

Hardwicke Parish Council

Minutes of Meeting held on Monday July 7th 2014.

Present

Cllr Mike King (Chair)	Cllr Lyn Welbourne
Cllr Theresa Harrison	Cllr Fran Welbourne
Cllr Andrew Gough	Cllr John Perkin
Cllr David Mossman	

In attendance

District Councillor Russell Miles, three representatives from the Village Hall Committee, three members of the Public and Kevin Lee, Clerk

74/14 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Parish Councillors, Sarah Costello-Byrne and County Councillor Tony Blackburn.

75/14 Declarations of Interest

Cllrs Lyn Welbourne and Fran Welbourne declared an interest in the item on the Village Hall.

76/14 Public Consultation

1. A member of the public raised the issue of the post office in Elmgrove Road East and asked what pressure could be exerted by the Parish Council to ensure the post office and a shop remained open on a permanent basis at its current location. The Chair, Cllr Mike King said that the operation of a shop and the post office was a commercial decision and was out of the hands of the Parish Council. Members did hope that though that this important facility would remain open for the benefit of the community.
2. The issue of the provision of green waste bags for the collection of garden waste was raised by another member of the public. Currently there was nowhere in Hardwicke for residents to purchase the green bags. The Clerk agreed to again raise this matter with Stroud District Council.

77/14 Minutes

The minutes of the meetings held on June 2nd 2014 and June 18th 2014 were agreed and signed by the Chair

RESOLVED To approve the Minutes of the meetings of June 2nd and June 18th 2014

78/14 Neighbourhood Development Plan

The Clerk gave an update on the work of the NDP Steering Group in progressing the Neighbourhood Plan. The Steering Group had been working on the six themes and were aiming to have a presentation ready for the Village Family Day on August 17th

The Chair, Cllr Mike King had attended the previous meeting of the group and recorded his thanks for all the hard work that had been undertaken.

RESOLVED To note the report

79/14 District and County Councillors Reports.

The Clerk read out a report received from County Councillor Tony Blackburn. Members welcomed the news that a sum of money was available for repairing pot holes and agreed to submit a list to the Clerk to be forwarded to Cllr Blackburn.

District Councillor Russell Miles gave an update on the new administration for Stroud District Council. Mark Rees had been elected as of the Council and Tom Williams Vice Chair.

The Planning Inspector had given his report on the first stage of the examination of the district council's local plan. The Council had only met one of the two criteria for stage one. The Plan had been suspended to allow the Council to undertake further work to assess housing numbers. On completion of this work the Inspector would then progress to the next stage of the process.

80/14 Police Report

There was no report from the Police. The Chair reported that he had been in e mail conversation with PS Liz Lovell about the Travellers. He agreed to contact PS Lovell to arrange a meeting.

RESOLVED To arrange a meeting with PS Lovell

81/14 Parish Open Spaces

The Chair, Cllr Mike King introduced the item which had been prompted by the unauthorised occupation of The Green by Travellers. He gave Members an update on the legal work undertaken to remove the Travellers from the Site. Members discussed the options for remedial work and agreed to increase the number of wooden posts surrounding The Green

RESOLVED To increase the numbers of wooden posts to the Green to Restrict Access

82/14 Finance Report

The Clerk presented the monthly finance report and list of payments. The report and payments were approved.

RESOLVED To approve the report and agree the list of payments.

83/14 Village Hall

The chair of the Village Hall Committee, Guy Mather attended the meeting to present a report on the condition of the village hall roof. Members were informed that the roof was leaking in a number of places and need to be urgently replaced. The Village Hall Committee was in the process of getting quotes for the work. The Village Hall Committee was seeking financial support from the Parish Council to enable the work to be undertaken.

The Clerk reported that there was approximately £7,000 Section 106 money which had been earmarked for Village Hall Work and this could be made available for such work. Members agreed that the work needed to be undertaken and agreed in principle to providing a further loan to the Village Hall Committee. The Chair of the Village Hall Committee thanked the Parish Council for its support and agreed to present the Parish Council with quotes for the cost of the work. The Clerk informed Members that legislation under the 1976 Local Government Act did allow for the Parish Council to make a loan to the Village Hall Committee.

RESOLVED To agree in principle to the provision of a loan to the village hall committee to enable repair to the roof to be undertaken.

84/14 Pride in our Neighbourhood

Parish Councillor and District Councillor David Mossman introduced the item and stated that the Village Should Consider entering the best kept village competition. It was noted however that before doing so then there were areas of the village that needed attention to improve the appearance.

In particular, there were areas where grass cutting had not been undertaken regularly and a number of footpaths and alleyways were overgrown with brambles and hedges. Cllr Russell Miles suggested that he and David Mossman be provided with a list of areas requiring attention and that they would raise this with the district council.

RESOLVED to provide Cllrs David Mossman and Russell Miles with a list of areas requiring attention

85/14 Parish Councillor Reports

1. Cllr Lyn Welbourne commented on the amount of litter that was regularly left by the youth shelter. It was agreed to provide a large litter bin near to the shelter
2. Cllr John Perkin noted that the grill protecting the drainage pipe by the Plantation was damaged. The clerk was asked to speak to Gloucestershire Highways to get this repaired. He also reported on the state of the overgrown hedges in Green Lane.
3. Cllr David Mossman commented on the re-opening of the post office which seemed to be operating very successfully.
4. Cllr Andrew Gough reported on the discussions he had had with the Head of the Primary School about the overgrown hedges and brambles covering the footpaths around the school. The Head said that there had been difficulties with the timing of the work with the contractor. The school recognised the problem and had agreed to reimburse the Parish Council if it was able to get the brambles cut back.

RESOLVED to purchase an extra litter bin to be sited near the youth shelter and to arrange for the brambles overgrowing the footpaths to be cut back.

86/14 Hardwicke Football Club

The Chair, Cllr Mike King, reported on the discussions that had taken place at the extraordinary meeting on June 18th. The football club had approached the Parish Council to seek permission to change its proposal for the erection of perimeter fencing around the field during the playing season. The Club now wanted to use galvanised steel instead of white plastic.

Members considered the request and raised a number of issues. In particular there was concern about the safety aspects of the steel and also the need to ensure that there were sufficient gaps in the fencing to allow other residents to use the area when no games were in progress. Members also wanted to receive written confirmation from the club that all appropriate liability insurances were in place

RESOLVED To reject the clubs request for a change of materials and to affirm the original proposal. The club would also be required to provide confirmation of appropriate insurance cover. The club also to ensure that there would be adequate gaps in the fencing to allow access for residents when there are no games in progress.

87/14 Work Plan Update

The Chair presented the work plan update. This allowed members to monitor the progress of projects and actions

RESOLVED To note the report

Meeting Closed at 9.29 pm

Signed

Chair