

Hardwick Parish Council
Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday 28 September 2021 at 7.00 pm
Held at The Cabin at St Mary's, Hardwick

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

In attendance: 4 members of the public including Shaun Hughes and Daniel Lee (Climate Action Group) and Mrs A Griffiths (Minutes Secretary, LGS Services).

Open public session including reports from the County and District Councillors
None.

1. To receive apologies for absence

The Chairman conveyed the apologies of District Cllr Grenville Chamberlain (out of parish). He highlighted the following comments from Cllr Chamberlain's previously circulated written report:

- Complaints received about noise from the two festival weekends. These had been referred to SCDC's Licensing Department, who were investigating.
- The Combined Authority Mayor is being invited to a meeting of the Scrutiny and Overview Committee, to discuss local public transport policies.
- Cllr Chamberlain had requested that the planning application for 9 flats at the corner of Cambridge Road and St Neots Road be considered by the Planning Committee.

2. Declarations of interest

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

Cllr Joslin declared an interest in any item affecting St Neots Road as a resident of St Neots Road, and in items 4.6 and 6.7 as a member of the Climate Action Group.

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

None.

3. To approve the minutes of the previous meeting

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting on 24 August be approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record, after an amendment under item 8.3 to delete the words "2-3 fence panels are broken and" and "and panels." (Prop DW, 2nd PJ, carried with 6 in favour and 1 abstention)

4. Matters arising or deferred from the last or previous meetings for discussion/decision

4.1 (4.5) To consider design and prices for memorial bench at Grenadier Walk

RESOLVED, given Cllr Joolia's suggestion that other options, including a picnic table, be considered, to delegate to Cllrs Joolia and Wellbelove to make a recommendation on the bench, and to defer this item until the report on the play areas is received, for consideration at the same time. Communication with residents and potential problems with litter are also to be considered.

4.2 There was no item 4.2.

4.3 (5.2) Worcester Avenue climbing equipment – to consider cost for paint

RESOLVED to note proper preparation would be required before painting and that the correct type of red, green and blue paint for the play equipment would be needed.

4.4 (5.2) To consider quotation for repair/replacement of basket swing at Egremont Road
RESOLVED to accept the quotation from RPM for £150.00 plus VAT to repair the swing, noting that if the parts are worn RPM will quote to replace the item.
RESOLVED to check if the work is subject to guarantee and to check the original invoice for the cost of the item. (Prop AG, 2nd DW, unanimous)

4.5 (5.2 of 22.6.21) Rospa repairs 2021 – To consider quotation for swing shackles at Egremont Road
RESOLVED to accept the quotation from RPM for a total cost of £400.00 plus VAT to check and lubricate the shackles on the swings at Egremont Road play area.
(Prop AG, 2nd DW, unanimous)

4.6 (6.3) To review Climate Action Group tree planting proposals
RESOLVED to receive the Chairman's verbal report on a meeting with Daniel Lee and Shaun Hughes to discuss the proposed locations. A consensus had been reached on where the trees should go for the benefit of the village.

On a proposition by the Chairman, at 7.31 pm the meeting was suspended to enable Messrs Lee and Hughes to comment on the sites chosen. The implications of climate change, which they believed should take priority over other considerations, were highlighted. The species had been selected to be the most adaptable to future climate conditions. It was recommended that the Parish Council review its Tree Policy as regards tree cover, in the light of climate change and suggested that a letter of thanks be sent to AstraZeneca for funding the trees.

The meeting resumed.

RESOLVED to proceed with the plan for planting 70 trees subject to the following amendments:

- Fewer trees to be planted in the area between Ellison Lane and the pump, which was used by children for ball games, and which was adjacent to a footpath, where leaves could cause a slippery surface.
- Fewer trees to be planted in the area between Laxton Avenue and Limes Road, which was also used as a space for under 10s ball games and was close to houses.

RESOLVED that the trees not planted in the above areas should be planted in the spinney instead, where there is room for 56 trees, in the most appropriate positions.

RESOLVED to ask the Climate Action Group to carry out the tree planting and that Messrs Hughes and Lee should forward a plan of the updated locations. (Prop AG, 2nd PJ, unanimous)

On a proposition by the Chairman, it was agreed to vary the order of business to take item 6.7 at this point.

6.7 Hardwick Climate Action Group request to introduce meadow areas on Parish Council land

RESOLVED, having received assurances from the Climate Action Group that the proposals should not cause inconvenience to the grass cutting contractors, to approve the Climate Action Group's proposals for trial meadow areas on Parish Council land for the next planting season, subject to the Climate Group monitoring and maintaining the wildflower areas.

RESOLVED that the Climate Action Group should provide their proposed amendments to the maintenance specification for these areas, for consideration at the next meeting.

RESOLVED that the Climate Action Group should also provide the Parish Council with information on the basis for planting the meadow areas, to assist with communications with neighbouring residents.

4.7 (9) Lighting on the St Mary's public open space and access road

RESOLVED, given that there is no lighting on the access road, to investigate the legal issues including land ownership, the process and the options for introducing lighting to the area, for consideration at the next meeting.

