

Hardwicke Parish Council

Minutes of Meeting held on Monday November 3rd 2014.

Present

Cllr Mike King (Chair) Cllr Lyn Welbourne
Cllr Sarah Costello-Byrne Cllr Fran Welbourne
Cllr John Perkin Cllr David Mossman
Cllr Theresa Harrison

In attendance

County Councillor Tony Blackburn two members of the public and Kevin Lee, Clerk.

125/14 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Andrew Gough and district Councillor Russell Miles.

126/14 Declarations of Interest

Cllr Sarah Costello-Byrne declared an interest in a planning application which had been submitted by her neighbour.

127/14 Minutes of Meetings Held on October 6th 2014

Resolved

To approve the minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on October 6th 2014.

128/14 Public Consultation

One member of the public said that they wished to make comments under one of the planning applications. See below item.

129/14 Neighbourhood Development Plan

Kevin Marsden, Chair of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering group gave an update report. This included the round of meetings held with Hunter Page and GRCC. The advice received from Hunter Page was that the Parish Council needed to broaden its communications on its NDP work to ensure local residents had ample opportunity to contribute to the development of the plan.

It was recognised that the existing Hardwicke Parish Council website could host the information but there was likely to be increased workload over the coming months to maintain the website. Cllr Theresa Harrison maintains the Parish Councils' website and agreed to arrange for additional information to be posted onto the site.

Members were informed that the consultants had noted the very good work that had already been undertaken and had identified the next stages of the process. Key amongst these was the need to conduct an employment needs and economic survey of local businesses. Hunter Page were preparing a questionnaire for distribution within the next few weeks.

The Consultants were working to a date of April 2015 to have a plan ready for consultation.

Resolved; to note the report.

130/14 County Councillor and District Councillor Reports

County Councillor Tony Blackburn reported that a bi-election had been held in Mitcheldean. The Conservative party had won the seat from the Liberal Democrats. This did not however change the balance of power on the County Council with the Conservative Group running a minority administration.

The County Council had to make further budgetary savings of £25m for the next three years.

In respect of Highway matters Cllr Blackburn was continuing to pursue for an appropriate crossing on the A38 linked to the development of the Hunts Grove Junction. He expressed concern that the demands to see a speed reduction on the B4008 from 40mph to 30 mph was taking a long time to deliver.

Members were concerned that there appeared to be a delay in delivering the new roundabout onto the A38 linking to Hunts Grove. There was also disappointment that there had been no consultation with the Parish Council. It was noted that the trigger point for the delivery of the roundabout was 350 homes occupied. Crest Nicholson had indicated that the 350 figure would be reached in May 2015.

The County Council would announce by the end of November the successful bidder to run the New Hunts Grove School.

District Councillor David Mossman highlighted key elements of his written report. The submission to the Boundary Commission for the review of electoral boundaries within Stroud District Council. It was likely that Brookethorpe with Whaddon and Moreton Valence would be added to the electoral ward for Hardwicke. If approved this would provide three district councillors for the area.

Cllr Mossman reported on the discussions that had been taking place to ascertain the required housing figures for the district as part of Stroud District Council's local plan submission. The Council would agree the final figures to submit to the Planning Inspector at its meeting on December 9th 2014.

Cllr Mossman informed Members that housing developers Redrow had submitted proposals to the Secretary of State stating that around 1600 homes could be accommodated on land currently held by The Hardwicke Estate. Cllr Mossman added that this had not been communicated to SDC and certainly did not form part of the District Council's Local Plan Strategy and would not form part of the housing submission.

In respect of the proposed incinerator at Javelin Park, Cllr Mossman informed the Parish council that a decision by the Secretary Of State, Eric Pickles was expected to be announced on December 22nd 2014. The recently approved waste plant at Bishops Cleeve was capable of handling 100,000 tonnes of waste per year, thus reducing the need for such large scale plant at Javelin Park.

Cllr Mossman was pleased to announce that work was progressing well to develop the shop and post office at the former Starting Gate. Cllr Theresa Harrison asked if an approach could be made to the owners, One Stop to contribute to a pedestrian crossing. Cllr Mossman agreed to raise this with the owners.

Resolved to note the reports

131/14 Police Report

The Clerk read out a written report that had been submitted by PC Jennifer Fraser.

The report identified that in October 2014 there were no reported incidents of burglary compared to three in October 2013. There were three detected drug offences compared to none in 2013.

