

**Hardwick Parish Council**  
**Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday 25 January 2022 at 7.00 pm**  
**Held at The Cabin at St Mary's, Hardwick**

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

In attendance: Steve Gaze (Allotments) and Mrs Gail Stoehr (Clerk).

**Open public session including reports from the County and District Councillors**

The Chairman proposed that discussion regarding the allotments be covered under item 4.

**1. To receive apologies for absence**

Apologies had been received from Cllr Giddings (preventative isolation).

The resignation of Dean Wellbelove was noted. The Parish Council recorded its thanks to him for all his hard work as a member.

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 Rose declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 8.1, memorial bench correspondence from Hardwick Football Club, as a life member of the Football Club.

**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 meetings on 23 November and 18 January**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting on 23 November be approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record, after adding under item 5.3 "All Councillors are to receive copies of the invoices prior to the meeting." (Prop SR, 2nd AG, carried with 3 in favour, 1 against and 1 abstention)

The Clerk advised that the comments and complaints of individual councillors were not recorded, only the decisions.

RESOLVED that an amendment be made to the minutes of the meeting on 18 January that under item 4.1, bullet point 4, the amount of provision for grounds improvement be changed from £5000 to £10,000. (Prop AE, 2nd PJ, carried with 3 in favour and 2 against.)

RESOLVED that following the amendment the minutes of the meeting on 18 January be approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record, after re-numbering the pages to 858 and 859 and subject to the above amendment to item 4.1. (Prop AE, 2nd AG, unanimous)

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

**4.1 (4.1) SCDC – Street lighting position - update**

RESOLVED to receive Cllr Everitt's report that SCDC have told the Parish Council in writing that they will maintain the four new street lights.

The Clerk advised that the Parish Council considering adopting and maintaining street lights should be an agenda item.

RESOLVED, given the poor lighting between Hall Drive and Millers Way and also the urgency of SCDC finalising the S106 Agreement, the Parish Council is willing to adopt and maintain the four lights between Hall Drive to Millers Way. (Prop SR, 2nd AG, unanimous)

RESOLVED that Cllr Rose should relay the Council's decision to James Fisher and inform him that this is in respect of the agreement for Phase 2 and relates to the lights between Hall Drive and Millers Way only.

RESOLVED that Cllr Everitt should pursue the other lights via County Cllr Michael Atkins. <sup>(Prop AE, 2nd AG, unanimous)</sup>

- 4.2 (5.1) Proposal that the Parish Council considers limiting the amount of cash held with any one bank to £80,000, and/or opening an account with National Savings & Investments (NSI) and that any surplus cash in excess of FSCS limits is transferred to an NSI account

RESOLVED to limit the amount of cash normally held with any one bank to £80,000, RESOLVED to open a National Savings & Investments (NSI) trustees account and that any surplus cash in excess of FSCS limits is transferred to the NSI account <sup>(Prop SR, 2nd AG, unanimous)</sup>

- 4.3 (4.1 of 28.9.21) Memorial bench – to consider report and recommendation

RESOLVED to purchase a picnic table at a cost of £375.00 from recycledfurniture.co.uk for the Grenadier Walk play area. <sup>(Prop AJ, 2nd PJ, carried with 4 in favour and 1 abstention)</sup>

RESOLVED that Cllr Giddings be asked to install the bench if he is willing, but if not, to ask James Wakeling to install it.

The Clerk advised that the Parish Council has no power to erect memorials only to maintain them.

RESOLVED that the Chairman should write to Tejinder Bhachu's family to inform them of the bench.

- 4.4 (7.2 of 14/12/21) Proposal that a meeting is called of all residents who have expressed an interest in having an allotment so that they may organise themselves into an allotment society to run the allotments at Meridian Fields. Allocation should be by lot and the newly formed society should pay an annual peppercorn rent to the Council.

On a proposition by the Chairman the meeting was briefly adjourned at 8.10 pm to enable Steve Gaze to speak to this item. Mr Gaze hoped the lease could be agreed at the next meeting following which the interested parties should meet to organise themselves into a Society. The NSAG had provided him with model agreements.

The meeting resumed.

RESOLVED, noting there were other allotments in the village open to the whole village that it is the Parish Council's intention that the Meridian Fields allotments be let in the first instance to Meridian Fields residents.

RESOLVED to invite interested parties to attend a meeting in early March.

RESOLVED that the Allotments Society, when formed should allocate allotments firstly to residents of Meridian Fields and if applications are insufficient, to open them to other residents in the village. <sup>(Prop SR, 2nd PJ, unanimous)</sup>

The Parish Council thanked Steve Gaze for all his hard work.

- 4.5 (7.3 of 14/12/21) Potential hazard – Slats on floor of wooden bridge breaking up – ROW route entrance opposite Blue Lion. Health and Safety issue was first reported in October no action yet by CCC. A recent reminder has been emailed, should a notice be erected 'Hazard' is HPC responsible for repairs?

