done. More litter bins, reduced shop hours, more parental involvement, and provision of more youth facilities were discussed. The meeting was then reconvened and most of the parishioners left.

133/08 **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

88/08 ID cards: nearly all the photos had been submitted.

88/08 Javelin Park meeting 6 Nov: it was agreed to keep this matter on the agenda to monitor progress on the site.

121/08 Oak Tree Close hedge: a written request for SDC's future plans had been acknowledged but no response had yet been made. A letter had been published in Hardwicke Matters accusing the parish council of having vandalised the hedge (Clerk to write a disclaimer for publication)

134/08 **CORRESPONDENCE**

From GAPTC/NALC: Local Council Review, Nov;
 From SDC: Affordable Housing details; Community Safety panel meeting 11 Nov; offer of equipment for Watercourse Wardens (Mr Plater had responded)
 From GCC: Leaflets on riparian rights and responsibilities; Minutes of Chartered Parishes meeting 30 Oct
 Clerks & Councils Direct magazine; newsletter from Sue Ryder; GPFA magazine and notice of AGM 2 Dec; open letter from developer on Community Housing; request from Hardwicke Matters to publish list of councillors (agreed); Christmas card and invitation to meeting on Climate Change from David Drew MP; request for donation towards Arts in Gloucestershire.

135/08 **MODEL PUBLICATION SCHEME**

The Information Commissioner's Office had sent notification that the present Scheme would expire shortly and it was mandatory to adopt the new Scheme (available on www.ico.gov.uk) with effect from 1 January. The parish council agreed to adopt the Scheme, which differed little from the previous one, and to publish the required information or its availability on its website and/or its notice boards.

136/08 **PLANNING MATTERS**

Applications

S.08/2195/FUL rear conservatory at 36 Wharfdale Way (no obj)
 S.08/2196/FUL single-storey ext at 49 Westbourne Drive (no obj)
 S.08/2151/CPL loft conversion at 34 Darleydale Close
 S.08/2207/DISCON compliance with conditions at Fieldview, Sellars Rd

Decisions Notified by the Planning Authority

S.07/2698/FUL renovations at Bristol Road Garage (permitted)
 S.08/0877/FUL rebuilding of Beardsmead, Church Lane (permitted)
 S.08/1963/FUL cojsevatory at 15 Poplar Way (permitted)
 S.08/1986/FUL replacement of garage and part garden wall at Elmlea, Church Lane (permitted)

137/08 **FINANCIAL MATTERS**

Cheques for the following accounts were approved and signed:

HM Revenue & Customs (PAYE & NIC)	£148.31
Glos. County Council (pension)	£190.27
Clerk salary, Nov	£845.73
Mrs D. M. Edwards, Nov*	£327.00
T. W. Hawkins, grass Nov	£859.75
SLCC sub (shared with Shurdington PC)	£74.50
Hardwicke Village Hall hire 3 & 6 Nov	£28.00
Greenfields Garden Services Ltd, cradle swing replacement	£466.48
Post Office Ltd, stamps	£17.28
Clerk for wire netting for Churchyard	£35.97

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Roman Glass for bus shelter (awaited)	£177.53
N. Freeman, gate repair	£80.00
Moonbeam, cremation area completion	£480.00
Moonbeam, grasscutting Oct	£270.00
* plus Christmas bonus	

It was noted that Village Hall hire would be £8/hr from January (inc. from £7), and £7.60 for the Playscheme (from £7.30)

Requests for Donations

Golden Age Club (the annual £150 would be given)

Hardwicke Womens' Institute (a grant of £150 was agreed)

Hardwicke Scout Group (a grant of £150 was agreed)

It was noted that applications from Equals and from AFC were awaited

Draft Budget 2009/10

After considerable discussion it was agreed to increase the precept by 5% to £31500 which would mean an annual increase at Band D of council tax of approx £1. Various items were added or reduced and a new draft would be considered at the January meeting in order to submit the finalised precept request by 9 January.

