

HARTLEBURY PARISH COUNCIL

The Minutes of the Meeting of Hartlebury Parish Council held at 7pm on Tuesday 4 October 2011

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

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

1. Apologies: Cllrs P Holden and Mrs L Brookes

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.
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Prior to the meeting the Chairman reminded Councillors of the Code of Conduct they have all signed up to and issued everyone with a copy of the 10 General Principles governing Councillors' Conduct. It was noted that 3 councillors have complained about the actions of a fellow councillor to the Standards Board – in response he explained his frustration with the planning process.

3. Minutes: The minutes of the meeting held on 6 September 2011 were approved as a true record and signed by the chairman.

4. Reports:

a: Police: PC Leslie reported criminal activity around the Bishopswood and Lincomb areas and reminded residents in rural locations to be mindful of security. Criminal activity has also been evident at the Trading Estate. The police attended meetings with Whitlenge Lane residents and Fed Ex and were pleased to hear that the traffic situation has improved.

b: Clerk:

Rectory Road: PC Price advised that the location is unsuitable for speed enforcement due to the distances required for accurate recording. He believes that improved signage should be introduced – Highways has agreed to install 30MPH countdown signs.

Hartlebury Common: Martin Barnett will undertake additional communications about the management of the common including providing information at the green notice board at Wilden Top car park, providing specific localised information at work areas and ensuring that sites officers respond to queries. He reminded residents that they run regular volunteer work tasks where anyone can come along and lend a hand and find out all about what they do. All events are advertised at Wilden Top car park and County Council website.

Affordable Housing Survey: The clerk was asked to find out if this had been delivered to households. All households are urged to complete a form.

WAIL: A letter has been received thanking the Parish Council for the recent donation.

CALC Meetings: 2 Councillors will attend the CALC AGM and the Annual Parish Conference.

Village Website: Development is continuing.

Whitlenge Lane: A number of residents met with Fed Ex, Highways, Police and Councillors to discuss the problem of speeding along Whitlenge Lane. They have now started a petition to get the Trading Estate to close the back gates. The Parish Council was asked to support this petition – this will be discussed at the next meeting.

c: County Councillor: Cllr Broomfield attended the meeting in Whitleng Lane. He encouraged everyone to attend the South Worcestershire Development Plan consultation on 5 October. He reminded councillors about the funding available from his bursary – this was a separate agenda item.

d: District Councillor: Cllr Dowty reported that Wychavon is considering selling their 1.5 acre parcel of land near the allotments for 10 affordable housing units to be built. Councillors stressed that any affordable housing must be kept for local people and asked for more information about the type of property and whether they were to rent or buy.
District councillors voted unanimously against an increase in senior management pay.

e: Parish Hall Management Committee: Work is progressing with the refurbishment of the hall – the windows and door have been replaced, mains gas will be connected imminently and a new kitchen will shortly be installed.

5. Finance: Payments totaling £1,384 were approved and passed for payment.

6. Village Green: It was unanimously agreed that the Parish Council will apply for official designation for the village green to protect it from future development.

7. County Councillor Bursary: Following comments made at residents' question time it was agreed that Cllr Broomfield will be asked to pay for a Parish Council notice board to be sited near to the post office – subject to Mr Henderson's permission.

8. Traffic Calming: The clerk was asked to arrange a meeting with Roy Fullee (Highways) to discuss solutions to the on-going speed issues in the village. Hartlebury Primary School will be contacted to discuss possible options.

9. Allotments: The minutes of the Allotments Committee Meeting held 13 September were received. Wychavon has confirmed that they have no objection to a security gate being installed – we are awaiting permission from the Church Commissioners.

10. Wienerberger / Biffa Liaison Meeting: The minutes from the meeting held 22 September were not issued as we are awaiting Wienerberger's comments. The clerk was asked to write to Worcs C.C complaining about the state of the land covering the old County Council landfill.

11. Medical Services in Hartlebury: Following an approach from a Doctor's surgery in Stourport to potentially supply medical services within the parish, Councillors agreed that it was not something they wanted to pursue at the moment. The value of a Parish Plan to identify the views of the residents was once again highlighted – this would need to be a village wide project and not a Parish Council project.

12. Rural Rate Relief: It was agreed that the Hartlebury Post Office and Stores is of benefit to the local community and therefore should be granted Rural Rate Relief.

13. Correspondence: The correspondence issued with the agenda was noted. Councillors were made aware of the consultation for Parliamentary Boundary changes which will result in Mid-Worcestershire constituency being scrapped. An article will be put in the Parish Mag urging all residents to have their say. Councillors were reminded of the need to attend the South Worcestershire Development Plan consultation event to be held on 5 October.

14. Councillors' Reports and Items for Future Agenda:

Litter Pick for 2012 – future agenda item

Untidy hedges / land – the clerk was asked to contact the land owners

Planning – request to meet the District Planners for a formal discussion on the role of the P.C in planning applications. It is hoped that this will be covered at planning training next week.

15. Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday 1 November 2011 at 7pm at Hartlebury Parish Hall.

The meeting closed at 9.45pm

Signed(Chairman) Dated

Notes from Public Question Time

28 residents attended to speak about 3 issues.

The majority of residents attended to register their concern about the proposal by Wychavon to allocate land between Old Forge Gardens and Talbot Close for residential development. Residents were angered about the lack of communication from the Parish Council regarding this allocation process and the Consultation Event and one resident complained about how the Parish Council responds to planning issues.

Residents were informed that the PC had been made aware of the consultation event 9 days earlier and posters had been placed on both notice boards in the village and details placed on www.worcestershire.gov.uk/myparish website advertising the consultation process but there was not time to include it in the Parish Mag. Residents suggested that the post office would be a more appropriate place to communicate events such as these – this was taken on board.

Comment was made by the Council that this piece of land was identified years ago as being for potential development and that residents would have been aware of this. A question was asked as to where this was actually documented – it was suggested that residents speak to Wychavon planners at the Consultation Event to ascertain.

Councillors were asked to explain what they knew of the plans – how many dwellings, size, type of property, infrastructure etc. It was explained that the council met with the agent of the land who informed them that various reports / surveys were being undertaken in order to identify the “best option”. One resident who attended the meeting confirmed that Councillors had raised concerns over the infrastructure (especially education) and also that any development needed to be appropriate to the village.

Councillors were asked to respond as to what they would do to represent residents – it was suggested that residents attend the consultation event to raise their concerns / objections with Wychavon and copy the Parish Clerk with their points. These will then be taken into account when formulating a response to the Consultation process.

Councillors reminded residents of the new settlement in Norchard that had been successfully defeated due to the efforts of the Parish Council. They also expressed their frustrations that their views were not taken into account by Wychavon despite convincing objections to some planning applications.

One family attended to provide additional information regarding their planning application.

Residents from Whittle Lane attended regarding traffic in the lane. They had previously met with the Fed Ex manager who was very helpful and has now reduced the amount of Fed Ex vans using the lane but residents felt that the bigger problem could be solved by closing the back gate to the trading estate or, at least, introduce a height barrier to prevent commercial vehicles using the lane. The residents have instigated a petition to this effect and asked the Parish Council to support them. This will be an agenda item for next month.