

Hardwicke Parish Council

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Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 1 February 2010 at 7.30 p.m. in the Village Hall, Hardwicke

ATTENDANCE

Mr I. Butler (Chairman)	Mrs D. Mumford
Mr A. S. Clarke	Mrs G. E. Oxley
Mrs T. A. Harrison	Mr A. G. V. Plater
Mr D. L. Welbourne	

Mr G. R. Littleton (SDC), Mr A. Blackburn (GCC), PC Mackie (briefly), Mr P. Drew and the Clerk. **Apologies** were received from Mrs Box, Mrs Fallows, Mr Middle, Mr Newell and Mr Tomlins (SDC) The **Minutes** of the meeting of 4 January, having been circulated, were confirmed as a true record and were signed by the Chairman. No Declarations of Interest were made.

14/10 DISTRICT & COUNTY COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

Mr Littleton reported that Mr Tomlins was in hospital, that his council had set a 1.9% increase in council tax, that the Joint Core Strategy consultation meetings would be held during Feb/Mar (Stroud's allocation was 9000 of which 7000 were already identified), that a service station on the M5 at Brookthorpe would be considered in April, and that SDC was appealing against an Inspector's decision to allow 105 houses between Stroud & Stonehouse outside the settlement area. He also reported on the meeting at SDC on 29 Jan to discuss flooding issues. GCC would pay £50,000 to alleviate flooding in Hardwicke and there was £25,000 allocated under a s.106 agreement for Hunts Grove (available only after 2 years or so). Mr Littleton had visited Tudor Cottage and the Old Thatch and would be meeting with the Estate and Ian Kear of SDC shortly.

Mr Blackburn reported that he would ensure that action was taken on the flooding issue by the end of March. Potholes resulting from the bad weather were being filled, roadworks on the A38 would be on 20 and 21 Feb, there was no further news on the Waste Plan bids, the Transport Plan was ongoing, and turning off some street lights at night was being considered.

There were several further questions to both councillors on flooding. Both then left the meeting.

15/10 COMMUNITY SAFETY REPORT

Mr Drew had now arrived, and gave his report on graffiti on the football dugouts, a burnt-out car now removed, the cold weather during which he had visited elderly residents, litter collection, dog fouling (leaflets for handing out had been prepared), home security, and the message-in-a-bottle and bogus callers schemes. He would try to get SDC to repair the bench at the Play Area. A missing manhole cover over the Plantation drain was reported.

16/10 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

It was noted that it was now 8.15 p.m. and these essential reports had taken a long time; ways of reducing this time would be investigated.

3/10 The Chairman and Clerk would attend the Parish Councils meeting at SDC on 4 Feb. Mrs Mumford would attend an Incineration meeting the same evening.

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17/10 CORRESPONDENCE

From GAPTC/NALC: Update, Jan; GPFA Playing Field magazine
 From GCC: request for nominations for Medal for Courage; request for support for turning off certain street lights between 12 midnight and 5.30 a.m. (support); Glos Link meetings schedule
 Letter of thanks from Quedgeley & Hardwicke Golden Age; Clerks & Councils Direct magazine; The Clerk ditto; Rural Renaissance ditto;

18/10 PLANNING MATTERS

Applications

S.09/1006/HHOLD 2-storey ext and garage at Sunnycot, Green Lane (no obj)
 S.09/2273/REM approval of reserved matters at Hunts Grove: the council had sent in comments as noted last month but the variation S.09/1692/VAR for phasing of the first 350 houses had now been permitted so further documentation was available for comment

Green Farm

This application was scheduled for refusal but a revised application might be submitted.

Appeal Decision

S.09/1619/HHOLD revised application for windows at Torridge House (allowed)

Joint Core Strategy

Parish council consultation would be at "cluster" meetings of parishes from 8 Feb.

19/10 FINANCIAL MATTERS

The following accounts were approved:

HM Revenue & Customs (PAYE & NIC)	£120.85
Glos. County Council (pension)	£177.13
Clerk salary, Dec	£797.85
Mrs D. M. Edwards	£317.20
D. Kent Fencing, creosote & repairs at Church Green	£519.00
D. Kent Fencing, bus shelter seat repair	£118.00
Hardwicke Village Hall, hire Dec/Jan	£40.00
Direct debit for CCTV	£17.50

S106

Ms Toole had agreed payment for CCTV from s106 so the draft Budget assuming this was approved (but it was noted that the council could vary its budget at any time).

