

Minutes of the Hardwick Annual Parish Meeting
held on 19 April 2022 at 7.00 pm
at The Cabin at St Mary's, Hardwick

Present: 14 parishioners including Parish Council members

In attendance: Mrs A Griffiths (Minutes Secretary, LGS Services)

Cllr Tony Gill presided.

1. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from District Cllr Grenville Chamberlain, Cllr Pauline Joslin and Cllr Alan Everitt.

2. Minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting on 4 May 2021

Approval of the minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting was deferred as they could not be accessed because the link to the website was not working.

3. Matters arising

None.

4. Reports:

4.1 The Parish Council (Cllr Tony Gill, Chairman)¹

Cllr Gill's report is appended in full to these minutes. He reported that the Council had returned to face to face meetings and it had been a very busy year. He extended thanks to all the Parish Councillors for their hard work, despite the Council not having the full complement of Councillors. Areas of work included Highways and Road Safety, Play areas, Planning, Trees and New Developments, as well as the Communications Working Group.

The report highlighted:

- Millers Way
The design for the improvement works had been put out to tender and the quotations received would be discussed at next week's meeting. Emergency repairs to the potholes in the surface had to be carried out during the winter.
- Capstone Fields
Hill had submitted a Phase 2 planning application for a further 23 houses and after discussion with the SCDC S106 officer, it was agreed that Hills/owners would sign an S106 agreement with SCDC on a pro rate basis to Phase 1. A contribution of about £110,000 -£115,000 had been agreed for the village to use for play areas, the Community Hall and street lighting. Thanks were expressed to Cllr Rose for his hard work.
- Cambourne to Cambridge busway
The Parish Council had met the Greater Cambridge Partnership to express its views and a consultation/audit had been held in 2021. The Auditor had recommended that the GCP should progress to the next stage (Environmental Impact Assessment). The report is expected in the summer.
- Active Travel Initiative
The St Neots Road East Active Travel initiative was now being looked at by the GCP. A consultation was held at the end of 2021 but the Council was told only 23 Hardwick residents had responded. Communicating with the GCP had been very difficult and further information was not expected until the summer. If the project proceeds it is likely that the existing road will be used for the buses and the trees would not be removed, which would be cheaper for the GCP. The Council had arranged two meetings to discuss this but the County Council representative did not attend.
- Planning
Applications had been submitted for both the burnt out sites on St Neots Road. The application for the building still standing had been approved but the corner plot was still in the planning system.
- Local Plan First proposals

A consultation had taken place last year and a list of sites and the numbers of houses on each would be produced by Greater Cambridge Planning later this year. There would be an opportunity to comment on these. The focus was expected to remain on large developments such as West Cambourne, Northstowe and Waterbeach.

- Street lighting

Extra lighting will be put in on St Neots Road from Capstone Fields to Hall Drive under the Phase 1 agreement with Hills. The Parish Council has negotiated three more lights up to Millers Way under Phase 2. The Parish Council has also budgeted for three lights to be installed on the path from Main Street to The Cabin behind the Church. Quotations will be considered at the next meeting. Cllr Everitt was thanked for all his efforts in taking this forward.

- Environmental enhancements

Under Phase 2 of the Capstone Fields development, Hill are funding work in the Spinney between Ashmead Drive and Sudeley Grove. About 10 dead or dying trees will be removed and be replaced with new ones. Hill has also undertaken to maintain the pathway through the Spinney. They will provide the funds, amounting to approximately £45,000, to the Parish Council to carry out the work and carry out maintenance for the next 30 years. This will enhance the environment index by 10% according to Government Policy.

Questions were invited.

Cllr Rose thanked the Chairman and other Councillors, and expressed concern that only four people had stood for election on 5 May. He appealed to people in the village to come forward to apply for Parish Council membership and contact the Clerk for an application form. The onus fell on a small number of people to make the decisions and undertake work.

