

## HARTLEBURY PARISH COUNCIL

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### The Minutes of the Meeting of Hartlebury Parish Council held at 7pm on Tuesday 12 June 2012

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

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

**1. Apologies:** Apologies were accepted from Ms B Lee (Clerk)

**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 <b>Public Question Time</b> – see notes appended at the end.
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Prior to the remainder of the meeting the Chairman reminded Councillors of the need for respectful behaviour at all times when dealing with difficult issues in these changing times.

**3. Minutes:** The minutes of the meeting held on 1 May 2012 were approved as a true record and signed by the chairman.

**4. Reports:**

**a: Police:** The police did not attend. The clerk was asked to contact them regarding the issue raised at public question time and request definite attendance at the next meeting.

**b: Clerk:**

Old Worcester Road Proposed Development: A statement from the agent was read saying that they will contact us shortly with a revised scheme and detailed feedback from the public consultation. The clerk was asked to chase this.

Footpaths: Additional funding for more posts has been provided.

Biffa: A resident emailed with concerns about water from the landfill being used by a local farmer. The situation was clarified by Russ at Biffa who stressed that any water used was not contaminated.

Hartlebury Museum Society: A rep from the Parish Council is no longer required.

Waresley Court Road: Residents are asked to be vigilant following an incidence of car vandalism. All suspicious activity should be reported to the police.

Post Office Noticeboard: We are still awaiting permission from Highways prior to putting in a formal planning application.

**c: County Councillor:** Cllr Broomfield reminded Councillors that a new Code of Conduct would be in use from July and suggested that all Councillors attending the training session at Wychavon.

**d: District Councillor:** Cllr Dowty informed Councillors that no changes will be made in the South Worcestershire Development Plan for Hartlebury. Consultation on changes in other areas will begin in July with a view to adoption of the plan in 2013. Despite representations made regarding the Category 1 status of Hartlebury this will not change either. Additional surveys (eg: surface drainage) have been requested on the proposed development site.

Cllr Dowty will request the presence of the County Council Project Manager at the next meeting to provide information about how Hartlebury can get superfast broadband. The level crossing will be changed from manual to remote on 28<sup>th</sup> August. The clerk was asked to contact English Heritage to see if the signal box could be listed and Network Rail to find out if it could be saved.

Cllr Dowty suggested that Cllr Broomfield may have funding to provide a tactile surface for the dropped curb outside the post office – Cllr Broomfield to investigate.

**e: Other Committee Reports:**

**Hartlebury Village Hall:** Following comments made at Residents' Question Time the chairman of the Management Committee reported that the hall is run on a shoestring and would be grateful for fund raising ideas. The zoning of the heating has been completed and a representative from the BiffAward scheme was impressed with the works completed to date. It was suggested that information as to booking the hall could be put onto a Village Hall website, if this was created, and additional funding be applied for including from Wychavon.

**Diamond Jubilee Committee:** It was reported that the Jubilee Event and the Flower Festival were both a resounding success. Thanks were recorded to everyone involved – a finance report from the Jubilee Committee will be given in July.

**5. Finance:** Payments totaling £3,960 were approved and passed for payment.

**6. Finance Committee:** The Annual Return 2011/12 was adopted by a unanimous vote. The clerk was asked to thank the Internal Auditor for her work in auditing the systems and finances of the Parish Council.

**7. Old Worcester Road Development**

a: Four Councillors will form a working party to look at how the Parish Council should progress on this proposed planning development. They will meet before the next Parish Council meeting – this will be an agenda item in July.

b: A list of questions raised by residents regarding this proposed development was discussed. A formal response will be sent to the resident who emailed the questions.

**8. Parish Council Meetings:**

a: The minutes of the Allotments Meeting held on 15 May 2012 were received.

b: The minutes of the Playing Fields Meeting held on 28 May 2012 were received. It was noted that there should be some funding (S.106) for play equipment with the re-development of the Woodbury Close flats.

**9. Neighbourhood Plans:** Councillors agreed that the Parish Council should initiate the development of some form of plan for the village – whether a Neighbourhood Development Order or Plan. This will be the responsibility of the village as a whole so it was agreed to talk to the Jubilee Committee who represented a great number of the clubs and societies to see if they would be willing to be involved. A lot of work will be involved but the benefits could be great for the community including having more power to determine where development should or should not occur.

**10. New Homes Bonus:** An explanation of the New Homes Bonus was given. Councillors were asked to consider possible projects for consideration at the next meeting – one idea is to use it to pay for local expert advice in the development of the Neighbourhood Plan

**11. Trading Estate:** As the traffic sign is not legally enforceable it was agreed that the Parish Council will not purchase a larger “all vehicles left” sign opposite the North Gate.

**12. Correspondence:** The correspondence issued with the agenda was noted. Five Councillors will attend the next Liaison Meeting for Biffa / Wienerberger.

**13. Councillors' Reports and Items for Future Agenda:**

Power Cuts – residents have been experiencing a number of cuts. Councillors were asked to keep a note of when they occur for discussion at the next meeting if necessary.

Incinerator – A Councillor's discussion paper will be emailed to all Councillors regarding proposed questions to be sent to the Environment Agency regarding health issues and also highlighting the need to raise awareness of the costs of incineration – next agenda.

Adoption of the Code of Conduct – next agenda.

Consideration of a Parish Newsletter – next agenda.

**12. Date of Next Meeting:** Tuesday 3 July 2012 at 7pm at Hartlebury Parish Hall.

The meeting closed at 9.20pm

Signed .....(Chairman)      Dated .....

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**Notes from Public Question Time**

A large number of residents attended – mainly regarding the proposed development on Old Worcester Road.

One resident raised concerns about the safety of children following a national newspaper article reporting unsavoury activity on the village hall car park. He was angry with the response from the police and wondered why the Parish Council was doing nothing about it. A number of Councillors were unaware of the issue – it will be an agenda item at the next meeting and a formal request be made that the police attend and respond to concerns.

Concern was raised that the agenda was not available on the website and paper copies of documents were not available at the Parish Council meetings. Apologies for this were made by the Chairman - this will be addressed by the clerk who will ensure that documents are readily available for the public. Residents were reminded that approved minutes are available at [www.hartleburyparish.org.uk](http://www.hartleburyparish.org.uk) and [www.worcestershire.gov.uk/myparish](http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/myparish).

[www.hartlebury.gov.uk](http://www.hartlebury.gov.uk) is no longer in use.

One resident complained that he had been unable to speak at the Parish Hall AGM. The management committee is a privately administered trust with trustees and elected members - whilst the day to day running of the hall is not under the jurisdiction of the Parish Council it was suggested that the committee members ensure that residents' ideas are considered. Residents are asked to contact the secretary of the Management Committee should they have comments / ideas to make. Concern was raised that the Parish Hall Committee is a "Closed Shop". This was refuted by the new Management Committee Chairman.

Concern was raised about the use of a £2,500 grant given to the Tennis Club - the resident was informed that the only grant to the club was a much smaller one given for the cutting of the tennis court boundary hedges – he was asked to produce the minutes he referred to which he said mentioned £2,500.

All the residents stayed to hear the discussion on agenda item 7.