

Hurstbourne Tarrant Parish Council



MINUTES OF MEETING	: 17 th January 2011
TIME OF MEETING	: 7.30 p m
VENUE OF MEETING	: CHURCH HALL
TYPE OF MEETING	: ORDINARY
PRESENT	: MR DAVID JOPSON (DJ)
	: MRS DEBBIE MILLER (DM)
	: MR ALAN HAIGHTON (AH)
	: MRS DINAH MURDOCH (DCM)
CHAired BY	: MR DAVID SULLIVAN (DS)
IN ATTENDANCE	: MR D BAKER (DB)
ALSO PRESENT	: CHr PAM MUTTON (HCC) : PAUL SYMES : JAN CADDEY : ANDREW RUSSELL

108. Apologies

108.1 Apologies were received from Councillor Peter Giddings (TVBC) and Rupert Conder.

109. Public participation

109.1 None.

110. Actions arising from the previous meeting:

110.1

Planning application - 10/02888/FULLN Demolition of existing pavilion. Erection of replacement community building and associated car and bicycle parking. Hurstbourne Tarrant Recreation Ground - DJ to submit supporting comment to TVBC - Completed
Requests for snow shovels and grit bin. – DB to action - Completed.
David Sullivan was authorised to sign and submit the precept decision notice to TVBC. – DS to action - Completed.

111. Approval of minutes of the meeting 20th December 2010

111.1 The minutes of the Parish Council meeting of 20th December 2010 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

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112. Declarations of Interest

112.1 None.

113. AGAS report

113.1 Rupert Conder sent in his apologies and his written January report was read out.

113.2 Rupert asked for the government's statement on snow clearance and the snow code to be published in the parish magazine and added to the website. **DJ to action**

113.3 Rupert stated that he was seeking guidance on the installation of 2 centre islands on the A343 – one near the bus shelter and the other near the start of the 30mph zone at the North end of the village.

114. Correspondence

114.1 The list of correspondence received during the month was read and passed to the relevant councillor.

114.2 Letter from the PCC – Paul Symes presented the latest details on the PCC efforts to provide more space in St Peter's Church cemetery involving the gift of a parcel of land by Mrs Susan Hoare. Paul described the location of the parcel of land and outlined the legal and clearance costs involved in incorporating the parcel of land into the cemetery.

114.3 Jan Caddy put forward the idea that the costs of incorporating the gifted land may be met from the funds raised from the sale of the parish magazine, subject to the approval of the magazine project committee.

114.4 Please see appendix 1 for further details

114.5 E-mail and letter from Hurstbourne Tarrant Development Trust – Andrew Russell provided an update on the planning application which had just been refused on the new community centre build. Additional bat survey information was required before planning application could be re-submitted.

114.6 Please see appendix 2 for details

114.7 Cllr David Sullivan emphasised the significance of the new community centre project for both the parish council and the community as a whole. Full elections of the parish council are scheduled in May 2011 with the prospect of vacancies for at least 3 new parish councillors. This project will require full consultation with the community and it will be a major challenge for the new council to lead over the next 4 years. Taken together with the new powers that are being devolved to parish councils in the planned Localism Bill and the development of Neighbourhood Plans which placed much of the planning decision making process under the control of the community and the parish council for the first time.

114.8 Councillors agreed to place a discussion of the community centre build project as a Part II item on the agenda of the next parish council meeting. – **DB to action.**

114.9 Andrew Russell identified several discrete packages of work that could be undertaken in preparation for the main project. David Sullivan agreed that improving the road access to the parish car park area was the most appropriate task to consider first. It was agreed to hold a site review on Saturday 12 February at 4.00p.m. **DS,AH,DCM & DJ to action**

115. Planning Applications

115.1 The following planning applications were discussed:

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RESOLVED: Councillors agreed that the actions documented below would be taken:

		There were no new planning applications reviewed at the meeting
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116. Councillors' reports:

- 116.1 Councillor David Jopson had nothing to report.
- 116.2 Councillor Dinah Murdoch reported that there was still a vacancy for a school governor at the primary school. A new advert would be placed in the parish magazine. **DJ/DCM to action.**
- 116.3 Councillor Alan Haighton reported that he had located a grit bin in the car park area of Dean Rise, Cllr Pam Mutton (HCC) agree to submit a request to have it refilled – **PM to action.**
- 116.4 Councillor Debbie Miller reported that a new countryside grant scheme had been announced for 2011/12. Small grants were available to improve registered areas of scientific or conservation interest. Projects such as scrub clearance for example were supported under the scheme but were still dependent upon local volunteers being available. An article would be placed in the parish magazine/website advertising the countryside grant scheme and asking for volunteers. – **DM to action.**
- 116.5 Councillor David Sullivan reported that one allotment plot (2a) had become vacant and had been allocated to the next parishioner on the waitlist. Trevor Wheeler had commented that the water table was still 30 feet below ground level and it was unlikely that the river Swift would rise within the area this winter.

117. Clerk's report

- 117.1 David Baker reported that the Vernham Dean parish council were in discussion with HCC to site a Speed Limit Reminder pole on the north side of Upton. Once that work was complete it would be joined into the shared programme of SLR deployment.