There had been an increase in anti-social behaviour incidents. In response there were increased Police Patrols. Visits to local schools had been undertaken to remind children of the effects of anti-social behaviour and also to advise them to be safe when out in the hours of darkness.

A range of operations were planned for November, concentrating on crime prevention to remind residents to leave a light on or on a timer.

Resolved to note the report

132/14 Planning Applications

The Parish Council considered its response to the following planning applications.

- S.14/2239/OUT Land at Green Lane Hardwicke, erection of bungalow and garage.

The applicant for the development was invited to speak. He reported that he had been owner of the land for a number of years and had previously used it for gardening purposes. In support of the application he stated that he would be widening the entrance to the site to improve visibility on Green Lane.

Members were concerned that the proposed development was outside the settlement boundary and also the impact of an additional entrance onto Green Lane in particular as there had been concerns raised previously about road safety.

Resolved to oppose the application on the grounds of; being outside the settlement boundary and road safety concerns of an additional access onto Green Lane. Members stated that they wished the application to be considered by the District Council's Development Control Committee and not delegated to an officer decision.

- S.14/2085/FUL Quedgeley West, Revised application. Cllr Mossman reported that he had spoken to the neighbour adjacent to the development and had taken account of their concerns, in particular noise. Officers at SDC had visited the site and had made an assessment that the proposed development would be within the legal limits of 41 decibels. The revised application was to remove three condensers from the proposed unit. Members felt that suitable acoustic barriers should be installed to the west side of the site.

Resolved to support the revised application but to request; that the application be considered by the Development Control Committee, the noise emitted from the site be monitored to ensure it remained within legal limits and to request that effective acoustic barriers be provided on the western side of the site.

- S.14/2155/HHOLD Waters Meet Barn, Revised application to erect garage.

Resolved to raise no objections

- S.141655/CPE Bakers Field. Bath Road Certificate of Lawful use.

Resolved to raise no objections

133/14 Finance Report

The Clerk presented the financial report for the period ending October 31st 2014 and the list of payments. The Clerk reported that 50% of the grant from Active Gloucestershire, for outdoor fitness equipment had been received.

It was agreed to set up a working group of three Members to identify potential contractors for the equipment and to oversee the project. Cllr John Perkin asked for an update on the Section 106 from the development at Elmgrove Road East.

Resolved to approve the finance report and list of monthly payments. To follow up the amount of S 106 money from Elmgrove East Development. Councillors Theresa Harrison, Fran Welbourne and John Perkin to form the working group to oversee the project for outdoor fitness equipment.

134/14 Hardwicke Parochial School

The Parish Council considered its response to the Schools consultation on its proposed changes to its admissions policy. Members supported the principles to which would support local children.

Resolved to support the revised admissions policy

135/14 Parish Councillor Reports

Cllr Fran Welbourne reported that a request had been made on behalf attendees at a dog show at the Village Hall to park motorhomes in the car park overnight. Members felt that this would set a precedent and maybe encourage further parking

Resolved to refuse the request

Cllr Theresa Harrison reported that the hedge near to the bus stop in School Lane was overgrown. The Clerk was asked to raise this matter with Gloucestershire Highways. Cllr Harrison reported that the Pilot Inn had closed, Cllr Mossman advised members that he had spoken to the owners Vintage Inns, who had confirmed that new landlords were being sought and the Pilot would be open again shortly.

Cllr John Perkin stated that drainage problem which caused flooding to the grounds of Tudor Cottage had not been resolved. The Clerk informed members that this had been raised with the District Council who were in discussions with Severn Trent Water Authority. The Clerk was asked to make further enquiries with SDC. Cllr Perkin reported that the grill to the ditch near to the Plantation had not been repaired even though Gloucestershire Highways has visited the site. He also reported that the carriageway near to the pond was in a poor state and needed a major repair. Cllr Perkin asked that the repairs to the Church Lych-Gate be progressed.

Cllr David Mossman said that he had been approached by a resident requesting that a bollard in the footpath in Dimore Close be re sited. It was acknowledged that this was a County Council responsibility.

Members acknowledged that there was an increasing amount of small works to be undertaken and suggested that a list of approved contractors been drawn to undertake such works.

Resolved to draw up a list of approved contractors to undertake minor works as required

136/14 Work Plan Update

The Clerk presented the work plan update for the period ending October 2014.

Resolved to agree the report subject to amendment in respect of the item relating to the grill to the ditch in Green Lane

137/14 Dates of Meetings for 2015

Item deferred until December meeting

Meeting Closed at 21.15