

Hardwicke Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday October 3rd at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall Hardwicke.

Present

Cllr Ian Butler Chairman
Cllr. Gill Oxley
Cllr. Fran Welbourne
Cllr. Lyn Welbourne

Cllr. Theresa Harrison
Cllr. Caro Kingsnorth
Cllr. John Perkin

Apologies.

Apologies were received from Cllr Lisa Jayne Fallows and Cllr. David Mossman.

In attendance

County Councillor Tony Blackburn, District Councillor Graham Littleton, PC Fraser Mackie, Kevin Lee Clerk and four members of the public.

Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

112/11 Public Consultation

The meeting was adjourned for a period of questions from members of the public

Maple Close. The Chairman gave residents a further update on progress in relation to the on-going issues. PC Fraser Mackie had been in contact with the Head of Community Safety at Stroud District Council and arrangements were being made for a public meeting to be held later in October. The Chairman reported that the quality of the housing stock from the private rented sector was deteriorating, including one property owned by Stroud District Council.

Football Club. The secretary to Hardwicke Football Club asked informed Members that a recent charity game for a former player had raised £300. The football club were seeking permission to have a memorial seat located on the side of the sports field. The Parish Council gave support to the idea and requested the Club Secretary to liaise with the Parish Clerk.

Elmgrove Road East/Starting Gate Public House. A member of the public informed the Parish Council of a number of incidents that had taken place with people leaving the Starting Gate. This included; people urinating in the resident's garden, beer glasses being thrown and a car swerving into a garden wall. PC Mackie agreed to follow up this matter, it was also suggested that the issues of licensed premises be one of the topics for discussion at the next Police Liaison meeting.

113/11 Minutes of Meeting September 5th 2011

The minutes of the meeting held on September 5th were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

114/11 Matters Arising from the Minutes

It was agreed to carry over to the next meeting the issues of Vice Chair for the Parish Council and vacancies for Co Opted Members.

115/11 District Councillor Report

Cllr Graham Littleton reported on the proposed changes on how planning applications would be considered at the committee stage within the district council. A significant change was that members of the public would be allowed to speak at planning meetings. The other major proposal was that Parish Council's would not be allowed to play a role in site meetings. The view from officers was that to allow PC input on site visits may jeopardise future decision making and potentially lead to judicial reviews. Cllr Littleton provided a further update on the proposed Sellars farm development and informed members that the application would now be considered in November. In respect of the proposed incinerator at Javelin Park, the Parish Council was informed that Stroud DC would be asked for their views on the proposal.

116/11 Police Report

PC Fraser Mackie provided an update on recorded police information up to October 5th. There were 18 recorded crimes across Hardwicke parish through the month of June 2011. Over the same month last year there were 21 crimes.

There were 2 assaults, 2 sexual offences, 3 burglaries, 3 thefts, 4 frauds, 3 Criminal Damages, 1 Possibility of cannabis. There were 74 incidents reported to police, which will include the above 18 crimes, but also Anti-Social Behaviour, false alarms, Road Traffic incidents, concerns for safety and lost property enquiries. There were 87 incidents in the same month 2010.

There were 4 reported road traffic collisions in the month of June. 3 were on the A38/Bristol Road.

The Police had been working in partnership with Severn Vale School and all young people were to receive a free set of lights for their bicycles.

In the months of August and September PC Mackie had been based at Barton Street Police Station trying to reduce a crime backlog. He reported now based back at Quedgeley police station, and had returned to patrolling Hardwicke Elmore and Longney.

117/11 Sellars Farm

Cllr Caro Kingsnorth reported that she had written to two local MPs, Ian Carmichael for Stroud and Richard Graham for Gloucester. She had received a reply from Neil Carmichael's assistant, Debbie Young, who is also a district councillor at Stroud. Debbie had offered constructive advice and identified the need to link any opposition to the development to relevant district council policies. A significant observation from Debbie was the need to develop statements and plans which set out the need to protect the Village identity.

118/11 I.T. Provision.

The Chairman provided members with an update on the research he had carried out in respect of future IT provision. Members agreed that a consistent approach to e mails should be adopted and that the provision of a provider for e mail addresses should be progressed. It was further agree to delay the decision in respect of an Intranet and website service and revisit this idea later in the year.

119/11 Litter Picker Contract.

The Parish Council considered the letter received from the Litter Picker in respect of increased charges. The Council agreed to seek clarification of the contractual arrangements and discuss the matter further at the next meeting

120/11 Councillor Reports.

- a) Cllr. Fran Welbourne updated members on the recent issues concerning the use of the Elmgrove Play Equipment. Cllr Welbourne reported that the equipment had been inspected and that a ROSPA report had been undertaken and there were no recommendations for changes. Due to on-going concern about the equipment the Parish council agreed to undertake a site visit with the manufacturer. In respect of the roundabout in the play area it was agreed to have the necessary improvements made as a matter of urgency
- b) Cllr Fran Welbourne reported on the state of some of the trees surrounding the play area. One oak tree in particular needed further inspection. It was agreed to seek the advice from Stroud District Council.
- c) Cllr Ian Butler, Chairman, raised concern about the speed limits on the B4008 and in particular the inconsistency between 30 and 40 MPH. The Parish Council continued to press for a 30 mph and to challenge the view from Gloucestershire Highways which supported the retention of 40 mph up to the junction with Naas Lane.

121/11 Garden Competition Trophy

It was agreed to have the trophy engraved and presented to the recent winners

122/11 Planning and Development

Green Farm Barn, Green Lane S.11/1800/HHOLD

Members considered the application and commented that given the previous consideration of a planning application for the property that its response to Stroud DC was that it would not want to see the proposed alteration to the property being turned into living accommodation.

The Meeting Closed at 21.55

Signed..... Chairman.....Date.....