

Hardwicke Parish Council

760

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

ATTENDANCE

Mrs J. Storton (Chairman)

Mrs V. Box

Mr I. R. Butler

Mrs T. A. Harrison

Mr D. G. Middle

Mrs D. Mumford

Mr C. J. Newell

Mrs G. E. Oxley

Mr A. G. V. Plater

One parishioner, Mr G. R. Littleton (SDC), Mr D. L. Tomlins (GCC), PC Mark Peer and PCSO Anna Tyndall, and the Clerk. **Apologies** were received from Mrs Hunt and Mrs Smith, who had tendered her resignation. There were no **Declarations of Interest**. The Minutes of the meeting of 1 September 2008, having been circulated, were confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

108/08 CASUAL VACANCY

Mrs Smith had resigned owing to pressure of work. The vacancy would be advertised.

109/08 POLICE REPORT/COMMUNITY SAFETY REPORT

PC Peer gave the crime figures for September and reported at length on the youth gatherings in the Westbourne Drive area. Groups of 30 to 50 youngsters aged from 12 to 17 and often coming from Tuffley, Tredworth and Podsmead were there until the early hours. Plans to move them on were in hand. Youth outreach workers funded by GHA had not been seen and were to finish by half-term (Mrs Mumford would try to find out more). Traffic speeds in the lanes and Bristol Road was also discussed and would be investigated further; there was now a dedicated Traffic Officer, PC Wills.

Andy Foster had sent a message concerning the CCTV but unfortunately it was not available for discussion so this matter would have to wait.

110/08 DISTRICT & COUNTY COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

Mr Littleton reported on the clearance of the Shorn Brook below Church Lane, done today, and that Mr Mooney, Environmental Drainage Engineer, had commissioned improvements to roadside ditches and channel straightening; Mr Tomlins reported that further works were to be done south of the Church. Mr Mooney had advised that he had carried out a topographic survey and had concluded that the Church Lane culvert was adequate. It appeared that the parish council could do little but monitor the situation.

The Chairman adjourned the meeting at this point for public participation; litter at Westbourne Drive, dog mess at the Play Area and clearance of rubbish at Oak Tree Close were reported. The meeting was then reconvened.

111/08 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

88/08 ID cards: Passport photographs had been requested from all members, for scanning and return later. Only three had been provided so far and the scheme could not proceed until all had been submitted.

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97/08 Progress on the Church Lane culvert: this matter had been discussed under item 110/08 above.

99/08 Javelin Park: the public meeting at Haresfield on 18 Sept (Mrs Mumford and Mrs Oxley had attended) had resulted in a draft letter of complaint to GCC over non-consultation, but since other parishes had not fully supported this letter, it had been sent by Haresfield only. A further public meeting had been arranged for 6 Nov at Quedgeley but this now conflicted with a question and answer session at Shire Hall, organised by GCC, on the same date. Developments were awaited (Mr Plater would contact GCC).

99/08 Other meetings attended by councillors: Severn Voice 10 Sept (Mr Middle reported that as well as discussing flood problems, parishes had reported favourably on a recent presentation from Leyhill Open Prison); SDC Playground Management 11 Sept (Mrs Harrison and Mrs Mumford had picked up some new ideas); SDC maintenance team 17 Sept (these might now be quarterly; a copy of the rota might be available; volunteer litter-pickers could contact SDC (Clerk to write a piece for H. Matters) and the SDC contact was aware of the Westbourne Drive problems)

112/08 **CORRESPONDENCE**

From GAPTC/NALC: Update newsletter; annual report & a/cs;

From SDC: further details of the proposed clean-up at Overbrook Rd 20/21 Oct and leaflet drop

From GCC: renewal of bus shelter grant scheme; continuation of Sunday service 91a (Glos-Dursley)

Consultation paper on making & enforcing of byelaws (Mrs Harrison to check); details of LIKAL community website; Standards Board newsletter; Wildlife Trust magazine; The Clerk magazine

113/08 **PLANNING MATTERS**

Applications

S.08/0877/FUL demolition & rebuilding of Beardsmead, Church Lane (no obj if flood assessment was acceptable)

S.08/1769/VAR removal of condition restricting caravan numbers at Sticky Lane (strong obj)

S.08/1963/FUL rear conservatory at 15 Poplar Way (no obj)

Decisions Notified by the Planning Authority

S.08/1500/FUL provision of portacabins at The Close (permitted)

