

Hardwicke Parish Council

Minutes of Meeting held on Monday July 1st 2013.

Present

Cllr Andrew Gough

Cllr David Mossman (Chair)

Cllr Theresa Harrison

Cllr Fran Welbourne

Cllr Mike King

Cllr Lyn Welbourne

Cllr Gill Oxley

Cllr John Perkin

In attendance

County Councillor Tony Blackburn, District Councillors Graham Littleton and Russell Miles, PCSO Lee Hutton, two members of the public and Kevin Lee Clerk.

56/13 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Helen Michael

57/13 Declarations of Interest

There were none.

58/13 Minutes of Previous Meeting

The Minutes of the meeting held on Monday June 3rd were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

RESOLVED To agree the Minutes

59/13 County Councillor and District Councillor Reports

County Councillor Tony Blackburn updated Members on the new administration for the County Council. The Leader of the Conservative Group, Cllr Mark Hawthorne had been appointed as council leader of a minority administration. No one part has overall control. Tony informed the Parish Council that extra money had been set aside in the budget for repairs to roads and potholes. Additionally, Tony had been allocated a sum of £20,000 to spend on highway projects in his division.

In respect of the proposed incinerator at Javelin Park, Tony Blackburn reported that Urbaser Balfour Beatty would be appealing the decision of the County Council's Planning Committee. It was added that with GCC having signed the contract prior to planning permission being granted, the County Council had now reached the invidious position of having to fund an appeal which would not have happened if they had not signed the contract in December 2012. The Chair further questioned if GCC had to make a contribution to

UBB`S costs. Councillor Blackburn said he did not think this was correct, but the Chair felt it was. Councillor Blackburn agreed to check this further and advise the Parish Council accordingly.

District Councillor Graham Littleton reported on the progress of the District Council's Strategic Local Plan, the plan contains details of possible sites for future housing needs. The projected need of housing is for sum 9500 homes across the district by 2031. In respect of Hardwicke a further 500 homes had been identified for Hunts Grove.

Cllr Littleton informed Members about the Severn Estuary Review which would be looking at flood prevention measure along the Severn. Cllr John Perkin asked for an update on the flooding problems in Green Lane and in particular the issues in the area around Tudor Cottage. Cllr Littleton agreed to follow up the discussions that had been held with SDC. The Clerk was also asked to write to the district council to stress the need for urgent work to prevent further flooding problems.

60/13 Police Report

PCSO Lee Hutton informed the Parish council that there had been a spate of 'non dwelling' burglaries with thefts from sheds and garages and also from vehicles. Many of the burglaries had taken place at weekends. Four arrests had been made and it was hoped that this would see a reduction in the number of incidents. Residents were being urged to be vigilant and advised to make sure that garages, vehicles and sheds were locked.

61/13 Council Tax Support Scheme

The Parish council considered the options put forward by the district council for the redistribution of money from the council tax support scheme. A sum of £67,000 was available across the district.

RESOLVED. To support option 1 which was to assist parish and town councils with Neighbourhood Planning by way of a grant and using Gloucestershire Rural Community Council to provide Localism Support.

62/13 Planning Application

S.13/0996/HHOLD Hardwicke Court

The Parish Council raised no objections to the application. During the discussion, the Chair, David Mossman, expressed concern about the difficulty for Parish Councillors in accessing the online planning information data base provided by the district council. It was acknowledged that it was not easy to read fully the plans when displayed on line. District Councillor Russell Miles agreed to make representations to the planning department.

RESOLVED. To make no objections to the above planning application.

63/13 Finance Report

The Clerk presented the financial report and list of payments for the period ending June 30th 2013. The report of the internal auditor was also presented to Members. The report confirmed that all financial matters had been dealt with in accordance with accounting standards. The Chair signed the audit report for submission to the external auditors, Grant Thornton.

RESOLVED. To agree the financial report and to approve the auditor's report for the year ending March 31st 2013.

64/13 Section 106 Projects.

Cllr John Perkin, Chair of the Scrutiny Committee provided an update on the progress of the village hall project. It was reported that the first two phases of the project had been completed. One issue to be resolved was that of improving the acoustics of the main hall. The improved insulation to the room had resulted in a higher level of noise being evident. The Scrutiny Committee had asked the project manager to assist in identifying possible remedies.

RESOLVED To receive the report.

65/13 Parish Councillor Reports

1. Cllr Mike King commented on the overgrown verges on the A38 approaching the allotments which were causing a road safety hazard. The overgrown hedges at the junction of Green Lane and Church Lane were also causing difficulties. District Councillor Russell Miles agreed to follow up these issues.
2. Cllr John Perkin requested that the verges in Green Lane leading from the pond be cut. Cllr Perkin also identified that the protective sleeves around the climbing frame at Elmgrove Play area needed to be replaced. It was agreed to request the work be carried out.
3. Cllr Andrew Gough reported that the waste bins near to Hildyard Close had not been emptied regularly. There were on-going complaints about the dog bins not being emptied regularly.
4. Cllr Fran Welbourne informed members that she had met with the dog warden from SDC and had agreed the siting of a new bin. It was also identified that a replacement bin was needed for Green Lane. Members agreed to the purchase of two new bins.

66/13 Flood Risk Management Strategy.

Members discussed how the Parish Council should respond to the County Council's consultation document on flood risk management.

www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/localfloodingstrategy .

Cllrs Gill Oxley and Theresa Harrison agreed to prepare a draft response which would be circulated to members for approval.

66/14 Sellars Bridge

The Chair, David Mossman, provided an update on discussions with Redrow which included on-going complaints about HGV Vehicles not using the authorised routes and delivery vehicles entering the site before 8.00am. David reported that Redrow had withdrawn their application for an earlier starting time for site works.

In respect of fines being levied against contractors HGV vehicles using non designated routes, members discussed which charities should benefit.

RESOLVED. That Hardwicke Playgroup, Hardwicke Scouts and the Guides should be the nominated charities to be supported through the fines levied on contractors vehicles.

67/14 Dealing with Developers Protocol.

The Chair summarised the document circulated with the agenda, which had been prepared by SDC. The document set out a protocol for dealing with proposed development of sites throughout the Stroud District Area. The protocol was an initial draft and would be a partnership document between Stroud District Council and Parish and Town Council's.

RESOLVED To support the protocol.

Meeting Closed 9.15pm

Signed

Chair