

Hardwick Parish Council
Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday 24 January 2017
in the School at 7.00 pm

Present: Councillors: S Rose (Chairman), C Cracknell, J Humphries, T Bhachu, B Skingle, P Joslin and A Gill.

In attendance: David Thompson (SCDC Planning Officer), District Cllr Grenville Chamberlain, Lina Joseph and Mrs A Griffiths (Minutes Secretary, LGS Services).

Open public session including reports from the County and District Councillors

David Thompson, Planning Officer at SCDC, provided an update on the proposed Grace Crescent development for 98 dwellings which whilst it is outside the village framework is being considered to alleviate the 5 year land shortage. SCDC is looking at the S106 agreement and technical issues such as surface and foul water, landscape and design issues, highway safety, access, environmental health including noise impact, impact on services and facilities and loss of agricultural land. There was an opportunity for questions and answers.

He believed that the application would be decided by the Planning Committee, possibly on 1 March.

The Parish Council raised the issue of the access, down a narrow road through Grace Crescent. Whilst this would be mitigated slightly by a four car layby, more vehicles than this were regularly parked, very close to the main road, and concerns were expressed about the possibility of large vehicles trying to turn into Grace Crescent past parked cars and projecting into the main road. Mr Thompson replied that the construction phase would be temporary but SCDC would require details of how materials were being stored and managed during construction. It was not known whether there was any other access to the site. An assessment would be made of the capacity of the junction and the flow of traffic. The Parish Council suggested that a condition be imposed involving time restrictions and the use of banksmen.

The Parish Council outlined the developers' response to its objections and the offer of a total £1.6M of benefits. The District Council is looking at the suggestions and has sought clarity on the travel plan and other aspects, so whilst the District Council will secure sums of money or the provision of facilities, given aspects were subject to questions, the amount forthcoming could be reduced.

The Parish Council also stated that it required upgrading of the footpath, clarification of the travel plan, and open space maintenance to be covered. Management arrangements for the open space would need to be set up in perpetuity and clarification would be needed on this.

Mr Thompson left the meeting at 7.45 pm.

District Cllr Chamberlain's report covered:

- The proposed busway and the meeting organised by the residents of St Neots Road on 7 March and its attendees.
- Grace Crescent – the developers had offered a pedestrian and cycle access from the development to the north, but the exact location was unclear. Cllr Rose will seek clarification.

Lina Joseph introduced herself as the prospective Conservative candidate for Cambridgeshire County Council, and explained that she was seeking to learn the concerns of residents in the villages.

RESOLVED that Cllrs Gill and Rose be authorised to continue discussions with the SCDC planners and Carter Jonas, and that Grace Crescent should be an agenda item on 28 February prior to the Planning Committee meeting on 1 March.

1. To approve apologies for absence

None.

2. To consider any applications to fill the two casual vacancies

RESOLVED that the application for co-option received should be considered at this meeting. (Prop JH, 2nd CC, carried with 1 abstention)

RESOLVED to co-opt Dean Wellbelove, who had sent his apologies, in his absence. (Prop JH, 2nd CC, unanimous)

3. Declaration of interests

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

Cllr Cracknell declared an interest in item 5.4 as a committee member of Hardwick Sports and Social Club, and the existence of his dispensation enabling him to speak and vote.

Cllr Bhachu declared an interest in item 6.8 as the owner of the shop.

Cllrs Skingle and Rose declared an interest in item 5.4 as members of HSSC and also the existence of their dispensations enabling them to speak and vote.

