

Hardwick Parish Council
Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday 22 September 2020 at 7.00 pm
Held remotely via Zoom due to the current pandemic

Present: Councillors: A Gill (Chairman), P Joslin, S Rose, A Joolia, D Wellbelove, A Everitt and I Giddings.

In attendance: 5 members of the public including Shaun Hughes and Daniel Lee (Hardwick Climate Action Group), Anne Jones (The Cabin at St Mary's) and Jeff Jones (Hardwick Happenings); District Cllr Grenville Chamberlain and Mrs Gail Stoehr (Clerk).

Open public session including reports from the County and District Councillors

District Cllr Chamberlain reported on:

- The publication of the Call for Sites and the impact on Hardwick. Land covering 16,000 hectares has been submitted in the Call for Sites which is more than enough to cover the SCDC need for 5000-30,000 homes for the new plan. There is potential for another 700 homes in Hardwick and several thousand between Hardwick and St Neots Road along the A428. There will be a consultation next summer.
- Mayor James Palmer is in discussion with the Greater Cambridge Partnership and East-West Rail and more may be heard in 3-5 months' time.
- The express bus from Cambourne to the Science Park.

James Wakelin reported that the start date for the recreation ground bollards' installation would be 17 October. The arrangements will be discussed with Cllr Gill.

Representatives from the Hardwick Climate Action Group spoke to their proposals for two bids to the Zero Carbon Community Grant Scheme. These were:

1) Planting of 50 trees on Parish Council land at a cost of just over £1,000. They had walked all the Parish Council land and earmarked where planting could take place. The proposal was for 50 larger trees, from 1.5 to 3 metres in size, covering the cost of trees and sundries such as guards and stakes. A risk assessment will be carried out. The species varied depending on the site involved. The group was advised that the Parish Council would need to approve the exact sites so as not to cause problems for residents.

2) Proposal for a communal charge point for a community electric vehicle to ensure sustainability, in the visitor's bay at Meridian Fields. It was hoped to use the electricity from adjacent street light. The grant, if awarded, had to be spent in the year of allocation

The Parish Council observed that the funding for community vehicles should not be available until next year. It was felt that using electricity from a streetlight which was not the Parish Council's, or using the layby, was inadvisable, and a location adjacent to the Pavilion or the new Community Centre was suggested, although the latter would not be built until after the community bus had begun operation.

The Chairman clarified that CCC does not take on responsibility for roads until they are adopted, and prior to that they are the developers' responsibility. The group asked whether Hill might be willing to install the charging point into its layby before the transfer. If the SCDC grant bid was not successful, a Government grant scheme assists funding up to 75% of the cost.

Consideration was given to the use of the S106 funds already received.

A resident who had attended for items 6.3, 6.4 and 6.7 indicated that she was willing to answer questions, asked that these items be brought forward. She spoke to her request that the Covid snake be made into a permanent feature following vandalism which had occurred. The School was supportive of the proposal and of the work with children. The installation would start at the school gate. The School was encouraging people to take stones home, repaint

them and varnish them. Another resident who was in attendance had offered to carry out the work

Jeff Jones on behalf of Hardwick Happenings spoke to the request for financial assistance as since the last grant provided by the Parish Council in 2017, costs had risen and the print run had increased to cover more homes.

1. To approve apologies for absence

None.

2. Declaration of interests

2.1 To receive declarations of interests from councillors on items on the agenda and details of dispensations held

Cllrs Joslin declared a personal interest in item 4.5 as a member of Hardwick Climate Action Group and in any item affecting St Neots Road as a resident of St Neots Road. Cllr Rose declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 8.3 on the cutting of the football pitch as a life member of Hardwick Football Club and in item 4.3 as a member of Hardwick Sports and Social Club (HSSC).

Cllr Wellbelove declared an interest in item 4.3 as a member of HSSC.

Cllr Giddings declared an interest in item 4.3 as a member of HSSC and in item 4.9 as an Allotment Society member.

Cllr Everitt declared an interest in item 4.3 as a member of HSSC.

