

Hardwick Parish Council
Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday 23 November 2021 at 7.00 pm
Held at The Cabin at St Mary's, Hardwick

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

In attendance: 2 members of the public: Chris Cracknell (HSSC) and Steve Gaze; and Mrs A Griffiths (Minutes Secretary, LGS Services).

Open public session including reports from the County and District Councillors

The Chairman conveyed the apologies of District Cllr Grenville Chamberlain who was attending a meeting at Cambourne.

Chris Cracknell on behalf of HSSC spoke regarding item 7.3 and expressed the gratitude of the Club and the members for all the support received from the Parish Council and the District Council. He explained that the Club was still not in a position to open 7 days a week, as people were still reluctant to mingle and there had been a drop in membership renewals during the January lockdown. He outlined the Club's financial position as regards income and reserves, which he believed could be sustained in the short term. Audited accounts were available for inspection if required. The Chairman indicated his intention to bring item 7.3 forward on the agenda.

1. To receive apologies for absence

Apologies had been received from Cllr Wellbelove.

Apologies were also received from District Cllr Grenville Chamberlain.

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 item 7.4.1 and any item affecting St Neots Road, as a resident of St Neots Road.

Cllrs Everitt and Joslin declared an interest in the LHI application as they had compiled it.

Cllr Joolia declared an interest in any item affecting St Neots Road as a resident of St Neots Road.

Cllr Giddings declared an interest in item 7.3 as a member of HSSC.

Cllr Rose declared an interest in item 7.3 as a founder and life member of HSSC, who was on the committee and involved in the agreement for the lease which set out the rent terms. He had excused himself when the proposal for the rent freeze had been made as he believed he had a pecuniary interest, and indicated that he would leave the meeting when this item was discussed.

Cllr Everitt declared an interest in item 7.3 as a member of HSSC.

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 26 October be approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record, after the following amendments: by item 8.4.2 1), to add "Cllr Everitt declared an interest as he helped find the funding for the application, helped Cllr Joslin to write it, negotiated with Highways Officers and presented it at a Q & A session;" and under item 6.2, to insert a comma after "shackles." (Prop SR, 2nd PJ, carried with 4 in favour and 2 abstentions)

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

In response to queries, it was confirmed that the brambles at Grenadier Walk had been followed up, and that the Speed Watch display equipment had been handed over to Toft.

4.1 (4.1) SCDC – Street lighting from new development – update and to consider response

RESOLVED to receive Cllr Everitt's report. He had raised the matter with District Councillor Chamberlain who had spoken to SCDC on the Parish Council's behalf. SCDC would like the Parish Council to be responsible for the maintenance of four new light columns on St Neots Road. Cllr Everitt will be having a further discussion with SCDC Street Lighting tomorrow.

4.2 (5.6) To consider a recommendation from Cllr Giddings on the quotations for removing brambles and scrub from the north east corner of the Recreation Ground

RESOLVED to accept the quotation from RH Landscapes for £450.00 plus VAT to remove the brambles and scrub from the north east corner of the Recreation Ground, including the brambles encroaching on the footpath, and to raise the crowns of the trees that are not on the boundary. (Prop SR, 2nd AG, carried with 3 in favour and 3 abstentions)

On a proposition by the Chairman it was agreed to vary the order of business to take item 7.3 next.

7.3 Proposal that the Parish Council considers whether it should now start charging rent to the Social Club, full rent or reduced monthly charge

Cllr Rose, having previously declared an interest in this item, left the meeting at 7.36 pm.

Mr Cracknell was invited to expand on the financial position of the Club and answer questions.

RESOLVED to defer resumption of the rent payments at this stage and review the position and the accounts in three months' time. (Prop AG, 2nd IG, carried with 5 in favour)

Cllr Rose re-joined the meeting at 7.47 pm.

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:

In conjunction with Cllr Rose - AMA authorisation for Professional reports required as part of the planning application process for the Community Centre.

Preliminary Ecological Appraisal - Cambridge Ecology £998+ estimated disbursements of £595.

Transport and Highways Statements - Stantec £2,500 + £750

The architect sought proposals from two professional firms for each report and all firms responded with quotes. The above show the best (and least cost) quotes received and were the ones recommended by the architect and by the HCCWG.

Other

Cllr Rose reported that he had enquired with a financial adviser about the legal position regarding the Financial Services Compensation Scheme as to whether this applies to Parish Councils and was awaiting a response. It was suggested that a risk-free solution might be to invest in National Savings which were Government backed. RESOLVED to defer further consideration until the next meeting.

