

HARTLEBURY PARISH COUNCIL

A meeting of Hartlebury Parish Council was held at the Parish Hall, Hartlebury on the 7th November 2017

Present: Councillors Sandra Hickman (Chair), David Simons (Vice Chair), Caroline Boughton-Thomas, Tim Cupper, Jan Hipkins, Ian Hutchinson, Ray Kirby and Tanya Kirk.

In Attendance: Neil Gulliver (Parish Clerk), C/Clr Peter Tomlinson, D/Clr Nigel Dowty and 13 members of the public.

The meeting was recorded by a member of the public.

1. Apologies

An apology was received and accepted from Cath Holden (illness).

2. Declarations of Interest

Caroline Boughton-Thomas declared a pecuniary interest in Agenda item 7(1)(i) and was told that she would be required to leave the room for this item.

3. Dispensations

None.

4. Adjournment of Meeting to hear from:-

a) Members of the Public

Parliamentary Constituency Boundary Review – A member of the public stated that the Boundary Commission had announced that it was proposed that Hartlebury and Ombersley parishes would form part of the Bromsgrove and Droitwich constituency. The Chair stated that this was already known to the Council.

Smartwater – A member of the public asked why smartwater had not been included in the 'task list' on the agenda. The Chair replied that the item on the agenda was not a 'task list' but rather a review of the Parish Improvement Plan and that smartwater had not been raised during consultation and was therefore not included in the Improvement Plan – nor the subsequent review on the agenda.

Old Worcester Road – A member of the public stated that a local resident had been letting off fireworks next to his home on the Old Worcester Road. It was suggested that he report the incident to the local police.

Notes of Meetings – A member of the public questioned whether the notes taken at the August meeting were sent to the Clerk in hard copy or electronic form. The Chair stated that they had been sent in hard copy and had since been destroyed.

House in Inn Lane - A member of the public asked whether anything could be done about the state of the property at the end of Inn Lane which was currently undergoing external works. Nigel Dowty agreed to look into this.

Minutes of the Last Meeting - A member of the public questioned the accuracy of the minutes as follows:-

1) Vandalised Bus Shelters – The minutes referred to two bus shelters when questions had been raised about only one shelter. The Chairman pointed out that in fact two shelters in Old Worcester Road had been vandalised and were being dealt with.

2) With regard to the Community Project, the wording in the minutes was not correct and that it had been agreed that regular updates would be reported as money was spent on the various aspects of the project and would be in line with the Council's financial regulations.

3) With regard to the maintenance of assets, the Council were asked to ensure that the maintenance programme for the Council's assets would continue to be monitored by the Council.

Letter of Resignation – A member of the public stated that a number of councillors resigned some months ago due to the bullying received after residents were given incorrect information. It was felt that the letter sent by the Parish Council was completely unsolicited and only served to compound the previous bullying. The Parish Council were again asked to issue any apology for this action. The Chair explained that the action taken by the Parish Council had been on the advice of CALC.

Recordings at Meetings of the Parish Council – A heated debate ensued about the rights and wrongs of recordings taking place at Parish Council meetings both by the public and members of the Parish Council. The Chair pointed out that she had made it very clear at the start of the meeting that the meeting was being recorded but certain members of the public took exception to being recorded.

At this juncture, a number of members of the public were becoming disruptive and preventing the continuation of the meeting. The Chair asked two members of the public to leave the room to which they refused. The Chair then declared that she was adjourning the meeting and asked everyone to leave the building.

Two members of the public continued to remain in the meeting room until it had been cleared of furniture.

The meeting was adjourned at 7.20pm.

DATE OF NEXT PC MEETING:

Tuesday 5th December 2017 - 7.00 pm at the PARISH HALL.

Signed(Chair) Dated