

Hardwicke Parish Council

Draft Minutes of meeting held on 4th April 2011 at 7.30pm

Present

Councillor Ian Butler – Chair
Councillor Theresa Harrison – Vice Chair
Councillor Andy Clarke
Councillor Lisa-Jayne Fallows
Councillor Caro Kingsnorth
Councillor Gill Oxley
Councillor Lyn Welbourne
Councillor Fran Welbourne

In Attendance

District Councillor Graham Littleton
County Councillor Anthony Blackburn
PC Fraser Mackie
PC Lucy Kay
Clerk to the Parish Council – Lynne Burns

48/11 Declarations of Interest

There were no Declarations of Interest

The meeting was then adjourned for public participation

The Council was addressed by Ms Rebecca Smith of 3 Elmgrove Road East. Ms Smith expressed concern that the results traffic survey which had been carried out recently on Elmgrove Road East would not reflect an accurate situation owing to the parking of a vehicle at a strategic point on the road which had affected the speed of vehicles using that particular stretch of road. It was thought that this survey would be used to support the proposed development at 24 Elmgrove Road East. Whilst Ms Smith was not against any development at this site, she felt that the current application would be an overdevelopment of the site and that there would be access problems. These comments were supported by Ms Jane Storton of 16 Elmgrove Road East.

The Chair advised the residents that some parish Councillors had discussed the proposed development with some neighbours of the site who had expressed support for the current application. Councillor Fran Welbourne undertook to visit the area again to try to obtain a

representative view from neighbours prior to the deadline for submission of comments to the District Council.

Ms Storton then referred to the condition of the road surface at Elmore Road East and was advised that PC Mackie was making representations for repair work.

The Council was then addressed by Ms Sandra Davies of 26 The Plantation who requested that signs be provided indicating that dogs were not permitted on the Plantation Play Area. Councillor Fran Welbourne undertook to obtain quotations for the provision of appropriate signs. Ms Davies then referred to the difficulties caused by parking on land in Green Lane. The Chair advised that he had recently attended a meeting at Hardwicke school and had raised the problems caused by parking . There was then discussion on the benefits of closing Green Lane at some point, possible Sticky Lane, together with other traffic management measures. It was pointed out that the local Police were also looking into this matter.

The meeting then reconvened

49/11 Casual Vacancies

There had been no request for an election to the two casual vacancies on the Council. To date, there had been no request from anyone wishing to be considered for co-option.

50/11 Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on 7th March 2011 were approved and signed by the Chair subject to an amendment made by District Councillor Littleton who clarified that, at the present time, Stroud DC was trying to achieve budget savings by way of natural wastage, early retirements and other measures and it was not proposed that there be compulsory redundancies.

51/11 Police/Community Safety Report

PC Mackie presented his report (copy attached to the Minutes) He referred to the proposed walk in the Overbrook Road area of the Parish and hoped some of the Parish Councillors would join him to establish some actions to improve the appearance of this area.

PC Kay advised that there seemed to be a third party interested in taking over the Youth Centre which, as part of a larger project may be able to provide facilities for young people for up to 7 evenings per week. Councillors felt that this was very positive and questioned whether additional funding would be required. PC Kay agreed to confirm the Parish Council's support for this project and would report any further information to a future meeting.

PC Mackie reported on a survey being undertaken with the residents of Hardwicke to try to determine future requirements for the area and the Chair commented that this information would be useful in progressing the Parish Plan.

PC Kay indicated, for information, that the opening hours of Quedgeley Police Station would be severely curtailed in future.

52/11 District and County Councillors Reports

District Councillor Graham Littleton addressed the meeting. He reported on waste and recycling and possible projects to provide electricity to Stratford Park Leisure Centre and to Ebley Mill using alternative sources of energy. It was also proposed that Solar Panels be installed at Dursley Pool.

With reference to the Sellars Farm development, he advised that an application was anticipated by the end of April. He also referred to earlier discussion on the proposed development at 24 Elmgrove Road East and undertook to discuss this matter with planning Officers with a view to the application being referred to the Planning Committee for consideration.