It was noted that Cambridge and Counties Bank had returned the transfer of £400,000 as it did not recognise the Parish Council account that the payment was drawn on, and the Clerk was dealing with the matter.

- 5.2 To receive play areas and skate park inspection reports and consider if any work is required
RESOLVED to receive Cllr Wellbelove's written reports and to note that there were no significant areas requiring attention at this time.
- 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 RH Landscapes (Grenadier Walk brambles) £420.00, Oakes & Watson (Tree branch Ashmead Drive) £168.00, Unicorn Glazing (Telephone kiosk) £214.91 and RH Landscapes (Grass cutting) £624.00.
RESOLVED to note that the invoice from RH Landscapes for removal of the brambles also included removal of ivy, as it was not possible to remove the brambles without removing the ivy also.
RESOLVED, noting that the invoice from Civilistix, for the correct amount of £1850.00 plus VAT, included the incorrect invoice details, to request a revised invoice from them stating "Millers Way, Hardwick" and forward a scan of the revised invoice when received to members to enable payment between meetings.
(Prop PJW, 2nd AG, carried with 1 abstention)
- All Councillors are to receive copies of the invoices prior to the meeting.
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| Salaries and Pensions | £542.96 |
| LGS Services (Admin support Oct 21) | £1409.43 |
| The Cabin (Room hire) | £30.00 |
- A resident's contribution towards trees was noted.
- 6. Planning Applications and Decision notices and tree works applications**
- 6.1 S/3064/16/CONDP – Land south of 279 St Neots Road – Submission of details required by Condition 19 (External lighting) of outline planning permission S/3064/16/OL
Noted for information.
- 6.1.2 21/04942/HFUL – 9 Sudeley Grove – Single storey side and rear extension
RESOLVED to support the application. (Prop AG, 2nd PJ, unanimous)
- 6.2 SCDC and appeal decision notices - to note
- 6.2.1 21/04214/CL2PD – 12 Merton Walk – Certificate of lawfulness under S192 for a proposed garage conversion (internal only) to home office/games room – Certificate granted
- 6.2.2 21/04130/HFUL – 30 Laxton Avenue – First floor side extension – Permission granted
- 6.2.3 21/03961/FUL – Land in front of 277 St Neots Road – Erection of a dwelling – Permission granted
- 6.2.4 21/03912/FUL – 22 Bramley Way – Demolition and removal 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 a metre of the adjacent footpath and the removal of an existing laurel hedge – Withdrawn.
- 6.3 Tree works applications
- 6.3.1 21/1407/TTPO – 6 Ashmead Drive
RESOLVED that the Parish Council has no objections but expects the TPO Officer to carry out a site visit.
Cllr Everitt reported that the application for 5 flats at the Cambridge Road/St Neots Road site would be considered at a meeting of the SCDC Planning Committee on 8 December.
- 7. Members' reports and items for information only**

On a proposition by the Chairman, it was agreed to vary the order of business to take items 7.4 and 7.5 first.

7.4 Cambridge Active Transport Scheme

7.4.1 Proposal that the Council considers an overview of the Active Travel scheme proposed for St Neots Road and how it fits with other initiatives to ensure the PC is better informed on the scheme proposed and how it integrates with other Schemes for this stretch of road

Cllr Everitt reported.

- There was little further information on the Active Travel Scheme and it was unclear why the bus gate was now back under consideration when the Council had been informed last year that the bus gate was no longer being considered. There was no need for a bus gate at this time. The prospect of a bus gate was causing disquiet among residents on Facebook and would increase the traffic going down through the village.
- The GCP thought that a free route for buses from Cambridge Road to Madingley Mulch would save the trees, but if consent was granted to build opposite the shop, a second route through the village would have to emerge into a car free zone.
- The Active Travel officers would go through the consultation results when they next met the Parish Council.

7.4.2 Proposal that the Council set a date for Clare Rankin to attend a meeting to discuss the Active Transport Scheme

RESOLVED as Clare Rankin had pulled out of the previously arranged meeting on 16 November, that the Chairman should invite her to a meeting, on Tuesday 30 November at 7.00 pm, in the School Hall if available, or if she is unable to attend, on Tuesday 7 December at 7.00 pm. Jo Baker is also to be invited. Once Ms Rankin's attendance has been confirmed, details of the meeting are to be sent to the Communications Group so that the meeting can be publicised to residents.