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

RESOLVED that the Parish Council grants a dispensation to Cllr Bhachu to speak on item 6.8 (Prop SR, 2nd PJ, carried with 1 abstention) and also to vote. (Prop SR, 2nd JH, carried with 1 abstention)

4. To approve the minutes of the previous meeting on 13 December 2016

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting on 13 December 2016 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record. (Prop CC, 2nd AG, unanimous)

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

5.1 (Open) Village Plan Committee – request for financial support and village plan annual accounts

RESOLVED to approve the sum of £250 by way of financial support. (Prop JH, 2nd PJ, unanimous)

5.2 (4.1.2) Hardwick Play Parks – to consider quotations for fencing if received

Cllr Cracknell reported. Clare McGowan had sent her apologies. The update from Hardwick Play Parks detailing their request and details of the grant funding secured was read out. Three quotations were considered. The Clerk's advice on the Council's power (Open Spaces Act 1906, section 9-10, Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, section 19) to provide play equipment, the receipt of donations and VAT implications were noted.

RESOLVED that the funding should be taken from the S106 funds from Lark Rise and 311 St Neots Road. (Prop AG, 2nd JH, unanimous)

RESOLVED that the Parish Council should purchase the fence and accept the quotation from Kompan, as being the cheapest and also the Hardwick Play Parks preferred supplier, for the sum of £6414.49, to include installation and freight. (Prop AG, 2nd JH, unanimous)

5.3 (6.1.1) Land south of 279 St Neots Road – proposed development

The Chairman reported that he had received a telephone call from Tony Bowman who had sought the Parish Council's help to persuade SCDC to expedite the application.

RESOLVED to decline the request, as the Parish Council does not feel it should become involved in the SCDC processes. (Prop BS, 2nd JH, unanimous)

Discussion of the two proposed developments is to be an agenda item for the February meeting.

5.4 Hardwick Sports and Social Club – Pavilion showers and drains

RESOLVED, given that the Parish Council believed it was responsible according to the lease for mains services, and given the failure of investigations carried out to date to identify the cause of the long-standing problem, that the Clerk should liaise with Jerry Burford to arrange further investigations and to consider the matter further at a future meeting. (Prop JH, 2nd AG, unanimous)

5.5 Dead elm trees – to consider report and recommendation from tree surgeon

RESOLVED to seek quotations for the removal of 22 trees but not for re-planting at this stage. (Prop SR, 2nd AG, unanimous)

6. Correspondence/communications received

6.1 Resident request that the Parish Council funds room hire and refreshments for village clean up in March

RESOLVED that the Parish Council support the request to cover the cost of room hire and refreshments for the sum of £43.00. (Prop BS, 2nd JH, unanimous)

6.2 Resident request for another skate ramp

RESOLVED to suggest to the resident that he writes to Hardwick Play Parks with his ideas. (Prop SR, 2nd JH, unanimous)

6.3 SCDC Tree survey services

RESOLVED, as the Parish Council felt this would be a good system, to respond that the Parish Council would be interested in the services provided. (Prop SR, 2nd JH, unanimous)

6.4 Heidi Allen MP – request for feedback on public transport issues

Noted.

6.5 CCC Consultation on a draft corporate energy strategy for Cambridgeshire County Council

RESOLVED that the Parish Council had no comments. (Prop BS, 2nd SR, unanimous)

6.6 NALC advice that S8 of the Local Government Act 1894 specifically prohibits parish councils funding churches

RESOLVED to ask the Clerk to investigate how this would affect a church hall belonging to the Church but used both by the Church and other groups in the village, and to provide further information regarding the insurance and the church hall.

6.7 SCDC LDP Hearings Strategic sites – Bourn Airfield

The Chairman reported that he had spoken to Steve Jones, Chairman of the Coalition of Parish Councils, who will be making a submission to the LDP.

On a proposition by the Chairman, the meeting was briefly suspended at 9.04 pm to enable the District Councillor to speak. In the light of a potential 33,500 homes being built in South Cambs over the next 15 years, it was emphasised that SCDC must ensure that transport arrangements passing the village were adequate for the population and sufficiently reliable to enable people to get to work. It was felt that buses would not provide a solution as potentially 2500 cars or 40 buses per hour would be required and only rail could cater for the number of people. With the current availability of housing being 3.7 years, only large settlements would suffice to meet the need. The Coalition maintained that Bourn Airfield was unsustainable as it was

too far from centres of employment. The decision will lie with the Planning Inspectorate. Concerns were expressed that the area would become gridlocked. The meeting resumed at 9.10 pm.