Councillor Littleton also informed the Council that he was taking action to ensure remedial works were undertaken on the raised manhole cover at The Plantation and he also agreed to investigate the situation regarding additional uses at the Challenge Fencing site.

Finally, he expressed his personal thanks to Mrs McGrory as retiring Clerk to the Parish Council for her assistance to him.

County Councillor Anthony Blackburn then addressed the meeting and made the following points

- The County Council was continuing to make budget savings and a new staffing structure was being implemented.
- A decision had been made regarding the proposed incinerator at Javelin Park but planning and environmental assessments had still to be done.
- He concurred with the reservations regarding the proposed development at 24 Elmore Road East and would write to Stroud DC. He was also pursuing the imposition of a 30mph speed restriction on the B4008.
- The County Council had allocated additional funding for surface repair across the County and Councillor Blackburn was trying to ensure that Elmore Road East and Spring Hill were included in the repair schedule.
- He had also attended the meeting at Hardwicke School and was continuing to work towards addressing the issues over parking.

53/11 Late Correspondence

It was reported that letters had been received from

Cerda Planning Ltd – Council agreed no action
Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust – Council agreed to continue Membership
Land Registry – Council noted completion of Registration of The Plantation play area.

54/11 Planning and Development

S.11/0410/ADV Fascia Sign at Unit E Quedgeley TE West – comment was made on lighting
S11/0431/HHOLD Detached Garage at Ellis Farm – No objection
S11/0476/FUL Rear Extension at 18 Waterdale Close – No objection
S11/0468/FUL Erection of 7 Houses at 24 Elmgrove Road East – Object re overdevelopment and access.
S11/0505/FUL Erection of LPG Tanks at Unit E Quedgeley TE West – Object re insufficient information on use of LPG, concerns re emissions and safety precautions.
Mayo's Land – Application for Development to Gloucester City Council – Chair to attend Planning meeting on 5th April. Possible special meeting of Parish Council to discuss.

55/11 Finance and Governance

It was agreed that the changes to payroll arrangements and handover in documentation be completed by the end of May.

The Chair referred to the precept which had been calculated as an average sum per household resulting in a £3000 increase on the previous year. It was stressed that additional funding should be focussed on specific areas of need.

It was agreed that there should be no change to bank signatories.

It was agreed that further enquiries should be made with Stroud DC regarding bank account interest.

RESOLVED

1. That the Finance and Governance matters be noted and payments made as set out on the agenda, together with payment to Mr Iain Selkirk for Audit Services and to Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust.
2. That the Council has reviewed the Risk Assessments, Register of Assets Financial Procedures and Internal Audit process.

56/11 Recreation and Amenities

Councillor Fran Welbourne advised of some maintenance work necessary on play equipment and the surface below at Elmgrove Estate Play Area for which she was obtaining quotations. It was also noted that the bench was damaged and she undertook to monitor the situation on a weekly basis.

It was noted that the Registration of the Plantation Play Area had been completed. There was no further information regarding Church Green ditch or the Cricket Club storage container

There was then discussion on the funding of repair work to the damaged youth shelter and it was

RESOLVED

That repair work to the youth shelter be undertaken and the cost claimed from the play area insurance.

57/11 Litter Working Parties

The Chair requested that dates be identified for this work. Councillor Harrison advised that a project for similar work using additional labour was scheduled for 5th May and suggested that the Parish Council tie in with this scheme. She undertook to email Council Members with details.

58/11 Parish Assembly

Councillor Kingsnorth agreed to coordinate refreshment arrangements.

59/11 Reports from Councillors

Councillor Fran Welbourne reported that the dog waste bin had not yet been resited.

The meeting terminated at 9.45pm

Hardwicke Parish Council
Finance Committee

4th April 2011 at 9.45pm

Present

Councillor Ian Butler
Councillor Theresa Harrison
Councillor Lyn Welbourne
Councillor Fran Welbourne

In Attendance

Mrs EJ McGrory – Retiring Clerk
Mrs Lynne Burns – Clerk

INTERNAL AUDIT CHECK

The Councillors undertook an Internal Audit check of invoices, cheques paid and bank reconciliations.

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Proceedings terminated at 10:00pm