

Hardwick Parish Council
Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday 1 October 2020 at 7.00 pm
Held remotely via Zoom due to the current pandemic

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

In attendance: District Cllr Grenville Chamberlain and Mrs A Griffiths (Minutes Secretary, LGS Services).

1. To approve apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Wellbelove.

Open public session including reports from the County and District Councillors

Cllr Chamberlain reported on:

- East West Rail. A possible alternative route locating a station north of Cambourne and the A428 has now been put forward. There is a great deal of discussion taking place.
- Concerns that a Planning Inspector had indicated in a planning decision that Cambridge City and South Cambridgeshire District Council might not have a 5 year land supply. This would have implications for future planning applications.

2. Declaration of interests

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

Cllr Rose declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 3.8 as a life member of Hardwick Football Club.

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

None.

3. To conclude business outstanding from the last meeting on 22 September due to time constraints

3.1 (4.2) Trees at Blenheim Way – to consider advice received and the way forward

RESOLVED after considering advice from the SCDC Trees Officer, NALC and the Council's insurers, to respond to the resident that the Parish Council having investigated the position, and having had a tree survey carried out by an independent tree surgeon which did not indicate that the trees were hazardous or in need of any work, does not propose to carry out any work to the trees, but to remind the resident of the Council's policy that they may cut back to the boundary any branches overhanging their property. (Prop AJ, 2nd IG, unanimous)

RESOLVED that consideration of a policy for dealing with similar requests should be an agenda item for the next meeting.

3.2 (6.1) Resident of Laxton Avenue – request to reduce height of trees on green area opposite their property

RESOLVED, noting that trees do not affect digital television signals, to respond that as the trees had been recently inspected by an independent tree surgeon and were not found to be dangerous or in need of any work, the Parish Council does not propose to reduce the height of the trees. (Prop AG, 2nd IG, unanimous)

3.3 (6.2) Residents of Lambourne Road and Ellison Lane – request that tree crowns be reduced on grounds of safety and to improve light

RESOLVED to defer this item to the next agenda pending receipt of a report from a tree surgeon who had been asked to take a look.

Cllr Rose referred to emails he had received from residents regarding overhanging branches in Egremont Road and another in Limes Road. These will be agenda items for the next meeting.

3.4 (6.5) Age UK Community Warden Schemes – request for a meeting

At 7.34 pm the meeting was briefly suspended to enable Cllr Chamberlain to comment.

RESOLVED that Cllr Joslin be appointed to attend a meeting and report back. (Prop AG, 2nd AJ, unanimous)

3.4 (6.6) CCC – replacement of school warning units

RESOLVED noting that CCC propose to replace the “wigwags” signs in the next six weeks, that the Highways Working Group should follow this up. (Prop AJ, 2nd AE, unanimous)

3.5 (6.8) SCDC Greater Cambridge Local Plan First Conversation and Call for Sites

RESOLVED to note the land put forward in the village under the Call for Sites which can be viewed on the CCC website via the following link: <https://www.greatercambridgeplanning.org/emerging-plans-and-guidance/greater-cambridge-local-plan/first-conversation-consultation-and-call-for-sites/>. This included sites south of St Neots Road, east of Cambridge Road, behind 25 St Neots Road and on Toft Road. Sites had also been put forward either side of the Hardwick to Dry Drayton Road, south of Bourn, at Elsworth, Knapwell and Caldecote.

As yet the Parish Council has not received any further information. It was noted that the total potential number of houses on these sites vastly outnumbered the amount of housing required by the Local Plan, which was 5000 – 30,000.

3.6 (8.1) New Housing Developments and Planning Obligations

RESOLVED to note Cllr Rose’s report on discussions with James Fisher, SCDC S106 Officer, regarding the possibility of varying the Off-site Sports Contribution in the S106 agreement for the St Neots Road development, to alter the wording to make it less prescriptive so as to allow the match officials’ changing rooms in the Community Centre as an alternative to the Pavilion.

RESOLVED to write to James Fisher, SCDC S106 Officer, to request a Deed of Variation for the St Neots Road S106 agreement to amend the wording to read “A contribution of £45,000 towards the provision, refurbishment, of any sports facilities which will benefit the Development and will make acceptable in planning terms that which would otherwise be unacceptable and which may include (but not necessarily limited to) works to and/or otherwise associated with changing rooms at the existing pavilion at Hardwick Recreation Ground.” (Prop SR, 2nd AG, unanimous)

RESOLVED that the change to the S106 agreement for the St Neots Road development Transport Contribution, replacing “Electronic bus signs” with “Highways road safety measures on St Neots Road or surrounding areas” be requested at the same time. (Prop SR, 2nd AG, unanimous)

Cllr Rose reported on a meeting held with the developers of the St Neots Road development, also attended by Cllrs Gill and Everitt, at which the condition relating to improvements for footpaths and lighting and the Parish’s request for improvements to footpaths and lighting and pedestrian refuge islands opposite the site were discussed. A request was made that the improvements extend as far as Miller’s Way. The Council’s requests are to be considered by the developers.

Some preliminary work is starting at the entrance to the site, involving the demolition of one bungalow. The developers hope to commence on site at the beginning of November or in December, after the Reserved Matters are finalized. It would be about

12 months before the first occupation when monies would be paid to the Parish Council for S106 projects.

