

Hardwicke Parish Council

Minutes of Meeting of the Council held on Monday July 6th 2015.

Present

Cllr Mike King (chair)

Cllr Theresa Harrison

Cllr Graham Brearley

Cllr Fran Welbourne

Cllr David Mossman

Cllr Lyn Welbourne

Cllr John Perkin

In attendance

Jill Brearley and Ian Widdows, NDP Steering Group, Caroline Penrith, Chair of Village Hall Committee, one member of the public and Kevin Lee, Clerk.

88/15 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Cllr Andrew Gough.

Resolved to accept the apologies

89/15 Declarations of Interest

Cllr Fran Welbourne and Cllr Lyn Welbourne declared an interest in the item relating to the Village Hall.

90/15 Public Consultation

There were no issues raised.

91/15 Minutes of Previous Meeting

Resolved to approve the Minutes of the Meeting held on June 1st 2015

92/15 Neighbourhood Development Plan

Ian Widdows gave an update on the progress of the Neighbourhood Development Plan. He outlined some of the responses that had been received to the latest version of the document. There had been feedback from Hunter Page and GRCC, it was evident that a substantial amount of work needed to be completed before a draft document could be submitted.

Members noted that there was a risk of re writing too many sections and felt that with each level of feedback there would always be something to change. It was agreed to

forward the latest round of comments to Hunter Page and ask for their view and seek their input for completion of the document.

Cllr David Mossman informed the meeting that the Planning Inspector, who had been reviewing Stroud District Council's Local Plan, had indicated that he would be recommending a housing figure of 11,400 and was agreeing to the strategic sites set out in the plan. He said, therefore, it was important to press ahead with completing the NDP to ensure that the Parish Council would be best placed to respond to future planning applications.

Members discussed the layout of the document and made recommendations as to the Foreword and Introductions and an Executive Summary.

It was noted that an early input from Stroud District Council was needed and the Clerk was requested to make contact with the District Council's lead officer for NDPs.

In respect of forwarding documents to Hunter Page it was agreed to update the latest version and forward to them, it was also agreed to invite Hunter Page to the next meeting of the Parish Council on August 3rd and to aim for a sign off at the meeting so a draft could be formally submitted to the District Council.

Members thanked the NDP Steering Group for all the hard work in preparing the document.

Resolved to;

- **update the latest version of the document and forward to Hunter Page for final comment and drafting**
- **the Clerk to make contact with the District Council to confirm timescales for submission and consultation**
- **to invite Hunter Page to the next meeting of the Council**

93/15 Village Hall Committee

Cllr Fran Welbourne and Cllr Lyn Welbourne declared an interest in the item and took no part in the discussion and did not vote on any of the points raised.

Caroline Penrith, Chair of the Village Hall Committee, gave a presentation on the proposals set out by the committee to make further improvements to the village hall in order to promote wider use of its facilities for members of the community.

The committee had undertaken a number of fund raising activities and outlined future proposals for further fundraising. A new five year business plan had been agreed and Caroline gave a summary of the projected expenditure and income for the future to ensure the viability of the hall.

Caroline reminded the Parish Council of the work that had previously been undertaken and thanked the Council for its support.

The presentation outlined the improvement works that were still needed to the hall and also outlined the repairs that were required as a result of the roof leak earlier in the year. The damage caused by the leak had been quite extensive and some work would be covered by the Hall's insurers. Caroline highlighted the challenges they had encountered with the insurance company and the loss adjusters.

Caroline gave a summary of the outstanding works and identified how the costs would be covered through fund raising and insurance and also a family fun at the end of August. There was however a shortfall of £8815 which was required to complete the works. The Parish Council was asked if it would provide a loan to the Village Hall which would be repaid on a monthly basis.

Members thanked Caroline for the presentation and Members were pleased to see the well laid out business plan. Members noted the proposals and welcomed the range of activities being planned. Members commented that the hall was of great benefit to the community and wished to continue to support it.

Members discussed the loan and voted to support the request for a loan of £8815 and this to be repaid to the Parish Council on a monthly basis.

Resolved to;

- **support the business plan and range of activities set out**
- **provide a loan of £8815 to the Village Hall Committee and for this to be repaid on a monthly basis**

94/15 County Councillor and District Councillor Reports

Cllr David Mossman referred to his earlier comments that the Planning Inspector had indicated that the housing numbers for Stroud District would be 11,400 through to 2031. This included a further 750 homes at Hunts Grove and brought in the development at West of Stonehouse into the local plan.

Cllr Mossman informed members that the outcome to the judicial review of the Incinerator would be known on July 10th 2015

Cllr Mossman reported that the district council had been reviewing the cost of emptying dog bins across the district and as part of the requirement to make savings SDC would now be charging parish and town councils for the service. The charge had been estimated at £74.26 per bin per year. The Parish Council currently had nine bins.

The Chair, Cllr Mike King said that even though there would be an additional cost the Parish Council would want to keep the bins.

County Councillor Tony Blackburn had submitted a written report. The report highlighted that he had been allocated a budget to undertake certain highway works across his division. Parish Councillors identified cracked footpaths in Dales Wharf leading to the Pilot and also the numerous potholes in Green Lane.

Resolved to note the reports and to request that Cllr Tony Blackburn include Footpath in Wharfdale and the repairs to Green Lane in his budget

95/15 Elmgrove and Plantation Play Areas

Cllr Fran Welbourne presented the report which outlined the range of improvement works to the two play areas. It was noted that this was a programme of planned maintenance and improvements.

The total cost of the works were £7381, Members considered the work and agreed to undertake the full schedule of improvements.

The quotes included provision of additional seating but in view of the cost it was agreed to review this at a later date.

Members considered the suggested maintenance work to the Space Net. It was noted that the equipment was very well used and some of the ongoing maintenance reflected the amount of use. Members agreed to seek prices for a full replacement as a longer term solution.

Resolved, to agree the expenditure of £7,381 of maintenance and improvements to the Elmgrove and Plantation Play Area.