

Hardwick Parish Council
Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday 22 February 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: 3 members of the public and Mr Ben Stoehr (Minutes Secretary, LGS Services).

Open public session including reports from the County and District Councillors

Residents expressed concerns about the loss of lay-bys in St Neots Road, as there was only limited parking available, and that this was likely to force the veterinary surgery to move out of the village.

1. To receive apologies for absence

Apologies had been received from Cllr Giddings (out of parish).
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, regarding the Football Club's request for removal of the astro cricket wicket, as a life member of the Football Club.
Cllr Joslin declared an interest in items affecting St Neots Road, as a resident of St Neots Road.

Cllr Joolia declared a pecuniary interest in the expenses claim submitted for payment.

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 on 25 January

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting on 25 January be approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record, after adding under item 4.5 after "the bridge" the wording "as it is often used by Hardwick residents." (Prop PJ, 2nd AG, unanimous)

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

4.1 (4.3) To seek the Council's approval for an additional £50 for the bench which has increased in price from £375 to £425

RESOLVED to approve the additional £50 for the bench. (Prop SR, 2nd PJ, unanimous)
The Chairman has sent a letter to the family.

RESOLVED that Cllr Rose should treat the wood on the bench near the Cabin.

4.2 (4.4) To consider the Meridian Fields allotments draft lease and agreement for the proposed Allotments Society

On a proposition by the Chairman, the meeting was briefly suspended to allow Steve Gaze to speak. He explained that he was seeking in principle approval for the agreement between the Parish Council and the Society, but not for the tenancy sections at this stage.

RESOLVED to make the following changes to the draft:

Clause 4.1.6 – Retain the clause but ignore the comments regarding livestock, and community fruit trees.

Indemnity clause/insurance – Include the relevant clause from the Chivers agreement with the existing Society.

Clause 7.1 – delete covenants.

Schedule 1, point 3 – It was not known whether a lock was needed.

Clause 5.4 – Retain the fires option; this can be reviewed if complaints are received.

The Parish Council thanked Steve Gaze for his efforts. The meeting resumed.

RESOLVED to agree in principle to the terms of the agreement and that Steve Gaze should take this to the tenants' meeting on 7th March. (Prop AG, 2nd PJ, unanimous)

- 4.3 (7.4) Proposal that the Parish Council considers changes to the Standing Orders which include (4.6) Proposal to clarify arrangements for communications with Councillors when the Clerk is unavailable

RESOLVED to take this item after item 8.2.

- 4.4 (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 ask Oakes and Watson if they could check the trees and maintain them as necessary.

- 4.5 (7.3 of 23.11.21) To consider request from HSSC that the Council grants another rent suspension to June 2022

Cllr Rose having declared a pecuniary interest as a founding and life member of HSSC left the meeting at 8.03pm.

RESOLVED to extend the rent suspension until June 2022 unless the Club returns to profitability before this. (Prop AE, 2nd PJ, unanimous)

Cllr Rose rejoined the meeting 8.06pm

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, noting that a panel on the fencing near the skate park had come down, to remove it but not to replace it. (Prop SR, 2nd AG, unanimous)

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

RESOLVED that concrete on the slide at the Church play area was breaking up and needed to be re-cemented.

RESOLVED to ask a cleaning contractor from Histon for an itemised quotation to clean all the play areas.

RESOLVED to obtain a quotation to remove grass/weeds on the tarmac at the Worcester Avenue play area.

- 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 Allen Pyke (Landscape Architects, Community Centre) £1938.36 and A Joolia (Expenses – website) £76.00. (Prop PJ, 2nd AE, unanimous)

Salaries and Pensions	£566.76
LGS Services (Admin support Jan)	£1425.86
Opus Energy (Street light electricity) (DD)	£387.74
A Joolia (Website expenses)	£150.75

A resident's contribution towards trees was noted.

6. Planning Applications and Decision notices and tree works applications

- 6.1.1 22/00375/HFUL – 6 Pershore Road – Two storey side extension following the demolition of the existing garage

RESOLVED, noting that there were many others in the area that were similar, to support the application. (Prop AG, 2nd PJ, carried with 4 in favour and 1 abstention)

6.2 SCDC and appeal decision notices - to note

6.2.1 21/01345/FUL – Newton House, 147 St Neots Road – Redevelopment to form 2 no. one bedroom and 3 no. two bedroom apartments with associated car parking, cycle storage, and bin storage – Permission granted

6.3 Tree works applications

6.3.1 22/0141/TTCA – 8 Sadlers Close
Noted.

7. Members' reports and items for information only

7.1 New Housing Developments and Planning Obligations

RESOLVED to note the report from Cllr Rose that the Working Group was now getting close to submitting the application. The Transport report was noted. No additional parking was required. The Group was investigating parking at the school to assist the neighbours. The costs would not be fully known until the project went out to tender.

7.2 Proposal for decorative shrubs for the recreation ground

RESOLVED that these were not thought to be needed at the moment, but would be considered as part of a wider village strategy.