Clerk's Salary Review

The revised scales at SCP 27 as agreed at the last meeting resulted in an annual salary of £10389.08.

Churchyard Fees

These had not yet been received from Church House but it was likely that burials would be £190 (from £184) and cremation interments £77 (from £74) with effect from 1 Jan 2009. Other rates would have to be approved when diocesan rates had been received.

Cricket Club

The Clerk would write again to the Club concerning the refund of the remaining grant.

138/08 **PARISH MAINTENANCE**

Ditches

Mr Mooney had shown councillors a map of the flood levels, explaining why, in his view, the Church Lane culvert was adequate. He outlined works carried out so far and those to be carried out, and said that Atkins was to carry out a modelling exercise and would submit a full report in the spring. The County Council had a new Drainage Engineer (Gareth Toft) who would be setting up his team in the new year and would be in charge of flood relief works in this area, while Mr Mooney would remain as a consultant.

Elmgrove Estate Play Area

Inspection reports were signed. Greenfields had replaced the cradle swing seats and Allianz Insurance had paid the claim less VAT and £125 excess. SDC was still investigating whether it owned the piece of land adjacent to Barley Close.

CCTV

A meeting had been arranged with PC Kevin Ireland on 4 Dec to discuss the quotes.

Playing Field

Hardwicke Rangers had requested permission for their tournament on 4 and 5 July 2009 (granted). The Cricket Club had been advised. Invoices for pitch fees had been sent out. The Contractor had submitted his quotation for 2009 which was accepted by the council despite an increase of approx 6% on some of the prices.

Bledisloe Cup

The report had been circulated, for consideration when time permitted.

Churchyard

Notes of Committee Meeting 12 Nov had been circulated. The Vicar would be in touch over the dedication of the new wall; Mr Jones of Moonbeam had explained his invoice for the grassed area (in cheque list above). It had been agreed to repair the gatepost between Church House Farm and the churchyard at a cost of £80. Mr Jones had been asked whether he would like to be appointed as gravedigger (no response as yet) and would be asked for an explanation of his hedge & ditch invoice submitted this month.

Bus Shelter

The shelter at Westbourne Drive had only just been reglazed but all four of its glass panels had been broken on 29 Nov. PCSO Devlin had kindly swept up all the glass. It was decided to leave it unglazed for the present and to put a notice in it explaining why (Mr Clarke would do this). PC Peer and PCSO Devlin left the meeting at this point: PC Peer was thanked for all his work for the parish and was wished a happy retirement.

139/08 **TRAFFIC**

Mr Butler had arranged a meeting at the Stroudwater offices on Monday 1 Dec at 2 p.m. It had been a useful meeting and Highways had taken on board a request for project planning, timescales and budgets for traffic calming in the lanes. Works to the junction at the top of Green Lane and remedial works to the B4008 would be carried out but because 50% of Highways' budget came from developers, there would be a lack of funds. It was thought that weight restrictions would be imposed on Pound Lane at the same time as the 30 mph zone after all; the draft Order for the 30 mph zone had been received and was available for public inspection. Mr Butler was thanked for all his work in this matter; his presentation for the meeting would be published on the website.

140/09 **REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS**

Mr Middle had visited the Sticky Lane site (Planning Enforcement was aware of the extra caravan there). The trench on The Green, mentioned at the last meeting, had been dug by Severn Trent (Clerk to write). There would be a Recreation Group meeting on 5 Dec. There had been a great deal of litter left by footballers on 15 Nov (Clerk to write to AFC) and fly tipping in the lanes had increased.

141/08 **SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS**

A draft Schedule for 2009 was discussed; the Parish Assembly was provisionally set for Tuesday 14 April.

142/08 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING** was confirmed for Monday 5 January 2009 at 7.30 pm

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.45 p.m. with best wishes to all for Christmas and the New Year.

Date Signed