

HARTLEBURY PARISH COUNCIL

The Minutes of the Meeting of Hartlebury Parish Council held at 7pm on Tuesday 6 December 2011

Present: Cllrs Mrs J Jones (Chairman), P Holden, A Bishop, D Southall, H J Webb, Mrs C Boughton-Thomas, D Stocker, N Dowty, G Howard, Mrs L Brookes and R Kirby
In Attendance: Mrs J Hyrons (Clerk), County Cllr M Broomfield, CSO Leslie

1. Apologies: Cllrs A Cupper and A Jones

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 1 November 2011 were approved as a true record and signed by the chairman.

4. Reports:

a: Police: CSO Leslie informed councillors of recent criminal activity including a house burglary, holly theft and scrap metal theft. She reiterated that the police rely on members of the public reporting unusual activity. Andrea reported that there was a good deal of police activity along the A449 corridor which has led to a number of arrests. The new Police Constable for Hartlebury is P.C Tony Carter – residents needing to contact the police for non-emergencies should now phone “101”. “999” remains as the emergency number.

b: Clerk:

South Worcestershire Development Plan: The Parish Council response to the consultation focussed on the poor infrastructure to cope with additional housing, identifying flaws in the categorisation of villages and discussing sustainability issues.

Whitlenge Lane: Complaints have been received regarding Wienerberger using the lane for access – Worcs C.C Highways have contacted the company.

Hartlebury Castle: The Heritage Lottery Fund has rejected Hartlebury Castle Preservation Trust’s application for initial support. The Trust is now undertaking a great deal of negotiation with a view to resubmitting the bid.

Worcs C.C Landfill: Due to the discovery of Great Crested Newts, work to improve the quality of the land cannot take place.

Post Office Notice Board: We are applying for planning permission—quotes have been obtained.

Highways Issues: Councillors met with Highways to consider speed and road surface issues. The 30MPH countdown markers on Rectory Road should be installed by the end of the year. The Community Support Officer was asked to undertake speed enforcement everywhere and enforcement of drivers blocking the lowered kerb by the post office.

Station Road Level Crossing: Network Rail plans to renew the level crossing to current standards in March 2012 - we will be invited to make comments through Wychavon.

c: County Councillor: Cllr Broomfield was thanked for his support to the village in opposition to the incinerator. When asked about recycling he confirmed that he would be urging waste collection authorities to massively increase their recycling rates (to above 80%). He reported that council tax will be frozen again this year.

d: District Councillor: Cllr Dowty reported that he will be attending a Wychavon meeting on the new 4 year waste strategy and will be pushing for the district to increase its recycling. He will also highlight the issue of some food waste going to landfill. One councillor commented that if money from recyclates was put back into the community people would be inclined to recycle more.

e: WAIL: The Chairman thanked WAIL and its supporters for the work they had done on the public inquiry and for those who had spoken at the inquiry . It was reported that the inspector's report would be given to the Secretary of State by February but a decision was not expected until as late as July. It was noted that the County Council are possibly intending to put in planning permission for an autoclave but no other details are known.

f: Parish Hall Management Committee: It was reported that the improvements to the hall are almost complete. Around £2,000 has been raised in a fortnight through people buying a £10 chair. The Management Committee was thanked for all the improvements.

5. Finance: Payments totaling £1,202 were approved and passed for payment.

6. Mannings Charity: It was resolved that 13 parishioners will receive a financial gift from the Mannings Charity in accordance with the charity rules.

7. Trading Estate North (rear) Gate: It was proposed that the Parish Council undertakes to carry out a petition to judge public opinion on the matter of restriction of traffic using the North Gate of the Trading Estate (onto Walton Road). Following a vote it was resolved that a petition will be undertaken and the issue will be an agenda item in March. 5 Councillors voted for the proposal and 5 against – the proposal was carried by the Chairman's casting vote. Concern was raised about the impact any changes to access to the North Gate would have on Hartlebury Post Office – councillors are keen to ensure that harm is not caused to this essential village business.

8. Finance Meeting

a: The minutes of the meeting held on 7th November 2011 were received.

b: In line with advice to Wychavon D.C and Worcs C.C, Councillors agreed to hold the precept at the same level for the fifth year running. The clerk was asked to ensure that Wychavon published a 0% increase. The 2012/13 budget was approved.

9. Schedule of Dates: The Schedule of Dates for 2012 was approved.

10. Biffa / Wienerberger Liaison Meetings: It was agreed that it would be a more efficient and effective use of time if the Liaison Meetings were merged with that of the Residents' meetings and that 2 or 3 representatives of the Parish Council attend together with residents and county / district officials and councillors.

11. Correspondence: The correspondence issued with the agenda was noted. The Clerk was asked to write to Wychavon to ensure the Parish Council is consulted about Network Rail's proposals. A statement was read out by a resident thanking the Parish Council, WAIL and other individuals who have worked so hard with the campaign to stop an incinerator being built in Hartlebury and who attended the public inquiry.

12. Councillors' Reports and Items for Future Agenda:

Wychavon Bursary – next agenda
Land at Chadwick Bank – next agenda
Waste collection – next agenda

13. Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday 10 January 2012 at 7pm at Hartlebury Parish Hall.

The meeting closed at 9.10pm

Signed(Chairman) Dated

Notes from Public Question Time

4 residents attended.

One resident raised a complaint about the continued noise from the trading estate – this time from the biscuit factory. This has been reported to Environmental Health and to the trading estate management.

One resident asked what stance the Parish Council will take with regard to the possible return to weekly waste collection (as reported in the national media). He is concerned that this will discourage recycling and should remain fortnightly. Cllr Dowty is involved with discussions on the new waste strategy and will push for increased recycling and reject anything that will diminish this. This will be discussed next month as an agenda item.

It was noted that the new village website will hopefully be operational before Christmas.