With regard to Condition 28, this would need to be in place before the first occupation and lighting will be placed on the side of the road opposite the development at the insistence of Highways. The notice board and post box will be put on a hard standing to protect them.

3.7 (8.2) Village Plan review and proposal from Communications Working Group that the Parish Council publishes progress against the Village Plan comments

RESOLVED that Cllr Everitt should prepare a systematic review of the plan, reporting on what progress had been made since the Village Plan was written and what is still to be done, and pass it to Cllr Joolia for publication on the website. ^(Prop AE, 2nd PJ, unanimous)

3.8 (8.3) Proposal that the Parish Council considers the cutting of the football pitch

RESOLVED, following a request from the Football Club that the pitch be cut shorter, given that the Parish Council would not wish the maintenance work done to the Recreation Ground to be undermined, and taking into account concerns about risk and insurance, to respond that the Parish Council would not wish the Club to carry out mowing of the football pitch independently, but has provision in place to ask the contractor for extra cuts when required. It was weather dependent that at most three additional cuts would be required but that some years no additional cuts would be required. ^(Prop AG, 2nd AJ, unanimous)

3.9 (8.5) Proposal that the Parish Council implement official Council email address at earliest for reasons as detailed in report

At 8.20 pm the meeting was briefly suspended to enable District Cllr Chamberlain to outline the SCDC system.

RESOLVED having considered Cllr Joolia's report and recommendation to adopt official Parish Council email addresses.

RESOLVED to accept Cllr Joolia's recommendation of provider, Zoho Mail, for a Mail Lite 5 GB option at £8 per month based on 10 users, with an option to upgrade to a Mail Premium 50 GB option at £32 per month for additional storage and security if required.

RESOLVED to adopt the pattern for the email address as: <first initial>.<surname>@hardwick-cambs.org.uk.

RESOLVED to adopt the main Council address as: clerk@hardwick-cambs.org.uk, and to discuss this with the Clerk. ^(Prop AJ, 2nd AE, unanimous)

3.10 (8.6) Communication and Engagement Working Group recommendation about village website: Consider a redesign and upgrading to latest technology, which allows a better information flow and search. It would also improve the sites SEO, and make it more user friendly and useful.

RESOLVED having considered Cllr Joolia's report to put out a request to the village for volunteers to design and build a new website but if no volunteers come forward within a deadline of two weeks, to obtain an "off the peg" website for approximately £250-£500. This will be an agenda item for the next meeting. ^(Prop AJ, 2nd AE, unanimous)

3.11 (8.7) Recommend that an application is made for the reallocation of funds in the S106 Agreement for land south of 279 St Neots Road

RESOLVED having considered Cllr Everitt's report to request a Deed of Variation of the S106 Agreement for land south of 279 St Neots Road to amend the Transport Contribution to replace "Electronic bus signs" with "Highways road safety measures on St Neots Road or surrounding areas." ^(Prop AE, 2nd AG, unanimous)

3.12 (8.8) Highways Working Group update report

- Cllr Everitt spoke to the previously circulated Highways Working Group report. The PFHI application for village gates at St Neots Road along with a review of signage had been submitted.
- Cllr Everitt had confirmation from County Highways, Grant Weller there would be no bus gate or segregated cycle route for St Neots Road and initially only routine maintenance was being proposed for the current footpath along St Neots Road, including cutting trees/vegetation between Knapwell and Long Road, Comberton and no other changes. After this, County propose to assign this footpath mixed cycle/pedestrian status!
- The Bourn Airfield S106 agreement, if permission is granted, would contain the opportunity for a Greenway through Caldecote and Hardwick to join onto the Comberton Greenway. There are also as yet undefined proposals to develop a north-south Greenway through Hardwick. The developers of Bourn Airfield are also discussing a cycle way along St Neots Road. This differs from the West Cambourne proposals and the busway proposal (now called the “Strategic Transport Intervention).”
- CCC is only offering a reduction to a 50 mph speed limit from Madingley Mulch to Hardwick, to align with the limit on the Madingley Road.
- CCC have granted permission to use the equipment mounted on the street light post for Speedwatch, at no charge. There is no charge for using the street light post in Cambridge Road, subject to a risk assessment and work statement. An application to SCDC to use street light column SC9 outside St Mary’s Church is with the SCDC contractors.
- A comment made by CCC in response to a fault report on a damaged sign had indicated the PFHI work would be implemented by the end of the financial year. It is intended that the funding for the gates will be taken from the £54,000 S106 money for Meridian Fields which is currently with Highways.

4. Closure of meeting and items for the next agenda

RESOLVED, given that the consultation deadline on the latest Bourn Airfield application was 24 October, to seek a time extension, and that Cllr Everitt should draft a recommended response to be circulated to members for clarification before the next meeting.

Items proposed for the next agenda included:

A house in St Neots Road (AJ)

Update on the burnt out building (AJ)

Length of meetings (AJ)

Cllr Everitt reported that a complete replacement of all SCDC lighting to LEDs would be taking place in October/November. This had been agreed some time ago but implementation had been delayed by Covid.

Cllr Giddings reported that two snakes had been sighted, in Main Street and outside the vets, respectively.

Cllr Joolia provided an update on the Planning Inspector’s comment regarding the five year land supply. SCDC had confirmed that the Planning Inspector had made a mistake and there was a five year land supply in place.

There was no further business and the meeting closed at 9.10 pm.

SignedChairmandate