4.8 Future management of the allotments at Meridian Fields

On a proposition by the Chairman, the meeting was suspended to enable Steve Gaze to speak. He outlined the arrangements for the current allotments and their organisation, suggested contact with the National Allotment Society and indicated his willingness to draft a leaflet for residents of the new development to gauge the amount of interest. It was suggested that the allotment holders could form a committee/society to manage the allotments themselves.

RESOLVED to make enquiries about membership of the National Allotment Society to benefit from their guidance.

RESOLVED to investigate how other Parish Councils with allotments are organised.

RESOLVED to accept Steve Gaze's kind offer to draft a leaflet for the residents of Meridian Fields to publicise the allotments and gauge any interest, asking interested residents to contact the Clerk. Cllr Giddings offered to deliver the leaflets when ready. Steve Gaze offered to ask Hill to put in a double gate and move the bench.

On a proposition by the Chairman, it was agreed to vary the order of business to bring forward item 8.4 and 8.5.

Cllr Everitt proposed that the reports section of the meeting be brought forward on a rotational basis so that it was not always deferred to the next meeting due to lack of time.

8.4 Feedback from GCP Meeting 22nd September

RESOLVED to receive the previously circulated report from the Working Group on a positive meeting with Jo Baker and Laura Gates of Greater Cambridge Partnership, with County Cllr Michael Atkins in attendance.

The proposed alternative scheme for the C2C busway, replacing an off-road scheme with an on-carriageway scheme with segregated bus lanes, had been outlined. In addition, the GCP favoured an Active Travel Scheme carrying only bus, cycle and access traffic. This would only apply to the eastern end of St Neots Road and clarification will be sought about what would happen west of Cambridge Road, and about the cycle route proposals. The Parish Council queried the need for a segregated bus lane, especially if the bus would not reach speeds of 55 mph through Hardwick as this speed applied to open countryside travel. Concerns were expressed at the potential volume of traffic coming down through the village, resulting in greater congestion, and the need for mitigation.

RESOLVED, as it had not been possible for Mr Baker to deal with the questions put to him, that Cllr Everitt should re-send him the list of questions 1-17, as well as asking him to confirm the dimensions for the proposed scheme. (Prop AE, 2nd PJ, unanimous)

8.5 Highways and Road Safety Working Group verbal report

RESOLVED to receive Cllr Everitt's verbal report, covering:

- The Parish Council's plans for the already approved LHI and PHFI schemes might have to be reviewed if the proposals for the C2C and Active Travel Plan proceed.

- Due to an overspend on the CCC budget for the footpath works, the cost of the LHI work for the Cambridge Road Give Way scheme, which was to have been done concurrently to save money, has increased from £16,800 to approximately £24,800. Highways were now seeking an increased Parish Council contribution which might amount to approximately £5000, even if savings are made on the scheme, and were discussing the position with the footpath officers. The Cambridge Road footpath scheme remains incomplete.
- The estate footpaths scheme for 2021 is complete.
- The Greenways project has now been transferred from CCC to the GCP. A potential North-South route through the fields had been worked out.
- The Bourn Airfield S106 had not yet been agreed. The Heads of Agreement showed funding for a Greenways extension from Bourn Airfield through Caldecote to Hardwick Portway.

RESOLVED that the Chairman and Clerk should discuss the proposal to move the reports section higher up the agenda in future.

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

None.

5.2 To receive play areas and skate park inspection reports and consider if any work is required

RESOLVED to clarify with ARD whether they have carried out the weed treatment at Worcester Avenue, as the weeds are still growing. The cable ties on the cradle seat swing have to be tightened frequently.

RESOLVED to confirm with ARD whether they have carried out the work on the slippery surface by the see-saw at Grenadier Walk.

Cllr Wellbelove highlighted that the skate park is becoming worn and beyond its lifespan.

RESOLVED to ask the litter picker to remove the litter from the hedgerow behind the skate park.

5.3 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 PKF Littlejohn (External audit) £360.00. (Prop DW, 2nd PJ, unanimous)

Salaries and pensions	£776.96
ARD (Rospa repairs)	£1722.60
LGS Services (Admin support Aug 21)	£1382.36
Zurich (Insurance)	£2217.25
Oakes and Watson (Replacement field maples)	£240.00
RH Landscapes (Grass cutting)	£804.00

A resident's contribution towards trees was noted.

5.4 Review of banking arrangements

RESOLVED to investigate options for obtaining a better rate on the funds currently held in the current account for the next meeting, given that it was understood the substantial bills for the Community Hall would not be received until construction starts, which was unlikely to be for some six months.

5.5 Grass cutting and village maintenance contract 2022-2024

5.5.1 To review the existing specification and consider if any changes are required

RESOLVED to defer this item to the next meeting pending receipt of the information from the Climate Action Group.