S.08/1566/ADV signs at Quedgeley West, unit C (permitted)

S.08/0611/COU Land at Quadrant Centre c/use from B8 to include B1 and B2 (permitted)

S.08/1616/ADV signs at Quedgeley West, unit H (permitted)

114/08 **FINANCIAL MATTERS**

Cheques for the following accounts were approved and signed:

HM Revenue & Customs (PAYE & NIC)*	£64.06
Glos. County Council (pension)	£166.86
Clerk salary, Sept*	£800.32
Mrs D. M. Edwards, Sept	£312.00
T. W. Hawkins, grass September	£1041.05

GPFA membership renewal	£50.00
Roman Glass Ltd, bus shelter repair	£80.75
Hardwicke Village Hall hire July/Aug	£36.75
Ditto for Playscheme	£127.75
Clerks expenses July-Sept	£164.62
Moonbeam, grass September	£270.00
Hardwicke Village Hall hire September	£53.25

*revisions due to recalculations by HMRC on 10% tax band refunds

Budget

A Draft Budget for 2009/10 had been circulated, along with another copy of the present budget for comparison. The Precept request would be finalised by the December meeting.

Cashflow Statement

The half-yearly statement had been circulated, It was noted that the remaining £15000 of the Precept had been paid by SDC.

Cricket Club

There had been no reply so far to the letter requesting return of the remaining £1,305.69. The Clerk would write again, to the Treasurer.

115/08 **PARISH MAINTENANCE**

Ditch clearance

Mr Plater and the Clerk had attended an introductory meeting for Drainage Wardens; the role was to report any watercourse blockages visible from public land, to Mr Ian Kear, Water Resources Engineer. Mr Plater had agreed to be Hardwicke's Watercourse Warden for an initial year. He also reported on a Parish Lengthsman scheme in operation in Hereford & Worcestershire, details of which he would forward to Mr Kear.

Elmgrove Estate Play Area

Inspection report for signing (Mrs Box would take on the Play Area Warden duties). No estimate for replacement of the swing seats had been received as yet; there was a police incident number and the insurers had been advised. The Village Hall had replied giving permission for the CCTV to be installed on a pole on the roof, but were unwilling to have the car park locked (one gatepost had been damaged and the Clerk would seek an estimate for repair). The Recreation Group had met on 25 Sept (the Clerk was asked to investigate renting the piece of land adjacent to the Play Area).

Playing Field

The dug-outs had been painted. Grasscutting on 19 Sept had been poor and the Village Hall had complained over grass cuttings in the heater vents.

Gardens Competition 2008

Apologies and thanks had been received from two winners who could not attend the presentation, and a letter of thanks from the judges, who were willing to continue next year. Sponsorship and a prize presenter would be considered next year.

The Pond

Mrs Box had been contacted by a Wildlife Trust expert on wolverines who would meet her there to investigate. The School was dealing with the rats, as all evidence of their presence was on the far bank. Notices were discussed. The FWAG report would be considered.

Litter

There had been constant litter near the shop in Westbourne Drive from youth groups. Mrs Edwards had been asked to check it more often and SDC was aware of the problems there. Litter exposed after mowing should be reported to SDC as their contractor should pick up. Mr Plater would investigate the involvement of local youths in keeping the area clear.

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116/08 **PLAYSCHEME**

The Accounts had been finalised showing that the income was £257.59 and expenditure was £464.50 so the Schem4 had cost the council £206.91 this year.

117/08 **TRAFFIC**

Proposed 30 mph speed limit in Pound Lane to the Church: the PC had fully supported the scheme and asked for the approved weight restriction scheme for Pound Lane to Sellars Road to be implemented at the same time. Unfortunately GCC had replied concerning Bristol Road, and after a further letter had said that the scheme was already being advertised and could not be changed without causing delays. Speeding, heavy vehicles and Quiet Lanes projects had been discussed under Police Report at the start of the meeting.

118/08 **REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS**

Mr Middle clarified the situation on the Church Lane ditches, as he had spoken to the contractor carrying out the works. He would also speak to the Vicar concerning rabbits at the Churchyard.

119/08 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING** was confirmed for Monday 3 November 2008 at 7.30 p.m following an update on progress at Hunts Grove from Mr Longmuir at 7.00 p.m.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.40 p.m. A meeting of the Finance Committee (eight members) followed immediately, to carry out internal auditing procedures and to review the Financial Assurance process setting out these procedures. The Committee meeting closed at 9.50 p.m.

Date Signed