

HARTLEBURY PARISH COUNCIL

The Minutes of the Meeting of Hartlebury Parish Council held at 7pm on Tuesday 1 November 2011

Present: Cllrs Mrs J Jones (Chairman), P Holden, A Bishop, D Southall, H J Webb, Mrs C Boughton-Thomas, A Cupper, D Stocker, N Dowty, A Jones, G Howard, Mrs L Brookes and R Kirby

In Attendance: Mrs J Hyrons (Clerk), County Cllr M Broomfield

1. Apologies: None

2. Declarations of Interest:

a: Register of Interests: Councillors were reminded of the need to ensure their register of interest is updated.

b: Personal Interests: None

C: Prejudicial Interests: None

The meeting was adjourned for Public Question Time – see notes appended at the end.

3. Minutes: The minutes of the meeting held on 4 October 2011 were approved as a true record and signed by the chairman.

4. Reports:

a: Police: CSO Leslie was unable to attend and sent her apologies. Councillors were informed that PC Price was no longer responsible for Hartlebury – we await confirmation as to who will take over the role. CSO Leslie has been asked to speak to motorists who obstruct the lowered curb for wheelchair users on Inn Lane near to the Post Office – Highways are looking into the possibility of defining the lowered curb so it is more evident to drivers. This follows an incident of a motorised wheelchair having to bump down the main curb into oncoming traffic.

b: Clerk:

Worcs C.C Landfill: A meeting will take place with pollution control at the old County Council landfill to discuss the poor state of the land.

Vehicle Activated Signs: The Primary School does not have funding for a VAS and suggested it was the role of Parish / District Council to provide funding.

Fairbairn House: The owner has confirmed that they are tidying the driveway as requested

Boundary Review: Response from Peter Luff *"I am very sad about the prospect of losing Hartlebury. ... my Party is suggesting that Hartlebury should join the Wyre Forest constituency which makes more sense than the Malvern seat"*.

Wychavon Land: Cllr Dowty provided additional information regarding the land allocated for affordable housing on Old Worcester Road (near to the allotments).

Street Lighting: The clerk received an email requesting that street lights be installed (as a minimum on the main roads) – the clerk informed her of the Council's decision last time it was discussed *".. the installation of street lights has always been dismissed due to the wish of villagers to preserve the rural environment of Hartlebury without light pollution."*

Additionally, the cost of implementing street lights in the village would be vast and would have to be paid for through hefty increases in council tax and precept.”

Housing Needs Survey: These have been sent out by Worcs C.C – this survey is a separate issue to the current consultation on the Development Plan.

Post Office Notice Board: A suitable location has been agreed – quotes are being sought.

Community Energy Events: A resident attended the sessions at Wychavon – if anyone is interested in forming a consortium to reduce energy costs please contact the clerk.

c: County Councillor: Cllr Broomfield reported that the common thinking for the MP’s Boundary Review is that Hartlebury should move into the Wyre Forest Parliamentary Constituency rather than Malvern and Ledbury. This is an agenda item – Item 8. In response to the resident’s concerns at Public Question Time about the speed and volume of traffic on country roads he confirmed that this was an issue for all Parish Councils.

d: District Councillor: Cllr Dowty expressed his disappointment at the low turn out for the planning training. A brief report on the training was provided and Councillors were informed of the impact of proposals to the planning system in the Localism Bill. Councillors were informed of the Government’s “New Homes Bonus” which Wychavon will be handing out to local parishes for specific projects. Councillors were asked to bear this in mind for future funding opportunities.

e: Parish Conference: Two Councillors attended the event at County Hall which they felt was more of a public relations exercise for the County Council. Specific projects discussed were improvements to the broadband infrastructure and recycling. They were able to question the Leader of the Council about the cost of the proposed incinerator.

5. Finance: Payments totaling £1,743 were approved and passed for payment.

6: Public Inquiry: Councillors heard the Parish Council’s proposed verbal submission to the Public Inquiry in opposition to the incinerator and thanked the working party.

7. South Worcestershire Development Plan: The clerk read out the Parish Council’s previous submissions which identified the lack of infrastructure in Hartlebury to cope with current demand let alone a new housing development. It was agreed that this will be resubmitted together with additional comments about the sustainability of villages in Worcestershire to cope with additional housing.

8. Parliamentary Constituency Boundaries Review: Councillors expressed disappointment that the Mid-Worcestershire Constituency will cease to exist with the Boundary Review proposal but agreed that Hartlebury would be a better fit located within the Wyre Forest constituency rather than Malvern and Ledbury.

9. Trading Estate Back Gate: Councillors discussed the impact of traffic using the North Gate of the Trading Estate on rural roads. Some residents have proposed that the Parish Council initiates a petition to close the North Gate but this has been discussed many times previously and was not felt to be a feasible solution. Councillors were asked to consider the suggestion that a height barrier is installed to prevent large vehicles using the access or opening times of the gate be changed. It was agreed that specific proposals will be sent to the clerk for discussion at the next meeting.

10. Notice Boards: Following comments made in Public Question Time Councillors considered the suggestion that a notice board be installed at Summerfield. This has previously been rejected due to cost and the fact that the minutes are available to the public in the Mare and Colt pub and on the internet. Councillors agreed that they have a duty to reach out to the public but some concerns were raised about how many boards we could end up with (eg: Lincomb, Waresley Park etc). One Councillor agreed to liaise with the brewery and the double glazing shop to see if either would be interested in funding a notice board.

13. Correspondence: The correspondence issued with the agenda was noted.

14. Councillors' Reports and Items for Future Agenda:

Gravel to be topped up on the Village Hall car park – Clerk to arrange.

15. Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday 6 December 2011 at 7pm at Hartlebury Parish Hall.

The meeting closed at 9.40pm

Signed(Chairman) Dated

Notes from Public Question Time

6 residents attended.

One resident expressed her anger that the Parish Council had objected to her planning application. She was informed of the reasons for objection and was told that the decision would be made by Wychavon Planning Department.

One resident attended from Summerfield with concerns about lack of communication by the Parish Council. She has lived in the area for 23 years but was not aware of where the minutes were displayed together with other important documents and asked if a notice board could be installed. Councillors explained that the ex District Councillor had tried for many years to persuade someone from Summerfield to stand for the Parish Council in order to represent the residents but no-one has yet volunteered. It was suggested that the resident subscribe to the Parish Magazine (£6 per year) – notice boards were discussed as an agenda item.

One resident raised continuing concerns about the speed of traffic in Walton Road and the lack of action by Worcs C.C despite agreeing that it was a concern. He asked that the Parish Council deal with this at the same time as the issues on Whitlunge Lane – including taking steps to reduce the amount of traffic using the North Gate of the Trading Estate. He also suggested that signage be improved and the police deal with enforcement. Councillors explained that they were currently trying to tackle traffic issues throughout the village.