

HARTFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes from the meeting held 14th September 2009 at Hartford Village Hall

Attended by: Cllrs Hollens, Kershaw, Bowden, Hudson and Haffenden (HPC)
James Wilson (Northwich Guardian)
Jo O'Donoghue (Clerk)

1. To receive Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillors Kuypers and Poole

2. Disclosure of interest in items on the agenda

No member, present at the meeting disclosed any (a) Personal, (b) Prejudicial Interests which they are required to disclose by section 94(1) of the Local Government Act 1972 and in accordance with The Parish Council (Model Code of Conduct) Order 2007.

3. Public Open Forum

Tricia Parker attended the meeting to talk to Councillors about the film club which is now in its 3rd year. Fewer dates are available from The Grange School so it is not possible to show films on the same day of the week each month. The Young Victoria will be screened on Monday 12th October.

John Walsh attended from the Tennis Club to update Councillors on progress. Over the past 10 years the club has spent over £200,000 on facilities to include floodlights and all weather pitches and has increased membership from 230 members to 563 which includes 350 juniors. This year the Club was nominated as Sports Club of the Year and also achieved the Club Mark for tennis. Mr Walsh explained that the club is now being run as a business with a large turnover, an official committee and audited accounts. With the increase in membership there is more demand on court time and car parking provision and the Council was asked to consider extending the car park beyond the kids zone. Mr Walsh also asked the Council to extend the 1 year lease on the grass courts behind the Village Hall to 21 years to enable the Club to apply for grant funding to convert these courts to all weather pitches. Cllr Haffenden explained that the land is owned by the Parish Council and is there for the whole of the Parish and that to extend the lease would preclude the land from being put to any other use. It was suggested that should a lease be agreed then at certain times the courts should be available for use by the general public rather than just members of the Club. It was agreed that the Council would require full documentation from the Club before considering the requests.

Derek Bowker from Cheshire Action attended the meeting to discuss Speed Indicator Devices (SIDS). It was explained that Cheshire Community Action has worked previously on this issue in various parts of Cheshire and is now able to offer support in Northwich and Abbey Wards. Hartford has already had 5 sites approved for the unit and now needs to get together a group of volunteers headed by a co-ordinator to make the scheme operational. It was explained that the object is to educate the driver rather than take enforcement action. The SID requires 2 people who should not be stood next to the machine and the optimum period of use is between 1 and 2 hours. Once the group is active it is also possible to use a speed gun which requires 3 people to operate. One person operates the gun and the other two take down make, model and registration number of the speeding vehicle which is then given to the police who will then send out a warning letter. Once the scheme has been in operation for a 12 month period there is a possibility that gateway signage can be installed which warns motorists that speed enforcement units are operational in the area. Mr Bowker confirmed that he has been in touch with Stuart Forbes who originally instigated Hartford Speedwatch Action and the Parish Council agreed to progress this forward. One other member of the public attended the meeting.

4. PCSO

PCSO Andy Taylor was unable to attend the meeting and sent the following report which was read out to Councillors:

Throughout August the Road Policing Unit have been tasked on Chester Road and School Lane. They attended 14 times and recorded 5 motorists exceeding the speed limit, the top speed recorded being 50mph, 8 motorists were given verbal warnings. The low number of motorists caught speeding was low due to heavy traffic caused by roadworks. There have been 2 reports of anti social behaviour on Grange Park however when attended there were groups talking with friends with no offences being committed. 2 youths have been issued warnings regarding scooters and one has been issued with a section 59 warning which means if they are caught again in another vehicle or with someone else on their vehicle it will be seized immediately. There have been no issues in relation to parking mainly due to school holidays however traffic flow and parking will continue to be a priority, particularly around the schools.

5. Approval of Minutes

To approve and sign Minutes of Full Council, 13th July 2009

Resolved: the minutes of the meeting were agreed and signed

6. Finance and Administration

- a) To approve and sign the accounts for payment for August/September 2009 (copies provided to Councillors)

Resolved: Accounts for payment in August totalling £7,405.82 and accounts for payment for September totalling £4,842.38 were approved and signed

- b) To consider request from Cheshire Landscape Trust for funding of £100 to enable the tree warden scheme to continue for a further 2.5 years (under S37 of Local Government Act 1972)

Resolved: It was agreed to provide £100 to the Cheshire Landscape Trust

- c) Finance committee meeting

Resolved: Clerk to circulate date for Finance Committee meeting and Cllr Kershaw was co-opted onto the Finance Committee.

7. Cheshire West and Chester Council

Apologies were received from Cllrs Manley and Musgrave who were unable to attend the meeting. It was noted that the next Northwich West and Abbey Forum Meeting will be held on Tuesday 29th September at Moulton Working Men's Club. Cllr Hollens, Hudson and the Clerk agreed to attend.