A member of the public asked about training materials. It was explained that CAPALC ran training sessions for new councillors.

Another parishioner asked why members did not stay on. Clarification was given that they had not resigned but had not put their names forward for re-election but the problem was not specific to Hardwick and was countrywide.

4.2 Presentation of the last audited accounts²

The last audited accounts, (year ending 31 March 2021) have been published and are available on the website

The accounts for the year ended 31 March 2022 will be finalised soon.

4.3 The District Councillor (Cllr Grenville Chamberlain)³

Cllr Chamberlain's report, which is also available on the website, included:

- Council Tax and the Energy Bills rebate.
- The SCDC finances.
- Planning applications and approval granted by SCDC to redevelop the site of the burnt out building at the corner of Cambridge Road and St Neots Road.
- The next Local Plan for 2020 - 2041. Work has commenced on a Greater Cambridge Local Plan involving both the District Council and City Council.
- Transport including the EWR proposals and the routes under consideration; discussions with the MP to introduce additional slip roads at the Girton interchange; and the busway proposals.
- The District Council's Environmental policies and zero carbon initiatives; the shared waste service; a solar farm at Waterbeach; and recycling.
- Cllr Chamberlain paid tribute to the colleagues on the Community Centre Working Group and their hard work towards the submission of a planning application for the new building.
- Cllr Chamberlain, who will be standing down in May, thanked all residents for their support during his period of office as District Councillor.

4.4 The County Councillor⁴

No report received at the time of the meeting. (The report was subsequently received and is available on the website.)

4.5 Police

No report available.

4.6 Hardwick Sports and Social Club⁵

The report from the Hardwick Sports and Social Club, (appended in full), was read by Chris Cracknell. The Club operates on a not for profit basis as a co-operative for the benefit of its members. The report covered: the background and legal status of the Club, including the lease, licences held, and management committee and sub-committee and the membership and fees. Due to the Covid pandemic, the Club was closed for many months, impacting on income, but there had been a small increase in the membership figures.

Details of the Club's activities were outlined, including information on the clubs and teams meeting at HSSC, and the current opening hours. It is hoped to return to 7 days a week opening when financially possible. The Club supports sports and other community activities and charities.

The Club continues to make improvements to the premises and is currently looking at a grant to refurbish the toilets.

Lindsey Haynes took over as Club Manager in November 2018. The Club offers a warm welcome to its members and all who attend. The Club is used by diverse age groups.

The past two years had been very challenging due to lengthy closure because of Covid, which has had an effect on income. The Parish Council was thanked for its support in agreeing to suspend the rent payments until business returned to normal. The Club has now notified the Council that payment will resume when the next instalment is due.

The Club was pleased to play a significant part in the Hardwick Party event and is looking forward to the forthcoming celebrations for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

The Club is looking forward to the arrival of the Community Centre nearby, has worked with the Steering Group, and fully supports the project, since the two premises will complement each other to serve the village.

4.7 Hardwick Community Association⁶

Anne Jones read the report of the Community Association (appended in full). This has been in existence since 1979 and there have been three meetings held during the year. The Parent and Toddler group had re-formed at the beginning of the Autumn term. Many of the affiliated groups had been unable to use the school facilities due to Covid so affiliation fees have been waived since April 2020. Details of the officers and the 13 affiliated groups were provided.

When the new Community Centre is up and running and the Community Room became part of the school, the need for a Community Association will cease, but a management committee will be set up to run the new facility.

On a proposition by the Chairman, the order of business was varied to take the report of Pre-School next.

4.18 Hardwick Pre-School

James Wakeling reported on behalf of Hardwick Pre-School, which had managed to stay open during Covid. There was a new committee and a few improvements had been carried out. A raised sensory garden had been installed with funding from the Parish Council and there was a covered outside area. On Wednesday afternoon children attend "Forest School" to learn outdoor skills. Numbers are rising but there are still some spaces available. Mr Wakeling thanked the Parish Council for its support and indicated that the group might be interested in applying for another small grant for improvements.

