

Draft Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 1 September 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

Mrs B. A. Hunt

Mr D. G. Middle

Mrs D. Mumford

Mr C. J. Newell

Mr A. G. V. Plater

Five parishioners, Mr G. R. Littleton (SDC), Mr A. Foster (Warden) and the Clerk. **Apologies** were received from Mrs Oxley and Mrs Smith. There were no **Declarations of Interest**. The Minutes of the meeting of 4 August 2008, having been circulated, were confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

95/08 CASUAL VACANCY

An election had not been requested so the council was free to co-opt, and chose Mr Andrew Plater who arrived a few minutes later, took his seat and signed a Declaration of Acceptance of Office. He was welcomed to the parish council by the Chairman.

96/08 COMMUNITY SAFETY REPORT

Andy Foster had sent in a report for July and would be sending his August report shortly.

97/08 DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORT

Mr Littleton reported on ditch clearance in the Shorn Brook area and the culvert in Church Lane, the Hunts Grove application and funding available from the developer, a lottery cash award for the Stroud Canal, and action on the traveller site at Junction 12. There was further discussion on the apparent lack of progress on the proposed new culvert in Church Lane and the Clerk was asked to write to Mr Mooney of GCC.

The Chairman adjourned the meeting at this point for public participation. Questions were asked on littering within the village, poor maintenance of hedges and verges, and youths at the Village Hall car park. The meeting was then reconvened.

98/08 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

85/08 Report of Police Fun Day 30 Aug: Mrs Mumford said the event had been well organised but attendance was disappointing. The event would probably be held next year and advertised more widely.

86/08 Roundabout Mowing: Mr Portlock had asked SDC to take over the maintenance of the Dales Wharf roundabouts presently cut by Highways, and he had added gully cleaning in Church Lane to his list for clearance

88/08 ID cards: No further information available so far.

91/08 Culvert covers in Green Lane were not ready yet; Mr Bragg would put the Pond hedge on his maintenance list.

99/08 **CORRESPONDENCE**

From GAPTC/NALC: Notice of AGM of GAPTC on 9 Oct and of GRCC on 14 Oct; Local Council Review, Sept; training courses on How to be an Auditor and Clerks' Networking (Clerk would attend this, costing £12); request for comment on weekend elections (not supported) and indemnities for councillors
 From SDC: Standards Committee request to vote on nominations for one place; Watercourse Warden training 17 Sept (Mrs Harrison)
 From GCC: posters advertising what councils do; invitation to annual Highway Maintenance Seminar 15 Oct (Mr Butler); changes to Road Safety Partnership management team
 Thanks from FOSV for donation; Esturiales newsletter; invitation to AGM of VCA 16 Oct and to Parish Plan Forum 22 Sept; meeting at Haresfield to discuss Javelin Park plans 18 Sept; Agenda for Severn Voice meeting 10 Sept (Mr Middle)

100/08 **PLANNING MATTERS**

Applications

S.08/1616/ADV signs at Quedgeley West, unit C (no obj)
 S.08/1616/ADV ditto for unit H (no obj)
 S.08/1710/ADV ditto for unit D (no obj)

Decisions Notified by the Planning Authority

S.08/1294/FUL chalet bungalow adj Hembury House, Sellars Rd (permitted)
 S.08/1614/DISCON compliance with conditions at Ellis Farm, Sticky Lane (compliant)

Regional Spatial Strategy

A summary of the proposed changes to the RSS had been received.

101/08 **FINANCIAL MATTERS**

Cheques for the following accounts were approved and signed:

HM Revenue & Customs (PAYE & NIC)	£124.06
Glos. County Council (pension)	£166.86
Clerk salary, Aug	£740.32
Mrs D. M. Edwards, Aug (new rate)	£312.00
Mr F. L. Cross, Gardens Competition judges £50 ea	£100.00
Clerk for Gardens Competition tokens*	£64.00
Ms T. Evans, Playscheme Leader	£150.00
Mrs J. Mander, Assistant Leader	£150.00
Post Office Ltd for stamps	£17.28
Stroud DC, dog bin emptying x 2 for 1 yr	£148.61
Moore Stephens, audit	£334.88
Moonbeam, July/August	£540.00

* Wyevale did not accept company cheques so ch. no. 149 signed last month had been cancelled

Audit 2007/8

The council considered the External Auditor's report which stated that the council should consider raising the Fidelity Guarantee (presently £30,000) to the total of e/yr balances plus half the precept (last year this would have been just over £38,000). This would increase the premium to £75.60 and as the recommendation was not mandatory the council agreed to take no action. Notices advising the completion of Audit had been displayed.