118. Performance Monitoring – 2009/10 Q 3.

- 118.1 David Baker presented the third quarter financial report for 2010/11. Overall spending remained in line with budget plans but general maintenance costs associated with the playing fields, the pavilion and the parish car park were running higher than planned. Year end outlook was expected to be a deficit of approximately £3,400.

RESOLVED: Councillors accepted financial report for Q3 2010/11 and agreed that no corrective actions were required.

119. Annual review of regular contracts

- 119.1 Annual review of regular contracts – there were 3 regular contracts in excess of £1,000 pa that required review. Following discussion it was agreed that the insurance contract was due to be re-tendered in September 2011. For the other 2 contracts no action was required as Councillors were satisfied that value for money was being achieved.

RESOLVED: Councillors approved that the insurance contract was due to be re-tendered in September 2011 – **DB to action.**

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120. Annual review of regular investments

120.1 Annual review of investments – as directed by the external auditors, Councillors discussed and reviewed their investment policy for 2011/12. It was noted that the current valuation of the unit trust holding (as at 07.01.11) was £18,844.

RESOLVED: Councillors agreed to maintain the Council's current investment of 34,603 unit trust shares which had been selected to generate a secure source of annual income.

121. Next meeting and forward plan update

121.1 The next Hurstbourne Tarrant Parish Council meeting will be held on Monday 21st February 2011 in the Church Hall at 7.30 p.m.

121.2 Forward plan agenda items:

- Correspondence log for HCC & TVBC
- Part 2 confidential item: Community Centre project

122. Disbursements – 17th January 2011.

122.1 The following cheques were presented for signature:

Number	Payee		Amount
771	D R Baker	Clerk's fees	£ 198.82
772	Fields in Trust	Membership	£ 35.00
773	Southern Electric	Pavilion	£ 176.27
774	Murdoch Farms Ltd	Maintenance	£ 180.00
775	D R Baker	Consumables	£ 243.67

Total authorised: £833.76

Meeting closed at 8.55 p.m.

Signed.....

Chairman

Date:.....

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Appendix 1.

LAND GIFT FROM MRS SUSAN HOARE TO EXTEND CEMETERY

1. On behalf of the PCC I attended the Parish Council (PC) Meeting on 17 Jan 2011 to amplify and update the request contained in my letter. The following conclusions emerged from the discussion:
 - a. Legally the PC is required to maintain closed cemeteries and can assist with the upkeep of active cemeteries. However the obligation to provide a new site, once an existing cemetery is full, is the responsibility of the Borough Council. In our case Test Valley BC has provided that room for expansion within the Borough at Charlton Down Cemetery.
 - b. The PC budget for 2011/12 has already been set and it has submitted its precept to TVBC. The PC cannot make any change to the precept requested for 2011/12.
 - c. Some years ago it was agreed that 25% of the profits from the Parish Magazine Account would be made available for village projects/improvements and that account currently had a credit balance of over £3500. Each year, in the magazine, an invitation is published for applications for grants from this fund and examples were given. It was felt that this project would benefit the village and be eligible for a grant and that an application should be made to the Parish Magazine Committee Chairman, Janet Coysh.
 - d. The PC indicated its support for this extension to the cemetery and confirmed that it would continue to try to make annual grants for the upkeep of the churchyard.

Paul Symes

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Appendix 2

Memo to: the Hurstbourne Tarrant Parish Clerk
17 January 2011

I have just heard that the Test Valley Planning Officer, Gregg Chapman, has advised our architect that he unfortunately cannot give us planning permission for the proposed community building at this time because of the remaining uncertainty over the number and type of bats that may be residing in the building. The design and programme of the construction of the building has to take into account the mitigation measures and without knowing the full extent of the bat usage, we can't specify the appropriate mitigation measures in sufficient detail to satisfy the regulations. He has repeated that he is satisfied in all other respects and would have recommended granting of permission were it not for the reservations of the county ecological officer in this respect. Our architect has accordingly been obliged to withdraw the application and further bat surveys will have to be carried out in the May-August window to provide a definitive picture.

I note that the recently passed Localism Bill will have implications regarding the Parish Council's involvement in and support for this project and await with interest the outcome of your deliberations at the meeting this evening.

Following informal consultation within the village, and given the current adverse economic conditions in the country coupled with uncertainty over the future of the Church Hall and other considerations, I have come to the conclusion that we need to undertake further more structured consultation regarding the scope and timing of the project. Open meetings at the Church Hall to present and discuss the project plans, although relatively well attended, have not in practice adequately engaged significant segments of the community. I shall accordingly be proposing to our trustees that we undertake a series of consultation meetings located in volunteer's houses spread right across the village so that we achieve good representative coverage. I have received offers from volunteers willing to host such meetings, including active canvassing within their catchment area in order to achieve good representation. Apart from fulfilling what I believe are our responsibilities as trustees this will be of considerable value when making application to funding bodies, who are always strongly influenced by the level of community engagement.

Carried out in this way the information could contribute to a Village Plan if the Parish Council were to be minded to undertake such an exercise in the future.

Andrew Russell
Chairman, Hurstbourne Tarrant Development Trust