RESOLVED to note that Chivers had carried out temporary repairs and that Cllr Joslin should approach Peter Gaskin of CCC and ask what he intends to do about replacing the bridge, although there is no hazard at the moment.

RESOLVED to note that despite being reported by a Councillor the bridge (as often used by Hardwick residents) on the other side of the blue bridge over A428 was still outstanding.

- 4.6 (7.4 of 14/12/21) Proposal to clarify arrangements for communications with Councillors when the Clerk is unavailable  
RESOLVED to take this item under item 7.4.
- 4.7 (7.6 of 14/12/21) Following the presentation on Active Travel on St Neots Road, to ensure the Parish Council is better informed on the scheme proposed and how it integrates with other schemes for this stretch of road  
Cllr Everitt spoke to the Highways and Road Safety Working Group's report and outlined the four-stage timetable in the report.
- 4.8 (7.7 of 14/12/21) Update on Active Travel Plans and ownership – follow up to Parish Zoom Meeting on 6 December and County Transport and Highways Committee meeting on 7 December  
RESOLVED to note that this project now comes under the remit of the Greater Cambridge Partnership.
- 4.9 (7.8 of 14/12/21) Update on GCP C2C progress including “Proposal to seek views of businesses and residents regarding removal of lay-bys from St Neots Road west of Cambridge Road”  
RESOLVED that Cllr Everitt should seek the views of businesses and residents regarding removal of lay-bys for the whole length of St Neots Road via a leaflet, and place an item on Facebook, having circulated the wording to the Parish Council in advance. (Prop AE, 2nd PJ, carried with 4 in favour and 1 abstention)
- 4.10 (4 of 18.1.22) Hardwick Happenings – to consider the level of Parish Council financial support  
RESOLVED, having considered the Hardwick Happenings's emails and accounts to approve a grant from the Parish Council's budget when the money held by Hardwick Happenings falls below £3000, ie at which point the funds cover the printing costs for three further issues. (Prop SR, 2nd AE, unanimous)  
RESOLVED that when a request is received from Hardwick Happenings it should be tabled for an agenda.
- 4.11 (3 of 18.1.22) Proposal for notice boards  
RESOLVED having considered Cllr Joolia's recommendation to purchase an unglazed notice board from Greenbarnes at a cost of £609.35 to replace the existing notice board on Limes Road using the existing posts. (Prop AG, 2nd PJ, unanimous)  
RESOLVED to ask Cllr Giddings if he is willing to install it, and if not, Cllr Joolia will approach the person who kindly installed the one by the shop. If neither can do the installation James Wakeling is to be contracted to install the new notice board.

## **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 to:
- 1) Make arrangements to pay invoices received between meetings due to the December meeting being cancelled. The Chairman kindly paid the webhosting invoice which should be reimbursed at the January meeting.
  - 2) Ask James Wakeling to fill pot holes in Millers Way as a matter of urgency on grounds of Health & Safety, as reported to her by Cllr Everitt.

### Other

RESOLVED to note that the responses received on the proposed installation of street lighting on the St Mary's access road were supportive of the project and quotations had therefore been sought. Cllr Everitt was now managing the project and would bring a recommendation to the Parish Council when the quotations had been received.

- 5.2 To receive play areas and skate park inspection reports and consider if any work is required  
 RESOLVED to note that there were broken slats under the zip wire platform.  
 RESOLVED that Cllr Everitt should carry out the checks on the St Mary's Church play area.  
 RESOLVED that the Chairman should carry out the checks on the Skate park, and Egremont Road play areas, and in the short term, on the Worcester Avenue and Grenadier Walk play areas. Cllr Everitt is to seek volunteers to carry out these checks.  
 RESOLVED to forward the inspection forms to Cllrs Everitt, Gill and Joolia.  
 RESOLVED to appoint Cllr Gill to be the keyholder for the notice board.
- 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 A Gill (Expenses – web hosting) £75.92, James Wakeling (Millers Way potholes) £525.00, Stantec (Community Centre) £1950.00, and Cabin at St Mary's (Room hire) £18.00 and £36.00.  
 (Prop PJ, 2nd AG, unanimous)
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|----------------------------------|----------|
| Salaries and Pensions            | £780.96  |
| DB Roofing (5% Retention)        | £309.56  |
| The Cabin (Room hire)            | £30.00   |
| RH Landscapes (Spinney path)     | £540.00  |
| LGS Services (Admin support Dec) | £1462.59 |
| Allen Pyke (Community Hall)      | £1690.80 |
| Morelock (MVAS brackets)         | £148.80  |
- A resident's contribution towards trees was noted.
- 5.4 To consider quotations for carrying out a tree survey  
 RESOLVED to defer this item until later in the year.
- 6. Planning Applications and Decision notices and tree works applications**
- 6.1.1 21/04995/FUL – 181 St Neots Road – Erection of new dwelling at the rear of existing bungalow – to note response made between meetings - the Parish Council made no comments.  
 Noted.
- 6.1.2 21/03438/FUL Land at 147 St Neots Road – 9 self contained flats amended application and request from Cllr Chamberlain that the Parish Council confirm that a call in is required – to note response made between meetings – the Parish Council made no comments on the recent amended application.  
 RESOLVED to note that Cllr Chamberlain has called in the application and to confirm to him that the Parish Council was grateful to him for taking it to the District Council's Planning Committee.
- 6.1.3 22/00058/HFUL – 27 Worcester Avenue – Rear single storey extension and garage conversion  
 RESOLVED to support the application. (Prop AG, 2nd PJ, unanimous)
- 6.2 SCDC and appeal decision notices - to note
- 6.2.1 21/04480/HFUL – 293 St Neots Road – Single storey rear extension, front porch, loft conversion with dormers – Permission granted.
- 6.2.2 21/03244/S73 - Land south of 279 St Neots Road – S73 to vary condition 1 (approved drawings) of 20/02728/REM (Approval of matters reserved for appearance, landscaping, layout and scale following outline planning permission S/3064/16/OL for 155 dwellings following demolition of 2 existing dwellings) to rotate plots 46 and 48 – Permission granted.

