

Hardwicke Parish Council

Minutes of Meeting held on Monday January 6th 2014.

Present

Cllr David Mossman (Chair)

Cllr Gill Oxley

Cllr Sarah Costello-Byrne

Cllr John Perkin

Cllr Andrew Gough

Cllr Fran Welbourne

Cllr Theresa Harrison

Cllr Lyn Welbourne

Cllr Helen Michael

Cllr Victoria King-Lowe

Cllr Mike King

In attendance

District Councillors Graham Littleton and Russell Miles, Kevin Marsden
Neighbourhood Planning Group Representative, one member of the public and
Kevin Lee, Clerk.

01/14 Apologies.

Apologies for absence were received from County Councillor Tony Blackburn.

02/14 Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on December 2nd were approved as a correct
record and signed by the Chair.

RESOLVED To approve the Minutes

03/14 Declarations of Interest

None Received

04/14 Public Consultation

One resident attended the meeting and asked about the Parish Council's response
to the Planning Application in respect of the new junction onto the A38 to provide
access to the Hunt's Grove Development. Concerns were expressed about the
additional traffic that would be created and the potential impact on the lanes around
Hardwicke.

05/14 Neighbourhood Development Plan

Kevin Marsden gave an update on progress in developing a Neighbourhood Plan for Hardwicke. The workshop held at the end of September had provided a lot of information and the challenge was to sift the comments and to develop an action plan.

Six key themes had emerged from the meeting.

- Improved Services and facilities
- Maintaining the Community
- Protecting the Environment
- Communication and Transport
- Homes to Meet Local Needs
- Enhancing the Local Economy

The next meeting would be held on January 22nd where it was hoped that more people would attend to offer support to the steering group.

The Clerk reported that the Parish Council had been successful in its grant application and had been awarded £6945 to support the development of the Neighbourhood Plan.

RESOLVED To note the update and thanks Kevin Marsden for all his input.

06/14 District Councillor Reports

Councillor Graham Littleton expressed his concern about the proposed highways junction for Hunts Grove and the potential impact on the lanes in the village. Cllr Littleton commented on the ditch clearance work recently undertaken and agreed to assist in discussions with the Hardwicke Estate.

07/14 Planning Applications

The Parish Council considered the following applications.

S.13/2774/OUT A38 Road alterations for Hunts Grove Development

It was noted that this was a revised application by the developer to take account of the increased size of the development. (as allowed for by the draft Local Plan by Stroud District Council which provides for a further 500 homes).

The following points were raised for further discussion with the Developer and with Gloucestershire Highways.

1. The provision of additional traffic lights will cause backlogs of traffic and will impact on M5 junction 12. Traffic congestion is widely evident in the area and this proposal will add to the problems.

2. Gloucestershire Highways has already objected to the development at Quedgeley West (for one additional industrial unit) due to the problems with increased traffic. Surely same concerns must apply to the creation of this new road layout.
3. The new layout is proposed in order to take account of the provision of additional 500 houses, yet no application has been submitted nor approved.
4. Why can't developers use the existing access to Hunts Grove? The current access can be widened to allow for more vehicles. Access will then lead down past Waterwells onto the roundabout on A 38. Also the road past Asda is now open and again will provide access to A38.
5. Is there to be a weight restriction on the bridge on B4008 (Slip Road) If not there should be a 7.5 tonne restriction.
6. There needs to be an a 30mph speed restriction imposed on B4008
7. In preference to turning up slip road, vehicles should be directed to Waterwells roundabout and then back along A 38.
8. Concerns about the impact the proposal will have on Pound Lane, Church Lane, Green Lane and Sellars Road. Motorists will use these lanes as a rat run to avoid congestion on A38/B4008
9. What diversions are planned whilst the construction works are being undertaken?

S13/2610/FUL Canal Side Bungalow

The Parish Council raised no objections to the application.

S13/2631/FUL Tile House Sellars Road

The Parish Council raised no objection to the application.

08/14 Finance Report

The Clerk presented the finance report for the period ending December 31st 2013 and the list of monthly payments. The Clerk also asked the Council to confirm the appointment of Iain Selkirk as the independent auditor for 2014.

Members discussed the expenditure on certain headings and recognised the demand for litter picking. It was suggested that the Parish Council embark on a campaign to make people aware of their responsibilities to take litter home or to place in the litter bins provided. Councillors Theresa Harrison and Gill Oxley agreed to prepare a note for Hardwicke Matters. The Clerk was requested to set up a meeting with Quedgeley Parish Council to examine the possibility of a joint campaign.

There was wide discussion about expenditure on ditch clearance and flooding. It was questioned whether it was appropriate for the Parish Council should clear ditches which could be the responsibility of the landowner. The Clerk reported that the Parish Council did have a wide public duty and such expenditure could be justified, in particular, where there was a potential risk to other residents. The Clerk further reported that the Council would approach landowners and householders in the first instance and would certainly continue to seek recover costs as appropriate.

RESOLVED To; approve the finance report for the period ending December 31st 2013 and agree the list of monthly payments, to continue to pursue landowners and householders for costs towards ditch clearance and to confirm Iain Selkirk as the independent auditor for 2014

09/14 Highways Data

Councillor Mike King presented his findings from the highways data collected during September/October. The data had been compared with the 'Saturn' data used by Redrow for the development at Sellars Bridge. It was noted that that the traffic flows were above the Saturn predictions with Green Lane and Sellars Road being particularly high. There was also clear evidence of 48% of motorists using School Lane exceeding the speed limit by 15% during the mornings between 4 and 5 am. The evidence from the data did suggest that an application could be made to designate Pound Lane as a quiet lane.

Cllr King was thanked for his work on analysing the data.

RESOLVED. To continue the analysis of the data and arrange a meeting with Gloucestershire Highways.

10/14 Church Fees.

The Clerk presented a report which set out the revised fee structure for burials and internments as proposed by the Church of England. Members acknowledged that the fees had not been increased for two years and agreed to follow the proposals as set out.

RESOLVED. To adopt the new fee structure for Burials and Internments at the Church.

11/14 Lease Agreement Elmgrove Play Area.

The Clerk presented a draft agreement for the lease of the play area for a period of seven years. The area was leased from Stroud District Council and the new lease would be a continuation of existing arrangements. The Clerk further reported that he had asked for the District Council to grant approval for the Parish Council to erect fencing around the play area and for this to be included in the agreement.

RESOLVED TO endorse the new agreement.

12/14 Parish Councillors Reports

Councillor Andrew Gough asked for an update on the situation regarding the post office and shop. The Chair, David Mossman reported that he had been in regularly discussions with the local MP and had been trying to speak to the landowners and leaseholders. The Parish Council would continue to do all it could to help keep the post office open.

Councillor Mike King proposed that parish councillors should take turns to write an article for Hardwicke Matters. It was agreed that this was a good idea and that this would help Parish Councillors to keep in touch with residents. Mike agreed to write the first article.

The Chair, David Mossman informed members that a local resident had approached him making a complaint about work that he understood his neighbour had undertaken. The Chair reported that the matter had been discussed with the Vice Chair, Clerk and with the resident concerned.

Meeting Closed 9.30 pm

Signed

Chair