RESOLVED that the Parish Council should not make direct representations at the hearings but communicate its views through the Coalition, and consider its response further under item 8.3. (Prop BS, 2nd AG, unanimous)

6.8 Resident – what is the Parish Council going to do about the cars parking near the shop in Cambridge Road?

RESOLVED to respond that the Parish Council has previously discussed this issue and explored many different means of mitigating the problem, none of which have been agreed by the County Council, as the costs would be prohibitive and the County Council regards a degree of congestion as contributing to traffic calming in the area. The Parish Council accordingly has no current proposals. (Prop BS, 2nd JH, unanimous)

RESOLVED that Cllr Humphries should explore whether spaces in the school car park could be used as community parking spaces, and to consider this further at a future meeting.

7. Planning Applications and Decision notices and tree works applications

7.1 Planning applications received since the last meeting

7.1.1 S/2409/16/OL – Land adj to St Neots Road near the Hardwick/A428 junction/roundabout – 3 No. speculative rental B1 and B8 use class units, with associated onsite car parking provision, on land adjacent to St Neots Road, Hardwick
RESOLVED to object on the grounds of the traffic problems that will be caused to Hardwick with the additional traffic movements, and no information has been provided on the scale of the buildings. (Prop AG, 2nd JH, unanimous)

7.1.2 S/3585/16/FL – Land adj to St Neots Road, CB23 7QL – Self storage container site with site administration office, WC block and associated customer parking
RESOLVED to object objects on the grounds that it is in the Green Belt, that the volume of traffic will increase, and that the proposed development is potentially on the proposed line of the Cambourne to Cambridge busway. The Parish Council requests that the application be referred to the Planning Committee. (Prop AG, 2nd PJ, unanimous)

7.1.3 S/3418/16/DC – Land behind Meridian Close – Application for approval of details reserved by Condition 3 (Foul & Surface water drainage details) and 4 (External lighting) of S/2222/15/FL
Noted for information.

7.1.4 S/3496/16/PA – Hobsons Farm, Kings Road – Prior approval notification of change of use of agricultural building to a flexible commercial use (Class B1) business
RESOLVED that the Parish Council had no comments.
On a proposition by the Chairman, item 7.1.7 was taken next.

7.1.7 S/3442/16/FL – Hobsons Farm, Kings Road – Proposed alterations to an agricultural building and change of use of part of a paddock to a car park necessary to use the building as a farm office under Class R
RESOLVED that the Parish Council had no objections. (Prop AG, 2nd PJ, unanimous)

7.1.5 S/3461/16/FL – Victoria Farm, Cambridge Road – Retention of a temporary modular building for use as a farm office for up to two years
RESOLVED that the Parish Council recommends approval. (Prop AG, 2nd PJ, unanimous)

7.1.6 S/3616/16/FL – 89 Limes Road – Single storey front and rear extensions and garage conversion

RESOLVED to recommend approval. ^(Prop AG, 2nd PJ, unanimous)

7.1.8 Letters from residents in support of application by Little Walkers childminders
RESOLVED, given that three letters of support had been received for this application, to write to SCDC informing them that the Parish Council had not received this planning application either on paper or on the website, and asking them to provide details so that the Parish Council can comment.

7.1.9 S/0078/17/OL – 3 Worcester Avenue – A two-storey dwelling on a garden plot
RESOLVED that the Parish Council had no comments. ^(Prop AG, 2nd PJ, unanimous)

7.1.10 S/3142/16/FL – 102 Limes Road – new front porch, garage conversion and conservatory
RESOLVED that the Parish Council had no comments, and understood that this had already been approved.