- 6.2.3 21/04942/HFUL – 9 Sudeley Grove – Single storey side and rear extension – Permission granted.
- 6.2.4 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 – Condition discharged in full.
- 6.2.5 20/01790/FUL – Land north of 1 Kings Road – Erection of new office with associated landscaping and parking following demolition of existing barns – Permission refused.

6.3 Tree works applications  
None.

## **7. Members' reports and items for information only**

7.1 New Housing Developments and Planning Obligations  
Nothing urgent to report.

7.2 Highways and Road Safety Report

7.2.1 Proposal that HPC requests Hill not to remove the tarmac as it is currently a hard surface area that prevents mud being driven/walked onto Main Street  
RESOLVED that Cllr Everitt be appointed to ask for the tarmac to remain. (Prop SR, 2nd AE, unanimous)

7.2.2 Proposal that HPC agrees to pay legal costs for Deed of Variation for S/3064/16/OL provided these costs are commensurate with the costs agreed for the earlier Deed of Variation for S/1694/16/OL and require SCDC confirmation that this shall be the case.

RESOLVED that Cllr Everitt be appointed to inform James Fisher of SCDC that the Parish Council agrees to pay legal costs for Deed of Variation for S/3064/16/OL provided these costs are commensurate with the costs agreed for the earlier Deed of Variation for S/1694/16/OL and require SCDC confirmation that this shall be the case. (Prop SR, 2nd PJ, unanimous)

7.2.3 Proposal that the Parish Council considers the Village Roads Map board draft plan from Hill and whether replacement of the map by the Church should be requested.  
RESOLVED to approve the proposal and that Cllr Everitt be appointed to inform Hill and point out a couple of errors on the draft design to them. (Prop AE, 2nd AG, carried with 4 in favour and 1 abstention)

RESOLVED that Cllr Everitt should also ask if Hill would also be willing to update the map board by the Church free of charge.

7.3 Proposal that the Parish Council considers the Ecology report and recommendations in the "Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment for Off-setting Enhancements" in respect of The Spinney off Egremont Road, and signs the undertaking to carry out the works set out in the report

RESOLVED that Cllrs Everitt and Gill should sign the agreement.

7.4 Proposal for changes to the Standing Orders

RESOLVED, given the lateness of the hour to defer this item to the next meeting.

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

8.1 Hardwick Football Club – Proposal for two new memorial benches to replace existing benches outside the Social Club

RESOLVED to agree to the installation of two memorial benches in the place where the existing benches are, on condition that the two removed Parish Council benches are re-installed on concrete bases along Limes Road at the Club's cost. (Prop AG, 2nd PJ, unanimous)

- 8.2 SCDC - Parish Indemnity Agreement for Sports and Play contributions, Land at Grace Crescent  
RESOLVED that Cllrs Everitt and Gill be appointed to sign the agreement. (Prop SR, 2nd AG, unanimous)
- 8.3 SCDC - Parish Indemnity Agreement for Community Bus, Land at Grace Crescent  
RESOLVED that Cllrs Everitt and Gill be appointed to sign the agreement. (Prop AG, 2nd PJ, unanimous)
- 8.4 There was no item 8.4.
- 8.5 Resident – maple trees in the Spinney – report of children interfering with the maple trees and request that action be taken to prevent the weedy trees overwhelming the maple trees  
RESOLVED to defer this item to the next meeting.
- 8.6 CCC – PR0781 Proposed 50 mph speed limit, St Neots Road, Comberton  
RESOLVED to support the application. Cllr Everitt is to provide the wording to the Clerk for her to send to CCC. (Prop AE, 2nd PJ, unanimous)
- 9. **Closure of meeting and items for the next agenda**  
RESOLVED that the Chairman should write thanking Paul Crinson for his work with the Community Speedwatch.

There was no further business and the meeting closed at 9.40 pm.

Signed .....Chairman .....date

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