2.2 To receive written and grant any requests for dispensation as appropriate for items on this agenda

None.

3. To approve the minutes of the previous meetings on 25 August and 1 September

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting on 25 August be approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record, after deleting “is not in the right place” under item 5.12.3, line 10, and replacing it with the words “is obscured by other signage”, and under item 5.9 to insert the wording “on behalf of Hardwick Community Centre Working Group at the end of the paragraph.” (Prop SR, 2nd DW, carried with 1 abstention)

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of 1 September be approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record. (Prop SR, 2nd DW, carried with 1 abstention)

4. Matters arising and carried forward from the last or previous meetings for discussion/decisions

4.1 (5.2.1) Millers Way – to consider quotations for lighting if received

RESOLVED to ask the two companies for information on running and maintenance, costs of replacement parts, details of guarantees, and examples of local installations so that the Parish Council may see the lights in action, and also to ask whether they provide a service agreement and the costs.

4.2 (5.5) Trees at Blenheim Way – to consider advice received and the way forward

RESOLVED to defer this item until later in the meeting to enable the Parish Council to consider legal advice received.

4.3 (5.8) Pavilion works – to consider quotations if received

RESOLVED to accept a quotation from Searle Building Surveyors for £750 to carry out a Level 3 survey on the Pavilion to identify the problems.

4.4 (5.12) Proposal for PFHI for village entrance gates and signage

RESOLVED, having considered Cllr Everitt’s proposal and draft application form, to submit an application for a PFHI grant of £4,500 to install village entrance gates and signage, using S106 funding not as yet received from Meridian Fields. A design for

the works is expected to be provided by Highways towards the end of October. (Prop AE, 2nd PJ, unanimous)

4.5 (5.9) Zero Carbon grants – to consider report and recommendation

RESOLVED to apply for grants for three projects, namely the planting of trees, a community charging point, and solar lighting for Millers Way, and that Cllr Joolia be appointed to submit the applications in the Parish Council's name. (Prop AJ, 2nd PJ, unanimous)

4.6 (6.4) Insurance cover – to consider quotations and length of cover

RESOLVED, having considered four quotations from different insurers including key worker cover and legal cover, to accept the quotation from Zurich for a three year contract at a premium of £2169.68 per annum. (Prop PJ, 2nd AG, unanimous)

On a proposition by the Chairman, items 4.7 and 8.4 were taken together.

4.7 (4.7.4 of 1.9.20) S/3440/18/OL - S/3440/18/OL – Bourn Airfield - Outline planning permission for a new mixed use village comprising residential development of approximately 3500 dwellings mixed uses comprising employment retail hotel leisure residential institutions education community facilities open space including parks ecological areas and woodlands landscaping engineering for foul and sustainable urban drainage systems footpaths cycle ways public transport infrastructure highways including a principal eastern access from the roundabout on St Neots Road and western access with Broadway including first section of strategic public transport route associated infrastructure groundworks and demolition with all matters reserved except for the principal highway junctions from the St Neots Road roundabout and onto Broadway with some matters reserved except for access. This application is subject to an Environmental impact assessment.

8.4 Bourn Airfield update – Meeting with Bourn Parish Council, SCDC and Highways on 7 September

RESOLVED, noting that an application for 500 homes is expected to be submitted shortly, and having considered the draft proposal from Cllr Everitt, to submit an objection to the application, including the following comments: (Prop AE, 2nd IG, unanimous)

“Objection to Bourn Airfield Development from Hardwick Parish Council

Having considered as best we can the 598 documents on the current S/3440 Planning Application, Hardwick Parish Council would like to comment on the resulting estimates for traffic heading towards Hardwick. Our argument follows three strands.

1. We find your estimate of an additional 14 vehicles entering St Neots Road, Hardwick (morning peak hour) as a result of 3500 homes fully built out, entirely unfathomable. We would like a full explanation of how this has been arrived at, please.