Churchyard

The creosoting of the fencing had been a very poor job, and Mr Kent would be informed. Burial fees had been confirmed. The overflow into the ditch at Church Green was still unresolved owing to the blockage at the Old Vicarage, so the Estate would be asked to clear it there.

Review of AFC and HCC fees

Since grasscutting costs had increased by approx. 3%, an increase to £250 was agreed for next year (from £240 this year).

20/10 CCTV & RELATED MATTERS

CRB Clearance

This had still not been finalised or the invoice received. It was agreed that the next Portfolio meeting would be on 15 Feb at Little Acre and would discuss CCTV, CRB, etc.

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21/10 **POLICE REPORT**

PC Mackie had called in, and reported low crime levels, low speeds in Green Lane but higher speeds in Pound Lane from the Archer device, so he would be investigating an engineering solution such as single-track status. A letter on speeding, to be distributed to local residents, was mooted and would be discussed at a meeting with John Kay.

Mrs Oxley, PC Mackie and Phil Drew left the meeting.

22/10 **PARISH MAINTENANCE**

Grass cutting

Hawkins had submitted his prices (with an increase of 3%), which were accepted. He would get the teams to take boards as baffles for the heater vents, but had said that the problem was caused by wind blowing the grass cuttings around. The Village Hall Committee had suggested paving around the back; the council had no objection.

Elmgrove Estate Play Area

Mrs Box would sign the inspection report later. Mr Drew would try to get the bench repaired.

Youth Shelter

Better lighting had been requested; Highways had agreed to put in stronger bulbs, and Street Lighting dept would be consulted for ideas on possible floodlighting.

Dog Notices

These would be put up around the School.

Flooding

This had been discussed at some length earlier in the meeting. SDC had asked whether the parish council would pay £600 for a survey to find the blockage at Tudor Cottage; it was agreed to obtain survey estimates from specialists and to ask all the properties concerned to share in the cost. The parish council agreed to contribute £150 or pro rata. Mr Plater would take on this matter. It was also noted that the ditches in Church Lane were not draining away excess water in Buckles Pond, and Mr Butler's barn had nearly flooded (Clerk to ask the Estate to ensure drains from the pond were clear).

23/10 **ROADS & TRAFFIC**

Traffic Calming at Green Lane Junction: Highways had noted the council's desire for further traffic calming measures on Bristol Road, and would be investigating this.

Bollard installation: three quotes had been received and the cheapest contractor would be asked to instal 20 bollards at the top, according to the specification, as soon as possible.

30 mph stickers for rubbish-bins

This idea had been circulated by email, and despite the parish not having bins, it seemed a good idea. GAPTC had been asked to consider a bulk purchase.

Roadworks

These were scheduled for the M5 until 31 March and 20/21 Feb at the A38 at the Cross Keys.

24/10 **JAVELIN PARK**

Two members of the parish council had received a letter concerning community forums on Javelin Park, which had then been forwarded to all. The County Council would be asked where it had been sent and why, and the Clerk would forward copies to other interested parties.

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25/10 PORTFOLIO MEETINGS

Mrs Fallows had prepared notes from the meeting on 18 Jan which were discussed and approved in principle. It was agreed that Mr Clarke would draw up proposals for setting up an intranet facility for archiving paperwork, and for possible diversion of phone calls (a "duty" mobile phone was not thought to be a good idea). Further discussion of input to the Agenda by group leaders would have to be done later. The next meeting would be Monday 15 February.

Members agreed to adopt the new Health & Safety Policy prepared by the Clerk. They also agreed that all references to CCTV would be taken out of Hardwicke Matters reports.

16/10 REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS

There were considerable amounts of rubbish in the village, partly due to delayed collections during the recent snowy period. The Vicar would be inducted at a service on 28 Feb (the Clerk would attend). Mrs Mumford would draw up proposals for the Youth Group, which would like to use the Hall every Friday. Quedgeley had increased its precept by 2%. The use of flashing traffic signs was discussed.

17/10 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

This was confirmed for Monday 1 March 2010. The date of Tuesday 20 April for the Parish Assembly was also approved and it was suggested that Sheila Golder be asked to attend.

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

Date Signed