

Hardwicke Parish Council

Minutes of a meeting of the Council held on Monday January 4th 2016

Present

Cllr Theresa Harrison (Vice Chair)

Cllr Fran Welbourne

Cllr Graham Brearley

Cllr Lyn Welbourne

Cllr David Mossman

Cllr John Perkin

In attendance

County Councillor Tony Blackburn, Ian Widdows NDP Group, James Braine NDP Group, nine members of the public and Kevin Lee Clerk.

PCSOs Manja Tunney and Kevin Lee joined the meeting to present their report

1/16 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Mike King, Andrew Gough and Sarah Costello-Byrne.

The Meeting was chaired by Cllr Theresa Harrison

2/16 Declarations of Interest

There were none.

3/16 Public Consultation

Members of the public made representations in respect of two planning applications that were being considered on the agenda; The Cross Keys and Davy Way at Hunts Grove.

The following points were made in respect of the proposed development at Davy Way;

- A cycle path adjacent to the development had been added to the application by SDC. There were concerns that lighting would be added at a later date. It was suggested that if lighting was required at a later date then low level lighting should be provided.
- The developer had agreed to erect fencing to ensure there was no trespass onto private land.
- The proposed landscaping was felt to be inadequate.
- The proposed development was only 19mtr from the nearest property.

- Residents requested that the tree planting should be for mature trees and ideally evergreen.

Residents speaking in opposition to the development at Cross Keys made the following points;

- The area was subject to flooding and residents feared that the proposed development would add further problems.
- There was already major traffic congestion on the Old Bath Road with major delays at the roundabout.
- County Councillor Tony Blackburn confirmed that concerns about highway safety had been raised with the Highways Manager.
- The former public house was of historic value to the area and should not be demolished.
- The proposed development was over 30 feet high and would reduce light and create shadowing of residential properties.

Parish Councillors noted residents' concerns about both applications and would take account of these when considering the planning applications.

4/16 Minutes of meeting held on December 7th 2015

RESOLVED to approve the minutes of the meeting held on December 7th 2015

5/16 NDP Update

Ian Widdows and James Braine gave an update on the work being undertaken and referred Members to the questions prepared for the meeting on January 11th 2016. It was noted that there was work still to be undertaken following the consultation exercise and that the referendum should be scheduled for 2017.

RESOLVED to note the report and agree to seek a referendum in 2017

6/16 County Councillor and District Councillor Reports

County Councillor Tony Blackburn informed Members of the budget options being considered by the County Council. There were three options which the Council would be consulting on; (1) A zero increase in Council Tax, (2) an increase of 1.99% and (3) an increase of 1.99% plus a further increase of 2% in the Adult Care budget. If the third option was chosen then Council Tax bills would increase by around £43 per year based on Band D.

He added that the County Council was considering taking £17m from reserves to support the contract at Javelin Park for the incinerator.

Cllr Blackburn confirmed that the section of the B4008 between Green Lane and Naas would have a 30mph speed limit.

District Councillor David Mossman advised Members that SDC had been considering budget proposals for 2016/17 and reported on the impact on the parish council of the removal of the Local Council Tax Support Grant.

He gave an update on the developer's proposals for a new spine road from Hunts Grove and informed Members that this would link to the new junction which was now planned for 2019.

RESOLVED to note the reports

7/16 Finance Report and Budget Proposals for 2016/17

The Clerk presented the financial report for the period ending December 31st 2015 and the list of monthly payments.

The Council's independent auditor, Iain Selkirk had offered his services for 2016 at a fee of £110.

The Clerk presented the Parish Council's proposed budget for 2016/17 which set out a zero increase in the parish precept. The amount of income would increase slightly from the previous year due to the increased number of properties. The Clerk highlighted the voluntary contribution that could be made to SDC for the emptying of dog bins and the proposed increase in support to the Youth Club.

Members confirmed that they would pay for the emptying of the dog bins and that the grants budget should be at £1500 for the year.

The Council agreed to set a budget of £45,381 for 2016/17 which would result in a zero increase in the precept.

RESOLVED to;

- **Agree the financial report for December 31st 2015 and agree the monthly payments.**
- **Approve a budget of £45,381 for 2016/17 and agree the payment to SDC for emptying dog bins.**
- **Increase the Grants Budget to £1500**

8/16 Grant Awarding Policy

The Clerk presented a report which outlined proposals for the Council's Policy for awarding Grants to local voluntary organisations. The policy set out the criteria for awarding grants. It was agreed to adopt the policy and to set a level of grant up to £250 per application which would be awarded at the discretion of the council

RESOLVED To adopt the policy and to set a maximum grant per application of £250

9/16 General Power of Competence

Cllr David Mossman introduced the report which set out the criteria for the Parish Council to adopt the General Power of Competence. The Power would allow the Council to act with more flexibility (subject to certain limitations).

The criteria for adopting the Power had been met with the Clerk having gained the CiLCA qualification and two thirds of the Council having been elected.

Members agreed to adopt the Power and noted that a resolution would need to be passed at each annual meeting of the council.

RESOLVED to adopt the General Power of Competence

10/16 Planning Applications

The Council considered its response to the following applications;

- S15/1498/VAR OUT Hunts Grove
RESOLVED to raise no objections
- S15/2810/OUT and S15/2811/FUL Cross Keys
RESOLVED To raise the following objections to the applications;
 1. **Highways Safety, the parish council was very concerned about the volume and type of traffic that would be accessing the proposed units. The access for potentially heavy and commercial vehicles would be on to a narrow road which is 40mph. Access would also exacerbate increased congestion onto the Bath Road and the Cross Keys roundabout.**
 2. **There is a regular problem with flooding, both of highways and residential properties. The proposed development would increase the risk of flooding in the area.**
 3. **The proposed development is an an area facing residential properties and would have a very negative impact on those properties.**
 4. **The Parish Council would also ask that if it officers are mindful to use delegated powers then it is requested that the matter be referred to the DCC.**
- S15/2288/FUL Gateway 12 Davy Way

RESOLVED to raise the following objections and comments to the application

1. The Developer is requested to plant mature trees and these to ideally be evergreen. This will aid the screening.
2. The colour of the building to be changed so that it blends in with the natural environment. The south facing wall as proposed will produce glare.
3. The actual distance of the proposed development to the nearest residential property, Number 16 is 19 metres.
4. The actual distance of the proposed development to the nearest residential property, Number 16 is 19 metres.
5. The hours of operation should not be 24/7 and should be restricted to normal business hours.
6. If lighting is subsequently provided to the footpath this should be low level, bollard type lighting.

11/16 Police Report

PCSO's Manja Tunney and Kevin Lee gave an update on the police response to the reported incidents of anti-social behaviour in the village hall car park. It was identified that for repeated incidents an ASB notice could be attached to a vehicle which would affect the owners insurance. It was confirmed that patrols of the area would continue.

RESOLVED To note the report

12/16 Parish Councillor Reports

- Cllr David Mossman requested that a site meeting be set up to review the drainage issue in Church Lane and to identify and landowner responsibilities.
- Cllr John Perkin reminded Members that some maintenance work was needed to the Lychgates and also requested that a meeting of the Church cttee be arranged.
- Cllr Lyn Welbourne asked if the accessible parking spaces could be moved closer to the village hall as discussed previously.

RESOLVED To accept the reports

The meeting closed at 21.50