8. Communications

Clerk to update members on correspondence received

- A request has been received from the landlords of the Red Lion for a contribution towards the cost of providing public toilets for residents as many visitors to the shops use the toilets at the pub without using any of the other facilities. It was agreed to write to the landlord to ask them to keep a log of the number of people using the toilets over a two month period
- A letter has been received from a resident regarding the state of the public footpath at the entrance to the occupation road on The Green. The Clerk agreed to report the matter to highways
- The Royal British Legion has invited members of the Parish Council to join the Remembrance Day service and parade on Sunday 8th November. Cllrs Hudson, Hollens and Haffenden agreed to attend
- Councillors have been invited to the Brunner Mond Community Liaison Meeting on 4th November at 9am. Cllr Kershaw agreed to attend.
- The Annual Meeting of Cheshire Association of Local Councils takes place on Thursday 22nd October at 6.30pm. The Clerk agreed to attend

9. Planning

- a) To agree approach to planning applications

Resolved: Planning applications will normally be dealt with at the monthly council meeting

however when applications need a response prior to the date of the meeting the Clerk will ask for an extension to the date to enable them to be dealt with at the next meeting. Where it is not possible to extend the date a meeting of the Planning Committee will be called which has designated powers to respond of behalf of the Parish Council.

Cllr Hollens and the Clerk agreed to put together a draft amendment to Standing Orders to be circulated prior to the next meeting.

b) To agree response to planning applications received

Resolved: 09/01313/FUL, 121 Beach Road, demolition of existing garage and erection of single storey extension to side with alterations - no objection

09/01751/LDC, 27 The Green Hartford Northwich Cheshire CW8 1QA, ground floor extension at rear - no objection

10. Adopt a red phone box

To consider whether to adopt the red phone box currently situated on Hodge Lane (information previously circulated to members)

Resolved: Clerk to contact BT to arrange adoption

11. Film Club

To receive information regarding future events

The Young Victoria will be shown at 7.30pm on Monday 12th October 2009 at The Grange School Theatre.

12. Noticeboards

To consider quotes received and agree contract

Resolved: Cllr Hollens to contact Age Concern to see if the Men in Sheds Project can design a vandal-proof door for the noticeboard outside the Post Office on The Green

13. Quality Parish Council

To receive report on progress

No report was available as Cllr Gibb was unable to attend the meeting

14. Christmas lights

To discuss and agree arrangements for Christmas lights

Resolved: Due to the number of road improvements taking place around the Village the Council agreed not to erect any Christmas lights this year

15. Twinning

To consider and agree the Parish Council's future association with Hartford Twinning Group
Cllr Hollens confirmed that the Twinning was originally a Council led initiative with the agreement being signed by the Mayor of Mornant and the Chair of the Parish Council. Following discussion it was agreed that this association should be maintained however Twinning should show a greater involvement with the community as a whole. The Clerk confirmed that a letter has been received from the Twinning Committee asking for a contribution of £204.15 towards the recent visit of the Mornantais.

Resolved: Clerk to arrange payment of £204.15, Cllr Hollens to invite the Twinning Committee to a meeting of the Parish Council to outline their future plans, pewter ewer is returned to the Parish Council for safekeeping by the Chair as per the original agreement.

16. Trees

a) To receive report from Clerk following tree fall at the Village Hall

The Clerk reported that a large branch had fallen from behind the Village Hall destroying part of a wall belonging to a resident and it was agreed that the wall be repaired and the tree inspected.

b) To agree tree audit of all trees on Parish Council land

The Clerk agreed to contact the tree wardens to see if it was possible for them to carry out the audit and Cllr Haffenden agreed to see if any other agency was able to carry out the work if the tree wardens were unable to do so.

17. Parish Council Vacancy

To note vacancy and any applications received.

The Clerk reported that to date no applications have been received although the vacancy has been advertised. It was noted that the Parish Council currently has no Vice Chairman who acts in the absence of the Chair who is away from November to February.

Resolved: Cllr Haffenden agreed to act as Chair during Cllr Hollens' absence.

18. Councillors' and Representatives' attendance at meetings, seminars, consultations and minor reports/matters for consideration at future meetings.

- **Report on planning training**

Cllr Hudson reported that she had attended the training which had been useful

- **ChALC/PCSO meeting**

The Clerk reported that she had attended the meeting where issues raised had included visibility and accountability together with an increase in Parish contribution to the scheme from £11,000 to somewhere in the region of £12,700. The Police Authority was unable to issue any documentation relating to the increase and was asked to do so before the end of October when most Parish Councils will be setting the precept for the 2010-2011 year.

19. Buildings, open spaces and roads

a) **Bradburns Lane**

No further update was available

b) **Grange Park**

The Clerk reported that the toddler swings are now installed together with "no dogs" signs.

Resolved: It was agreed that 3 bird-proof bins be purchased at a cost of £2,730.42 excluding VAT and installation. Clerk to contact Plumbley Environmental to arrange removal of current bins and installation of new ones.

c) **Football Pavilion**

It was noted that works have not progressed on the pavilion.

Resolved: Clerk to write to contractor to ask for all works to be completed within 2 weeks or the contract cancelled and work put out to tender.

d) **Village Hall**

Resolved: The Council agreed to proceed with works to the hall to include an additional meeting room with independent access and toilet facilities. Clerk to contact architect to amend existing drawings for Option 2 and obtain cost estimate.

e) **Allotments**

There was no further update

f) **Mosaic**

The Clerk reported that the Grange School have applied for grant funding and that a decision should shortly be available.

g) **Ann Todd garden**

Resolved: Cllrs Hollens, Haffenden and the Clerk to arrange meeting to work out a scheme of works.

20. Hartford News

Suggestions included thanks to Ray Hartwell who has delivered Hartford News for 25 years and a full report on roadworks

21. Any Other Business

There was no other business

The meeting closed at 10.05pm

Signed.....Date.....
(Chairman)