The latest traffic records November 2018 are provided by an all-arms automatic traffic count facilitated by Mott Macdonald for the GCP which shows that 41% of the traffic from St Neots Road, Caldecote (from Bourn direction) turns into St Neots Road, Hardwick.

Your estimation of 3% requires examination please.

2. We find your estimate of the amount of traffic leaving the BA development towards the east is very low compared with the pattern of traffic from Cambourne. Your model Appendix_14.1_Appendix_H3_-_Junction_1-6_Cumulative_AM-4750004.pdf shows you estimate just 49% of the traffic departing Bourn Airfield am peak hour will exit east. The traffic record you provide in support of the Transport Plan shows 77% of the Cambourne traffic heads east, TSP Project 13563 Cambourne Dumbbells 7/8th November 2017

Your model shows the total traffic from BA development to be 471 vehicles heading into the roundabout at Hardwick. If a more realistic estimate is 77% east bound, this would increase the morning peak hour traffic heading to Hardwick from 471 to 740.

Would you kindly explain how you arrived at the traffic flows from each junction.

The overall effect of 77% of Bourn Airfield traffic heading east towards Hardwick plus a more realistic 41% of that traffic heading into St Neots Road, Hardwick, increases your estimate of 14 vehicles to 303. This is a sizable increase on the 450 vehicle morning peak hour volume that we pass through from west to east on a daily basis, counted by ATC pre-covid November 2018.

3. We would also like Greater Cambridgeshire Planning to consider compensation to Hardwick for costs associated with managing this traffic and the additional traffic that will be approaching Hardwick from the 26000 sq m Commercial development at the old Gestamp factory and the housing developments in Caldecote. All will contribute to additional burden on St Neots Road, Hardwick.

We would also like to point out that the daily grind through Hardwick, Comberton and Barton as commuter traffic tries to find its way south east, can be mostly eliminated if very logical connections are put in place namely

- a) A direct connection from Bourn Airfield to the A428
- b) A direct connection of the A428 to the M11

We implore you to continue to lobby the Authorities on our behalf for these connections at every opportunity.”

- 4.8 (4.17 of 1.9.20) Proposal that the bench outside the Church be refurbished
RESOLVED to accept the kind offer from Cllr Giddings and other volunteers to pressure wash the bench and that they should take care when lifting. (Prop AG, 2nd PJ, unanimous)

Cllr Giddings and his associates were thanked for volunteering.

- 4.9 (4.3 of July meeting) Allotments at Meridian Fields – to consider response from Allotments Association
RESOLVED in response to the queries raised, to reply that the Parish Council has no desire to allocate allotments or accept rents. The plots, which will be situated near the current entrance to the site, would become available on completion of the development. The position with regard to a water supply was not known.
RESOLVED that no further action was required at this time as the Allotment Society were to meet shortly.

5. Finance, procedure and risk assessment

- 5.1 To consider any quotes for urgent work required because of risk and Clerk's use of delegated powers

RESOLVED to note that the Clerk used delegated powers as follows:

- Accept a quote from RPM to repair the rope and bracket on the multiplay and secure a clamp at Egremont Road at a cost of £270.00 plus VAT
- Ask RPM to repair the infant swing seat and basket swing at Egremont Road and loose rivets at the skate park.

- 5.2 To receive play areas and skate park inspection reports and consider if any work is required
The infant swing had been taken out of action. The rope on the multiplay had not yet been repaired.

RESOLVED to delegate to the Clerk to arrange repair of the gaps at the edges of the safety surfacing at the St Mary's Church play area which the RoSPA report had previously indicated as a low level risk but which was now more of a problem. ^(Prop DW, 2nd AG, unanimous)

RESOLVED, as a Cllr and a resident had cleared glass at the skatepark ask the litter picker to to keep an eye on this area and clear the litter under the tree house which needs urgent attention.

RESOLVED to note that the Scouts were to put up a 2m chain link fence around their leased land in October or November.