Anne Jones thanked the Pre-School for the event they had organised during the year for all the village.

4.8 Hardwick Happenings

Jeff Jones reported verbally that the magazine was successful but uncertainty regarding revenue, including printing costs, created difficulties. The advertising rates had been increased and some advertisers had left, others had reduced their advertising, but new advertisers had also come forward. The print run now included Meridian Fields, which contributed to increased costs due to the cost of paper and increased numbers. He thanked the Parish Council

for the financial support received from the Parish Council and the magazine will budget for a further application if the balance falls below £3,000. The Parish Council expressed appreciation for the magazine and the good articles.

4.9 Webmaster

Cllr Gill read Cllr Joolia's report in his absence. The Council's Communications Working Group had been set up with the main goal of improving communications with the village. Cllr Everitt had taken on the Facebook group, which was by invitation only, and regular updates had been posted both on Facebook and the village website. The new modernised website went live this year and is kept up to date by Cllr Joolia.

During the year a new notice board had been installed outside the shop, to be more visible and easier to find Parish Council information. Another new notice board had been approved for Limes Road behind the school. Renovation of the red telephone kiosk was underway and should be completed soon, whereupon the Parish Council will seek ideas for its use from residents.

4.10 Hardwick Community Centre Working Group

Cllr Rose reported verbally on behalf of the Working Group. He outlined the history and composition of the Group, with representatives of the Parish Council, District Council, Community Association, Village Plan and HSSC, as well as including architect skills and a minutes secretary. A wide range of interests in the village were covered. The group works with an architect and keeps the village updated with its plans. The Parish Council had received funds from developers towards the cost of the project.

In the last few weeks the Group had submitted a formal planning application. Any resident could make a comment to SCDC on the plans. Public meetings had been held to listen to the village and another public meeting would take place on Thursday 28 April at 5 pm in the school. Residents were encouraged to attend.

A resident asked where they could find out more information. This would be posted on the Parish Council's website, with information on biodiversity, traffic and landscaping as well as the detailed design.

Anne Jones added that information was also in Hardwick Happenings but if residents would like to receive regular updates, they should contact Betty Grimes.

4.11 Hardwick Scouts and Guides

No report received.

4.12 St Mary's Church

No report received.

4.13 Hardwick Evangelical Church⁷

Robbie Thomson reported verbally. Meetings had been held via Zoom during the pandemic, but were now taking place in school. Activities had included the Easter Garden and carol singing. Thanks were expressed to the residents who supported the events. At Christmas the church had, in conjunction with Hardwick Network and Cambourne, had provided 35 hampers to families at Christmas.

The written report, received after the meeting, is appended in full to these minutes.

4.14 Hardwick Network

Ruth Enge had reported that the Network has been dormant for most of the past year as they had come out of the main throes of the pandemic so there was not really a lot to report.

4.15 Hardwick WI⁸

Anne Jones conveyed the apologies of the President, Carolyn Purser, and read Mrs Purser's report which is appended in full. Details of the meetings, talks and fundraising activities throughout the year were outlined. The first face to face meeting after lockdown was held in August and the first indoor meeting in September. The group had continued to meet regularly during lockdown, in small groups or outside, dependent on the prevailing Covid regulations. She outlined the group meetings and fundraising. Membership stands at 35 but sadly a longstanding member and past president, Jane Giddings, died this year and is sadly missed.

4.16 3rd Hardwick Brownies

No report received.