7.3 Highways and Road Safety Working Group report

7.3.1 Update on St Mary's Lighting. Quotations and recommendations to implement a Scheme.

RESOLVED to note that the original location was not recommended by the suppliers. RESOLVED to note that two quotations had been received and that Balfour Beatty wished to carry out a lighting proposal for £256.07.

RESOLVED that the Parish Council agrees to Balfour Beatty's request to invoice £256.07 for a lighting proposal for St Mary's lighting. (Prop AE 2nd PJ carried)

7.3.2 As a result of discussions with contractors for St Mary's lights, to consider options of maintenance on St Neots Road. Proposal to reconsider the PC policy June 2021 meeting.

RESOLVED to add "unless the Parish Council agrees it is appropriate to nominate a different maintainer of lights to get the problem resolved." (Prop AE 2nd PJ carried)

RESOLVED having noted that County Councillor had notified Cllr Everitt that he was trying to locate the appropriate officer that the Parish Council should ask County Cllr Atkins to arrange a meeting with CCC and SCDC lighting officers, the Parish Council and Hill, unless the Parish Council agrees it is appropriate to nominate a different maintainer of lights to get the problem resolved.

7.3.3 Conclusions of St Neots Road lay-by survey with proposal that the results should be put to GCP for a re-think of their proposals to remove them. (Likely public attendance from Ash Croft Veterinary, maybe others)

RESOLVED to receive Cllr Everitt's verbal report that there had been 20 responses to the survey, the majority of which supported keeping the lay-bys as they were essential for business.

RESOLVED that Cllr Everitt should send the results of the lay-by survey to GCP without edit pointing out that residents have good reasons to want Lay-bys retained and that HPC requires to continue dialogue with GCP to ensure a solution can be agreed to accommodate normal daily life for Hardwick residents and businesses. (Prop AG, 2nd SR, unanimous)

- 7.3.4 Parish Council have not debated Active Travel proposals for St Neots Road. Proposal for a debate of options we have received so far with a Recommendation HPC insist on involvement with GCP to input to the next round of Active Travel consultation mandated by the Transport and Highway Committee 7th December 2021 so that all options are considered

RESOLVED that Cllr Everitt should write to the GCP to insist on being part of working groups evaluating Active Travel Plans for St Neots Road. This is to ensure plans do not go ahead without Hardwick business and residents views being taken into account. In particular Hardwick requires GCP to measure the journeys that may be affected and provide evidence of the effect of additional journey times on the environment.” (Prop AE, 2nd PJ, unanimous)

RESOLVED that Cllr Everitt should request a meeting with Jo Baker to discuss all aspects of the proposals for St Neots Road and that all members should attend, with the exception of Cllr Rose.

On a proposition by the Chairman, it was agreed to vary the order of business to take item 8 next.

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

- 8.1 Hardwick Football Club – request for removal of the Astro cricket wicket to allow a second football pitch

RESOLVED that Cllr Rose should convey to the clubs that the Football Club needs to speak to Chris Fuller to see whether there is a solution before the Parish Council considers the matter further.

- 8.2 Millers Way to consider correspondence from Civilistix requesting details of a barrier supplier and an update of the tender invitations

RESOLVED that the Parish Council believes that this is a matter for Civilistix to resolve, but to suggest a design similar to the barrier near the Egremont Road play area.

- 7.3.5 Highways and Road Safety WG will report back on a meeting with Highways projects called to discuss options of outstanding LHI and PFHI schemes for which Finance is already available or in the process of being obtained through DoV, Oct 2021 HPC Meeting referees. Proposal that HPC agrees to proceed

RESOLVED to receive the verbal report from Cllrs Joslin and Everitt on the Teams meeting with Josh Rutherford at CCC, where it had been agreed to invoke the 50 mph limit from the eastern end of St Neots Road to Madingley Mulch. They had suggested proceeding with the islands, one at Miller’s Way and one near the bus shelter at the Dry Drayton end of St Neots Road.

RESOLVED that the Parish Council agrees to the proposals at a cost of up to £7071.00. (Prop PJ, 2nd AE, unanimous)

- 7.6 Proposed for the already agreed passenger islands on St Neots Rd, that HPC to agree a cost of approx 7K for a feasibility/design to be carried out by Josh Rutherford’s group- Highways CCC. A detailed quotation from Josh will be provide more clarification when received in a day or two, but the design budget will be within 7K
Taken under item 7.3.5 above.

- 7.5 Proposal that the Parish Council applies for a Community Chest grant for the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee event

RESOLVED to apply for a grant for a bench, or similar, on the recreation ground at a cost of up to £700.00. (Prop AJ, 2nd PJ, unanimous)

9. Closure of meeting and items for the next agenda

RESOLVED that items 4.3 and 7.4 be deferred to the next meeting.

There was no further business and the meeting closed at 9.31 pm.

SignedChairmandate

DRAFT