7.5 Highways and Road Safety Working Group monthly report including traffic volumes in the village

7.5.1 To share an update on C2C and Greenways following GCP West Forum 16th Nov and discuss what further action to take

Cllr Everitt reported on the GCP meeting he had attended with Cllrs Joslin and Gill, with Jo Baker also present.

- Jo Baker did not have any further information on how the trees and laybys on St Neots Road would be affected. He had agreed to consider the Parish Council's suggestion of a single inbound carriageway for buses in the morning. He may also consider a hybrid scheme with the C2C running off-road behind the trees west of Cambridge Road and reverting to on-road eastbound near Cambridge Road.
- Mixed use cycle scheme - the Parish Council had challenged the suggestion that the laybys on St Neots Road could be lost in order to accommodate a cycleway. Residents and businesses should be asked whether the loss of laybys would be problematic. Concerns were expressed about pedestrian safety for bus users.
- Jo Baker had indicated that without the Active Travel Scheme, the C2C would necessitate removal of most of the tree line east of Cambridge Road.
- The Bourn Airfield S106 agreement had not yet been finalised and it would be necessary to await this to ensure that funding for Bourn to Hardwick and Comberton Greenways was available. A link was proposed between Comberton and St Neots Road but no details were available, although the Heads of

Agreement provided for a Greenway joining up with Portway. It had been observed that Long Road was too dangerous for walking and cycling, and Jo Baker had indicated that traffic should be slowed down.

- City traffic was now up to 85% of pre-Covid levels but in St Neots Road from west to east the levels were 43% of 2018 levels, with east to west traffic about 60% of 2018 levels. The 85% figure was queried as Comberton to Barton traffic levels had reduced from 700 vehicles to 150 vehicles per hour.
- LHI applications – the start date for the Give Way scheme is still awaited and the cost of the scheme and contribution required is still being discussed. Information is awaited from Highways on how the St Neots Road scheme will proceed in the light of the outstanding Active Travel consultation results.

7.5.2 Update on SCDC approach to Lighting maintenance including Capstone Fields scheme and future additional lights and decide next actions

Taken earlier under item 4.1.

7.1 New Housing Developments and Planning Obligations

RESOLVED to receive Cllr Rose's report.

- All units at Meridian Fields had been sold and work was ongoing on clearing areas. It was expected any final S106 proposals would have gone to SCDC.
- Capstone Fields Phase 1 was proceeding at pace with the first occupation planned for January 2022. The status of Phase 2 was not known.
- Cllr Rose and the Chairman had attended a meeting with Chivers regarding land to the east of Cambridge Road, along with Hill and Barton Willmore, to receive an update on their plans. They plan to make representations for inclusion in the Local Plan. They envisage 350-400 houses but no longer behind or to the south of Kesters Close. There will be more green space than required. It had been made clear that members were there just to listen and would report back to the Parish Council.
- Community Centre – consultants were being appointed to provide the independent reports that the planners had requested. The Working Group research had shown that the MUGA is not extensively used, except by the Boot Camp. The Working Group needs to persuade the planners that the Community Centre with the Sports Hall is preferable to the MUGA.
- The importance of consulting the village on new developments via a public meeting was noted, although there was as yet nothing definite to consult on.
- Allotments – Cllr Giddings reported that all houses had been leafleted and asked that the responses received be handed to him.

7.2 Pond on Main Street, Hardwick

Cllr Everitt reported that he had consulted two organisations whose advice had been contradictory to that previously received from the Wildlife Trust. He had contacted Wild Frontier Ecology who had confirmed there was no requirement to check on Great Crested Newts if the work was carried out in the autumn/winter but before the end of January. In addition he had sought advice from a landscaping company Natural Landscapes who had recommended removing the reed mace roots to prevent recurrence at a cost of approximately £3350.

8. To consider any correspondence/communications received requiring formal noting by or a decision of the Council

8.1 Resident – request for yellow lines in Main Street

Cllr Everitt reported that he had notified the resident of information superseding his previous report, namely that the County Council now intends to leave the tarmac

access road in place, and that parking was not permitted on the tarmac area between Main Street and the gated part of the road. It would be very difficult to obtain double yellow lines.

8.2 Greater Cambridge Shared Planning – Greater Cambridge Local Plan First Proposals response form and consultation

RESOLVED, noting that the consultation had been advertised locally and was primarily aimed at individuals, that the Parish Council need not submit a response.

9. Closure of meeting and items for the next agenda (next meeting 14 December)

There was no further business and the meeting closed at 9.15 pm.

SignedChairmandate

APPROVED