5.3 To receive the financial report and approve the payment of bills

RESOLVED that all members of the Parish Council should receive emailed copies of invoices each month. ^(Prop AG, 2nd SR, carried with 1 abstention)

RESOLVED that the payments as listed in the finance report should be paid. ^(Prop PJ, 2nd IG, unanimous)

Salaries and pensions	£1813.98
I Giddings (Expenses – pump repair)	£5.91
CCC (LHI 2019/20 – MVAS)	£1250.00
CCC (Speedwatch signs)	£421.12
Command Pest Control (St Mary's, wasp nest)	£48.00
Algar Signcraft (Playground signs)	£178.20
LGS Services (Admin support August)	£1494.60
Hardwick Happenings (Advertising income paid in error)	£150.00

Credits, including a payment towards Sudeley Grove field maple, a wayleave payment, bank interest and an advertising payment received in error, were noted.

5.4 Electricity suppliers – to consider quotations received

RESOLVED to change electricity supplier from SSE to Opus for a one year contract. ^(Prop PJ, 2nd AJ, unanimous)

6. Correspondence/communications received

6.1 Resident of Laxton Avenue – request to reduce height of trees on green area opposite their property

6.2 Residents of Lambourne Road and Ellison Lane – request that tree crowns be reduced on grounds of safety and to improve light

RESOLVED that items 6.1 and 6.2 should be taken together with item 4.2 at the end of the meeting.

6.3 Cabin Management Team – request for financial support for new online booking system

RESOLVED that applicant should complete a grant application form for a grant of £250 for their first year costs, which would then be considered by the Parish Council.

RESOLVED that Cllr Joolia looks at whether the Parish Council could assist in getting over the problems with legislation preventing councils donating to the Church.

6.4 Hardwick Happenings – request for financial support

RESOLVED that Cllr Rose should speak further to Jeff Jones regarding his request for support and how the Parish Council may assist before considering this further.

On a proposition by the Chairman, the meeting was briefly adjourned at 9.13 pm to allow Jeff Jones to speak to this item and the advertising income, of which he indicated there is only sufficient to cover three more editions. The meeting re-opened at 9.14 pm.

On a proposition by the Chairman, the order of business was varied to take items 7.1.1, 7.1.2, 7.2 and 7.3 next, followed by items 6.7 and 8.9.

7. Planning Applications and Decision notices and tree works applications

7.1 Planning applications received since the last meeting

7.1.1 20/03671/HFUL – 54 Limes Road – Proposed demolition of existing single storey rear extension and erection of first floor extension and internal alterations

RESOLVED that the Parish Council is neutral and to make no recommendation. (Prop PJ, 2nd AG, unanimous)

7.1.2 20/3064/16/CONDK – Land south of St Neots Road – Approval of details reserved by condition 20 (Refuse) - to note for information only

Noted.

7.2 SCDC Decision Notices

7.2.1 20/02323/HFUL – 98 Main Street – Proposed new single storey extension to the rear of the property – Permission granted.

7.2.2 20/03157/HHFUL – 128 Main Street – Single storey front extension – Permission granted.

7.3 Tree Works Applications

None.

6.7 Resident request that the Covid Snake is made into a permanent fixture somewhere in the village by setting it into concrete

RESOLVED given that the snake is not on Parish Council land, that there was nothing for the Parish Council to consider unless assistance with the cost of materials was required. Or it is to be sited elsewhere.

The meeting was briefly adjourned at 9.24 pm to enable a resident to clarify the proposed location of the Covid Snake.

RESOLVED that remaining items except for 8.9 be adjourned to a meeting be held on Tuesday 1 October at 7.00 pm. Cllr Wellbelove gave his apologies for the meeting.

8.9 NALC National Salary Award – employees review (confidential)

At 9.29 pm, on a proposition by the Chairman, carried unopposed, in accordance with S1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960, in view of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, that is, employment matters, the public were temporarily excluded from the meeting and were instructed to withdraw. The Clerk left the meeting and did not return.

9. Closure of meeting and items for the next agenda

The meeting was adjourned at 9.50 pm.

SignedChairmandate