- 4.17 Hardwick School
No report received.
- 4.18 Hardwick Pre-School
Taken earlier.
- 4.19 Hardwick Litter Picking Volunteers
Pat Portlock reported verbally. A litter pick had been held on 9 April and she was pleasantly surprised how clean the village was, with only six sacks collected rather than the previous 20. Another litter pick had been arranged for 8 October from 10 am – 12 noon and details will be publicised in Hardwick Happenings. SCDC provided equipment, hoops, litter pickers and sacks. Mrs Portlock expressed appreciation for the excellent work done by Mrs Lunt along St Neots Road. She had been provided with black bags from the District Council. Thanks were expressed to all the volunteers.
- 4.20 Hardwick Community Speedwatch⁹
Cllr Gill summarised the report from Cllr Everitt (appended in full). During lockdown Speedwatch did not take place but the MVAS continued collecting data, revealing some very worrying speeds with some over 100 mph on St Neots Road. The MVAS is moved between locations regularly and the results reported monthly to the Police and Highways. Two Give Way bollards had been installed in Cambridge Road and from the first month's figures it looked very hopeful that these would reduce speed in the area, particularly in the northbound direction. There were currently 10 volunteers and residents interested in joining the team should contact the village Co-ordinator.
- 4.21 Neighbourhood Watch
No report received.
- 4.22 Hardwick Climate Action Group
No report received.
- 4.23 Allotment Association (behind the Church)
No report received.
- 4.24 Hardwick Cricket Club
No report received.
- 4.25 Hardwick Football Club
No report received.
- 4.26 Hardwick Party 2021
Robbie Thomson reported verbally. He thanked the Parish Council for the funds received last year. A contribution had also been received from Hill. The event was held on Saturday 11 September on the Recreation Ground and had been very successful, with an estimated 2000 people attending over the course of the day. He expressed thanks for the invitations sent to the MP and County Councillor and thanked the local organising team for all their hard work. The day included musicians, businesses and charities. Income from the event was £4,700 with a small surplus passed to the Community Association. The raffle proceeds of £900 had been shared between three local charities, namely Addenbrookes, the Lisa Kent Trust and Joe's Buddy Line. They were considering holding another event in 2023.
Cllr Gill on behalf of the Parish Council thanked the group for a very successful event and the good spirits. The MP and County Councillor had expressed a very favourable view of Hardwick and thanks were extended to all involved.
- 4.27 Hardwick Queen's Platinum Jubilee
The Chairman reported that the Parish Council had put funds aside in the budget but was not involved in organising anything. A list of events and timetable were available in Hardwick Happenings. Anne Jones outlined some of the events which would commence on the Thursday evening with a Quiz Night at HSSC, and events throughout the weekend. These would involve people coming together to provide a lasting memory of the Jubilee. Another meeting would be held shortly. Cllr Joolia had been successful in obtaining a grant for a new commemorative notice board with a Platinum Jubilee logo but would be asking the Parish Council to meet the shortfall. Cllr Gill explained that this would be discussed at the next meeting. It would also be

necessary to decide on the location and consider whether to involve the village. There will also be a plaque at the entrance to the Spinney indicating that the new trees planted a few weeks ago were planted in the year of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

4.28 Other
None.

5. Applications for awards of small grants to projects

None. Two residents took away application forms and two other applications received will be discussed by the Parish Council at its next meeting.

6. Any other Parish Matters including any resolutions

A resident asked whether there were any rules about who could be Parish Council members and was advised to contact the Clerk.

8. Closure of meeting

Residents were thanked for attending.

There was no further business and the meeting was declared closed at 8.36 pm.

Signed _____ (Chairman) _____ (Date)

¹ Parish Council Chairman's report from Cllr Tony Gill

² Audited accounts FY 2021

³ Report of the District Councillor – Cllr Grenville Chamberlain

⁴ Report of the County Councillor, May 2022 – Cllr Michael Atkins

⁵ Report from Hardwick Sports and Social Club – Chris Cracknell

⁶ Report of the Community Association – Anne Jones

⁷ Report of Hardwick Evangelical Church – Kate Gaze

⁸ Report from the WI – Carolyn Purser

⁹ Speedwatch report – Alan Everitt