- 5.5.2 Proposal for the Sudeley Green Area – trimming back overgrown vegetation. Hazardous Briars and Nettles, waste to be shredded/chipped and left on site as mulch/cover. It should be added to our village maintenance contract, this area should open and safe for all to enjoy

RESOLVED to obtain quotations to clear a tranche approximately 3 metres wide, following the path through the spinney for this year, and consider adding this to the village maintenance specification when it is considered at the next meeting.

RESOLVED to seek a quotation for removing brambles and scrub from the edge of the NE corner of the Recreation Ground. Cllrs Joslin and Giddings are willing to attend on site.

On a proposition by the Chairman, it was agreed to vary the order of business to take items 8.2, 8.1 and 8.3 next.

- 8.2 Street naming at Capstone Fields – Proposal that the SCDC decision be publicised on the website, on Facebook and in Hardwick Happenings

Cllr Rose reported that the planners and developers had now agreed the proposed names for Capstone Fields, and that all the families involved had been notified.

RESOLVED that a note should be placed on the website, Facebook and in Hardwick Happenings that the streets are being named in recognition of the special service given to the village by residents who have sadly passed away. ^(Prop SR, 2nd AG, unanimous)

- 8.1 New Housing Developments and Planning Obligations

Cllr Rose reported on the pre-planning advice received for the new Community Hall. The Group will be meeting the architect on 5 October to decide on the next steps and propose to put forward more evidence on how the games area is currently used and the potential future use if the Community Centre sports hall to meet SCDC's concerns about the loss of the MUGA. Cllr Rose will report back to the next meeting.

Cllr Rose reported that the SCDC planners had not selected any sites in Hardwick from the Call for Sites, and would focus on the east of Cambridge, Cambourne, Northstowe, Waterbeach and Bourn Airfield. However, the Parish Council had been approached by two developers seeking to build in the village. A meeting with one developer regarding a proposed site adjacent to Capstone Fields had been attended by the Chairman and Cllr Rose to find out more about the proposals. Another developer had also sought a meeting regarding land to the east of Cambridge Road. The Chairman and Cllr Rose will report back on any meetings, which would be entirely neutral and only for fact finding purposes, in accordance with their remit.

- 8.3 Proposal that the Parish Council accepts SCDC's offer of Six Free Trees

RESOLVED to accept the offer and request 6 trees, for delivery to Cllr Giddings. ^(Prop AG, 2nd AJ, unanimous)

On a proposition by the Chairman, the order of business was again varied.

7. Planning Applications and Decision notices and tree works applications

- 7.1 Planning applications received since the last meeting

- 7.1.1 21/03961/FUL – Land in front of 277 St Neots Road – Erection of a dwelling

RESOLVED that the Parish Council is neutral but recommends that the planners consider the safety of the access as it is next to Capstone Fields. ^(Prop PJ, 2nd AG, unanimous)

- 7.1.2 21/03912/HFUL – 22 Bramley Way – Demolition and renewal of existing garden wall to the back garden of the property and the erection of a 2.1 metre high metal fencing

system to extend to within half of metre of the adjacent footpath and the removal of an existing laurel hedge

RESOLVED to object to the application, on the grounds of visibility, as the 2.1 metre high metal fence alongside the path and on the bend will impair visibility. It is also completely out of character for the surroundings. (Prop AG, 2nd PJ, unanimous)

7.1.3 21/04130/HFUL – 30 Laxton Avenue – First floor side extension

RESOLVED that the Parish Council supports the application. (Prop AG, 2nd PJ, carried with 6 in favour and 1 abstention)

7.2 SCDC and appeal decision notices - to note

7.2.1 21/03043/HFUL – 1 Worcester Avenue – Ground and first floor side extension, removal of entrance porch and alterations to window opening on front elevation – Permission granted

7.3 Tree works applications

7.3.1 21/1187/TTPO – Hardwick Community Primary School

RESOLVED, given that the Parish Council had no objections, to make no response.

7.3.2 21/1254/TTCA – 44 Main Street

RESOLVED, given that the Parish Council had no objections, to make no response.

6. Correspondence/communications received

RESOLVED that the remaining items below be deferred to the October meeting.

6.1 SCDC – street lighting from new development

6.2 Resident – Trees around the recreation ground

6.3 Resident – Complaint about noise and granting of music licences for festival events

6.4 SCDC – Government consultation on the Oxford – Cambridge Arc

6.5 CCC – Local Highway Improvement Scheme – Invitation to bid

6.6 MAGPAS – request for financial support

6.7 Hardwick Climate Action Group request to introduce meadow areas on Parish Council land

Taken earlier.

8. Members' reports and items for information only

8.1 New Housing Developments and Planning Obligations

Taken earlier.

8.2 Street naming at Capstone Fields – Proposal that the SCDC decision be publicised on the website, on Facebook and in Hardwick Happenings

Taken earlier.

8.3 Proposal that the Parish Council accepts SCDC's offer of Six Free Trees

Taken earlier.

8.4 Feedback from GCP Meeting 22nd September

Taken earlier.

8.5 Highways and Road Safety Working Group verbal report

Taken earlier.

9. Closure of meeting and items for the next agenda

There was no further business and the meeting closed at 9.37 pm.

SignedChairmandate