

## **Hardwicke Parish Council**

Minutes of A Meeting of the Parish Council held at Hardwicke Village Hall on Monday September 6<sup>th</sup> 2021

### **Present**

Cllr John Perkin

Cllr Jill Brearley

Cllr Graham Brearley

Cllr Peter Rotherham

Cllr Ian Butler

Cllr Fran Welbourne

### **In attendance**

County Councillor Stephen Davies, District Councillor David Mossman, Neighbourhood Warden Simon Jarvis, four members of the public and Kevin Lee Clerk

The Chair, John Perkin welcomed Simon Jarvis to his first meeting of Hardwicke Parish Council

### **64/21 Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received from District Councillor Gill Oxley and Parish Councillors Denise Powell and Andrew James

### **65/21 Declarations of Interest**

**None declared**

### **66/21 Public Questions**

Three residents asked if the Parish Council could assist with a parking problem in Cornfield Drive. The issue had been created by the new properties at King Close having a pedestrian access from Cornfield Drive. This had resulted in residents/visitors appearing to leave vehicles in Cornfield Drive rather than parking in King Close. Residents were concerned about the highway safety aspects with vehicles parked opposite a junction.

It was noted that that the fencing at the front of the properties had provided a pedestrian access which had not been envisaged as part of the original planning applications; (S.17/1598/Ful and S.181165/DISCON

District Councillor recommended that the matter be taken up with the Head of Planning at Stroud District Council

### **Resolved; The Clerk to write to the Head of Planning**

A resident asked when Green Lane would be resurfaced, as it was reported over a year ago that resurfacing would take place.

County Councillor Stephen Davies agreed to ask County Council Highways when the work was now planned for.

Neighbourhood Warden Simon Jarvis reported that he had received complaints from residents about the amount of weeds on the highway around Maple Close. A further complaint has been raised about rats around Wharfdale Way; this matter had been reported to the Environmental Health Team.

### **67/21 Local Plan Review**

District Councillor David Mossman gave an update on the progress of the district council's review of its Local Plan. In particular, Cllr Mossman expressed concern about the approach being made by Gloucester City Council and the JCS who were seeking to identify sites and grab land in Hardwicke, Hunts Grove and Whaddon in order to meet their housing needs. It was noted by Parish Councillors that the JCS Councils of Gloucester, Cheltenham and Tewkesbury had failed to identify land for development in their own areas. Gloucester City Council had claimed that it had a shortfall of land to provide for 6,000 homes.

The Chair, Cllr John Perkin commented that in response to the Local Plan Consultation, the Parish Council had expressed its concern that Gloucester City and the JCS may seek to use land in Hardwicke for development rather than seek to meet its own needs.

Cllr Mossman agreed to share further information with the Parish Council. The Council would express its concern to the district council and also seek the support of the M.P.

### **Resolved to note the report and the actions**

### **68/21 Planning Applications**

The Parish Council confirmed its response to the following applications;

- S.21/1909/FUL Conversion of Space above Westbourne News.  
Parish Councillors expressed concern about the lack of specific parking provision for the proposed accommodation. It was noted that the parking in front of the shop was regularly used by customers.  
**Resolved; To object to the application due to lack of parking provision**
- S.21/1997/FUL Orchard View, Elmgrove Road West  
Members noted that the proposed development would be approached via a long driveway and would have potential impact on neighbouring properties and also properties in Hembury Close  
**Resolved; To object to the application**
- Symmetry Park. District Councillor David Mossman advised that the site had been identified for commercial use for a long time and that some form of future development was planned. Members expressed concern of the impact on the main roads around the site; B4008 and the impact of additional access to and from the M5.

**Resolved; to note the report**

### **69/21 Councillor Reports**

### **District and County Councillors**

- (1) County Councillor Stephen Davies reported that within the county there had been an increase in the number of reported Covid cases, however, there had not been a significant increase in hospitalisations. The County Council had received a training award for its Apprenticeship Scheme.
- (2) Members were advised that County Councillors had been allocated a sum of £40k for a community fund which could be spent on projects in their division.
- (3) Gloucestershire would be taking 35 Afghan Families over the following weeks and suitable accommodation would need to be provided.
  
- (4) District Councillor Gill Oxley had submitted a written report which highlighted the litter picking organised by the district council and supported by parish councillors, which, had collected a lot of litter from the ditches and lanes
- (5) A number of neighbouring parishes had expressed concern about Symmetry Park, it was suggested that meeting with the parishes concerned be set up
- (6) The district council had been allocated £628,575 from the government for a hardship fund for eligible residents toward council tax
- (7) A number of residents had raised concerns about speeding traffic

### **Parish Cllr Reports**

- (1) Cllr Ian Butler commented on the extent of highways works and the impact it was having on vehicle traffic through the lanes. Ian added that the Council should pursue a 20mph speed limit through the lanes. Ian suggested that the Police and Crime Commissioner be invited to a future meeting
- (2) Cllr Jill Brearley reported on the clearance of the By-Pass Channel which had made a significant difference to the area and would allow water to flow more easily. Jill noted that the work had been commissioned and paid for by the Parish Council. In respect of footpaths Jill advised that the wooden gate on the path leading to the back of the Church was in need of repair/replacement.
- (3) Cllr Fran Welbourne reported on the increased incidents of speeding around Westbourne Drive and asked whether speed bumps could be introduced.
- (4) Cllr Graham Brearley added to the comments about speeding vehicles which had increased
- (5) Cllr Peter Rotherham asked for an update on the issue raised in July about management fees and S106 payment in respect of Hardwicke Grange (Minute 60/21). In the meeting it was reiterated that in line with Cllr Ian Butlers recommendation from July that a submission be made to SDC for a reduction in the Council Tax for Hardwicke Grange as Residents were paying twice for the same facilities. Peter noted that a recent comment from a Neighbourhood Watch Meeting suggested that a representative from the police should attend parish council meetings. The Clerk was requested to make enquiries and ensure the police were invited to future meetings.
- (6) The Chair, Cllr John Perkin reported on the proposals of the Boundary Commission which, if approved would place Hardwicke within a Cotswold Constituency. Members agreed with the Chair's proposal to support the MP in establishing Hardwicke within the Stroud Valley and Vale Constituency

**Resolved; to note the report and follow up actions**

### **69/21 Finance Report**

- (1) The Clerk presented the finance report for the period ending August 31<sup>st</sup> and the list of payments. The payment schedule included the sum of £29065 which had been held on behalf of Hunts Grove Parish Council. This sum could now be transferred.
- (2) The Clerk advised the Council that three new notice boards were needed for; Hardwicke Grange, Sellars Bridge and Wharfdale. A proposed design was presented and Members agreed to proceed with the purchase subject to the final costs being approved
- (3) The revised cemetery fees for 2021 were approved. The new fee structure would align with those set out by the Diocese.
- (4) The Grant Applications for Hardwicke Matters (£844) and Quedgeley and Hardwicke Cricket Club (£385) were approved.

**Resolved; to approve the report and list of payments**

### **70/21 CIL Infrastructure Fund**

The Clerk reported that the closing date for applications to the fund was September 20<sup>th</sup> Members agreed that a bid should be prepared and submitted for the provision of a complete footway on Sellars Road. This would complete the 80m gap between the existing areas for path. It was agreed that the Parish Council would make a contribution of £2,000 toward the project.

**Resolved; to approve the submission of a bid**

**Meeting closed at 21.20**

**Signed**

**Chair**

**Date**