7.2 SCDC Decision Notices

Details of planning permissions granted by SCDC or refusal notices since the last meeting can be viewed on the SCDC Planning Portal at <http://plan.scams.gov.uk/>.

7.2.1 S/2305/16/FL – 175 St Neots Road – Proposed extension to lot 1a Pet Paks. Two walls and a pitched roof – Permission granted.

7.2.2 S/2656/16/FL – 3 Bramley Way – Replacement conservatory and part garage conversion – Permission granted.

7.2.3 S/2815/16/FL – 139 Bramley Way – Single storey front extension – Permission granted.

7.2.4 S/3142/16/FL – 102 Limes Road – New front porch, garage conversion and conservatory – Permission granted.

7.3 Tree Works

7.3.1 Chequers, 87 Main Street

RESOLVED that the Parish Council had no objections.

8. Members reports and items for information only

8.1 Neighbourhood Plan update report

Nothing to report.

8.2 Refurbishment of benches – proposal that a member be appointed to inspect all the other benches in the village and report back to the Council

RESOLVED, noting that Mr Callus already had an order for works to the bench outside the church, two benches on the recreation field by the Social Club and the bench in the playground behind the shop (in Grenadier Walk), that Cllr Humphries should conduct a survey of the other benches around the village, check their condition and bring a report and recommendation to the next meeting. ^(Prop JH, 2nd BS, unanimous)

8.3 Coalition of Parish Councils – report on meeting

Cllr Rose reported on his attendance at the meeting of the Coalition of Parish Councils on 9 January, the draft minutes of which had been circulated to members. On a proposition by the Chairman, items 8.3.1 and 8.3.2 were taken in reverse order.

8.3.2 Request for input on the need to upgrade the Girton interchange

RESOLVED that the Chairman be authorised to sign, on behalf of the Parish Council, the Coalition's joint letter urging the Secretary of State to consider an all-ways junction at the Girton interchange. ^(Prop BS, 2nd JH, unanimous)

8.3.1 Request for input on the City Deal Cambridge to Cambourne busway proposals

RESOLVED that Cllrs Rose, Gill and Joslin should attend the next meeting of the Local Liaison Forum on 9 February.

RESOLVED to note that the draft minutes of the last Coalition meeting may be subject to change.

9. Finance, procedure and risk assessment

9.1 To consider any quotes for urgent work required because of risk and Clerk’s use of delegated powers

RESOLVED to approve the request from Robert Cassey for a new security key for the website. (Prop SR, 2nd PJ, unanimous)

RESOLVED to note that the Clerk had used her delegated powers to call out Dynorod to look at the Pavilion drains.

9.2 To receive play areas and skate park inspection reports

RESOLVED to receive the reports on the Church play area, the Egremont Road play area and the Skate Park, and to note that no action was required at this time.

Cllr Bhachu undertook to email his reports on the Grenadier Walk and Worcester Avenue play areas.

RESOLVED to note the points raised by Mr Giddings, who had given his apologies due to illness. These will be an agenda item for the next meeting.

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

RESOLVED that the payments as listed in the finance report should be paid, plus Information Commissioner (Data protection renewal) £35.00, Hardwick Happenings (paid to Parish Council in error) £185.60 and to Getmapping (online mapping subscription, subject to clarification as to the service provided) £50.40. (Prop AG, 2nd PJ, unanimous)

Grounds by Rounds (Grass cutting)	£309.07
Buchans (Rec hedge)	£275.40
Salary	£100.00
Salary	£22.38
NEST (Pension) (DD)	£160.64
LGS Services (Admin support)	£1210.22

Credits including bank interest and Pavilion rent were noted.

Cllr Cracknell left the meeting at 10.12 pm.

10. Members’ items for the next agenda and for the Clerk’s information and Closure of meeting

There was no further business and the meeting closed at 10.14 pm.

SignedChairmandate.