Cricket Club

The parish council grant of £2000 had been awarded for the initial works for the new cricket ground from s106 funds held at SDC, which had stated that the remaining money could remain "ring fenced" in the Club's accounts. The council agreed that the Club should repay the remaining funds to the SDC account.

102/08 **PARISH MAINTENANCE**

Ditch clearance

Mr Middle reported that clearance of ditches was still not satisfactory. There was a crack in the road edge at the end of The Green.

Elmgrove Estate Play Area

The inspection report was signed. Following a meeting with the police supplier on 5 Aug, the provision of CCTV was discussed. Mr Foster had obtained a report and quotation from the supplier, which had been circulated. The cost would be approx £8500 plus police monitoring costs of under £1000 per year. The council agreed, in principle, that it would purchase a camera using funds budgeted last year for improvements at the Play Area (£8000) and any remaining funds in the Parish Plan accounts (action on antisocial behaviour had been a priority in the Plan). It was also agreed that a pole on top of the Village Hall would be the best site but other sites should be researched; that purchasing would be preferable to renting; that monitoring the camera by the police would be the best option; that insurance, warranties, life expectancy, suitable mounting poles, any planning constraints, and purchase through the police supplier should be investigated. Six members of the parish council agreed to meet with Mr Foster and other interested parties to take the matter further. The toddler swings at the Play Area had been vandalised some time over the weekend and the seats left in a dangerously unsafe condition; Greenfields had been alerted, and the Clerk would arrange for the seats to be removed as soon as possible.

Playing Field

The dug-outs had still not been painted despite a promise to get them done in mid-August; it was agreed that if they were not done by 15 Sept the council would ask Mr Foster to carry out the work, and invoice the AFC. It was noted that the Club had asked for a grant application form because the Club's costs this year would exceed £9000.

Playing Field Agreements

The Rangers' amended Agreement had been received and was signed by the Chairman.

Gardens Competition 2008

Presentation of the trophies and garden token prizes had been made at 7.00 p.m. before the meeting. The winners had been as last year (marks were displayed on the Post Office board); Mr Cross, one of the Judges, said that they had looked at the village as a whole but the winners' gardens had been outstanding. It had been an enjoyable and rewarding competition, and all hoped that it would continue next year. The Clerk would investigate sponsorship of the tokens, which had been refused this year.

The Pond

The FWAG report had arrived at last and was briefly discussed; SDC would be asked to deal with the rats, the Clerk would write a piece for Hardwicke Matters on feeding the ducks, and the report would be considered more fully at the next meeting.

Bledisloe Cup

The village had not progressed through to the final round. The Report was awaited.

Grass Cutting

Hawkins SGMS would be asked for a quote to continue the Playing Field contract, and tenders for the Churchyard contract would be sent out shortly. There were no comments on the specifications for the Churchyard.

Dog Bin

There had been a complaint from a resident of Overbrook Road in May, concerning a green locking dog bin nearby (in Hardwicke). Ownership of the bin had been investigated by Quedgeley and Glos City who both denied responsibility; it appeared likely that Hardwicke could take it over and move it somewhere else. The Dog Warden was now in charge of the investigations.

103/08 **PARISH PLAN**

The council had pledged £4000 towards the £9027 which the Plan had cost but there was about £3600 of this pledge remaining in the council's funds (plus some unclaimed VAT and petty cash). It was agreed that the funds could be used towards CCTV provision (subject to Mrs Oxley's approval), as above. The Recreation Group had arranged a further meeting on 19 Sept and would use some of the cash for refreshments.

104/08 **PLAYSCHEME**

The Leaders had returned an accounting showing that 134 children had attended the sessions and the fees, less expenses of £77.41, had totalled £257.59. With Leaders' fees, insurance and hall hire (awaited) the parish council had had to contribute some £100 to this year's Scheme.

105/08 **TRAFFIC**

Mr Butler reported on speed surveys in the lanes; a movable VAS sign would be available shortly and he would work out a rota for it. There had been two cars in hedges recently. Mr Butler was investigating the Countryside Agency's Quiet Lanes scheme which might be suitable for Green Lane. Highways had sent a letter asking for comments on the proposed 30 mph speed limit in Pound Lane to the Church: as well as full support for this, the council would suggest that the already-approved weight restriction scheme for the whole length from Sellars Road to the Bristol Road be implemented at the same time.

106/08 **REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS**

Mrs Harrison was to meet on 17 Sept with maintenance representatives from SDC to discuss hedges and grass cutting. She asked for information on any areas of concern.

107/08 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING** was confirmed for Monday 6 October 2008 at 7.30 p.m

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.50 p.m.

Date Signed