

Hardwick Parish Council
Minutes of the Meeting Held on Tuesday 30th March 2021 at 7.00pm
Held remotely via Zoom due to the current pandemic

Present Councillors: P Joslin (Chair), S Rose, A Joolia, A Everitt and D Wellbelove.

In attendance: 4 members of the public. District Cllr Grenville Chamberlain
The Chair informed everyone that the meeting was being recorded to assist with minute taking and that attendees could if required switch to anonymous settings for reasons of confidentiality

Open public session including reports from the District Councillor

There were no comments from the public. Cllr Chamberlain spoke to the meeting saying that there will be an LLF meeting next weekend when their committee will be formulating their recommendations to the C2C Auditor. Grenville would like HPC councillors to support the proposed LLF on-road priority bus route. This item will be fully discussed at the next HPC meeting 27th April

1. To receive apologies for absence

Apologies had been received from Cllr Gill internet problems and Cllrs Giddings out of parish. Cllr Wellbelove joined meeting at 19:16 approx.

2. Declaration of Interest

2.1 To receive declarations of interest from Cllrs on items on the agenda and details of dispensation,

None

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

None

The chair at this point spoke to the meeting saying providing there were no objections that item 3.8 would be taken first.

3.8 (8.7.3) Proposal that the Parish Council has a vote on the PC stance on the C2C off-road busway proposal and removal of the Hardwick St Neots Rd trees.

Cllr Everitt spoke to the meeting saying that although the Hardwick Happenings magazine reported that the Parish Council does not support a busway that takes our trees away from St Neots Road, we should record a formal resolution for the HPC records.

RESOLVED That HPC supports saving our Tree Line on St Neots Road. Proposed Cllr Joslin Seconded Cllr Everitt Unanimous support for retaining our trees.

Cllr Wellbelove joined the meeting from the waiting room at 19:16, he confirmed his vote in favour of HPC supports saving the Tree Line on St Neots Road.

In the discussion on whether HPC is in favour or not in favour of the C2C off road busway scheme, Cllr Rose spoke in favour of a C2C busway that served Hardwick while retaining the trees, three such options being an on-road option, bus lanes or a busway between the tree line and the A428 and that he won't be able to support a busway route North of the A428. It was mentioned that there was limited width for the busway behind the trees, but that these questions should be left for the Auditor.

At this point Cllr Joolia spoke to the meeting saying that an improved efficient transport route for buses is what everyone wants but not at the expense of the St Neots Road trees. District Councillor Chamberlain confirms that the LLF has put forward in his view an excellent value for money solution which could be the LLF supported managed bus lane on Madingley Hill

This would be a short-term solution at an estimated cost of £10m as an alternative to the £200m cost of the current GCP C2C Off Road proposal.

RESOLVED-That HPC does not support the GCP C2C off-road busway as it is now planned. Proposed Cllr Everitt Seconded Cllr Joslin There were 4 votes for supporting the motion, and 1 against.

On a point of order from Councillor Rose, a suggestion from District Councillor Chamberlain that HPC supports the current LLF proposal to the Auditor will be taken to the next HPC Meeting.

3.1 Main Street kiosk as Cllr Joolia had no internet connection and was therefore not able to show screen shot illustrations to the meeting, he requested that this item be deferred to our meeting on 27th Apr.

3.2 Cllr Joolia confirmed that details of the new proposed Hardwick PC website has been emailed to councillors for their consideration, observations and approval. Cllr Joolia asked for feedback for the HPC meeting on the 27th Apr. Cllr Joolia confirmed that he would resend the link for councillors' comments.

3.3 Date for the AGM as the school will not be available until June an alternative could be the Cabin but the 4th May via Zoom would be within the official legal legislation for Zoom meetings.

RESOLVED The Annual Parish Meeting shall be by Zoom on 4th May. Proposed by Cllr Rose, Seconded Cllr Joslin unanimous approved.

3.4 Proposed that the Parish Council set up a Minor Works Groups to progress matters, deferred until 27th Apr meeting as Cllr Giddings was not at this meeting.

3.5 Highways and Road Safety Working Group Report monthly report had been circulated to all councillors including amongst other activities

- Solar Lights being installed today in all four bus shelters.
- Footpath upgrade is now 1/2 way through the village
- Successful win of the 21/22 LHI - Village Entrance East improvement value to the village of around £12K from Highways and included speed reduction to 50mph

replacing of the 60mph from Madingley Mulch, speed reduction road markings when entering the 40mph stretch of St Neots Road and the installation of a cyclist safety Island at this point for cyclist traveling East. This would be done at the same time as the new Village “gates”

- Cllr Everitt confirmed that James Fisher S106 Officer at South Cambs Planning has agreed that the £54K - S106 funds from Hills Meridian Fields development be assigned to traffic calming and pedestrian islands at Bus stops along St. Neots Rd as an alternative to originally specified electronic bus signs along St Neots Rd.

Councillor Rose congratulated the Highways Working Group for successful LHI's Cllr Everitt's reply was that it was very important to build and maintain a good relationship with CC Highways and ensure they could see we were working to a Blueprint, the proposal that Councillor Joslin presented to the HPC in September 2018.

3.6 Cllr Everitt's Proposal to ensure that the Parish Council is aware that an action is underway to identify and make a proposal to improve numerous village paths. A letter has been published in Hardwick Happenings written by a group of residents concerning the disrepair of Hardwick village footpaths.

RESOLVED 'Hardwick Parish Council supports Hardwick resident's request for improvements to the village footpaths be undertaken'. Proposed by Cllr Joslin seconded by Cllr Everitt agreed unanimously.

It was confirmed to the meeting that residents need to get involved, accumulate the detailed data so that Hardwick's case can be put forward to our local Highways for their consideration and support.

A comment was made to the meeting that St Neots Road footpath needs to be repaired and it was confirmed that there is funding for this reinstatement/improvement from various local development projects. The reason for concentrating on the Limes Estate was because there was no County scheme currently in the pipeline for that.

3.7 The second Hills development in Hardwick S/3064/16/OL on St Neots Rd also contains £54K - S106 funds for electronic bus signs which HPC believes can be put to better use. SCDC James Fisher S106 Manager has confirmed that a Deed of variation for this second £54K will be considered but the wording of the variation needs to be for specific highways projects connected to the development and within budget.

A conversation is now necessary with Tam Parry (principal transport officer - transport assessment team- CCC) to establish our highway requirements in detail. The objective is to negotiate a deed of variation of the £54K from the Hills Dev. at 279 St Neots Rd

RESOLVED: The Parish Council supports that the Highways and Road Safety Working Group discuss a series of options with Highways, Tam Parry, and bring proposals for discussion and agreement by the HPC to a future meeting Proposed Cllr Everitt, Seconded Cllr Joslin unanimous approved.

4 Closure of meeting

APPROVED