

Annual Meeting April 19th 2022

Thank you to all the Parish Councillors who contributed to the work of the Council in 2021/22. There were working groups for Highways and Road Safety, Play areas, Planning, Trees and New Developments.

The PC continued to get a design for the improvement of Miller's Way, and it has now gone out to tender for the work. We had to do emergency repairs during the winter, as the already large holes got even more dangerous.

Hills put in a planning application for a Phase 2 for Capstone Fields which was for another 23 houses, and after discussion between Councillor Rose and James Fisher the SCDC S106 Officer, it was agreed that Hills/Owners would sign the S106 agreement on a pro rata basis to Phase 1 with SCDC.

The PC has had meetings with the GCP about the C2C to put our views and get some information from them. There was a Consultation /Audit at the end of 2021 and the Auditor recommended GCP to proceed to the next stage (Environmental Impact Assessment). The next report will be in the summer.

The St Neots Rd East Active Travel initiative was 1 of around 20 looked at originally by CCC but now taken over by GCP. There was a consultation at the end of 2021, and we were told only 23 residents from Hardwick replied to this. It has been very difficult to get and give information to GCP about this, and it looks like it will be the summer before any more information is available. If it goes ahead then C2C will likely use the existing road for the buses and not remove the trees, and it would be much cheaper for them.

One planning application for the burnt out building site has been approved, but another is still to be decided (corner plot).

The Local Plan first proposals was consulted on last year, and Greater Cambridge Planning will produce a list of suggested sites and numbers of houses later this year with a chance to comment on these.

Extra lighting will be put on St Neots Rd from Capstone Fields to Hall Drive which was part of the Phase 1 agreement with Hills. As part of the Phase 2 extra houses, the PC has negotiated 3 more up to Millers Way.

The PC has funded 3 lights to be put on the path from Main St to the Cabin behind the Church.

As part of the Planning Environmental Enhancement Policy for Phase 2 of Capstone Fields, Hills have agreed to fund some work in the Spinney between Ashmead Drive and Sudeley Grove.

The PC will remove about 10 dead or dying trees and replace with more suitable species. It will also maintain the pathway through the Spinney (for 30 years). The total funding from Hill came to around £44K and will enhance the environment index by 10% according to Government policy.

Section 2 – Accounting Statements 2020/21 for


Item 4:

HARDWICK PARISH COUNCIL

	Year ending		Notes and guidance
	31 March 2020 £	31 March 2021 £	
1. Balances brought forward	164,975	366,188	<i>Total balances and reserves at the beginning of the year as recorded in the financial records. Value must agree to Box 7 of previous year.</i>
2. (+) Precept or Rates and Levies	60,366	60,366	<i>Total amount of precept (or for IDBs rates and levies) received or receivable in the year. Exclude any grants received.</i>
3. (+) Total other receipts	241,272	32,033	<i>Total income or receipts as recorded in the cashbook less the precept or rates/levies received (line 2). Include any grants received.</i>
4. (-) Staff costs	5,684	7,796	<i>Total expenditure or payments made to and on behalf of all employees. Include gross salaries and wages, employers NI contributions, employers pension contributions, gratuities and severance payments.</i>
5. (-) Loan interest/capital repayments	0	0	<i>Total expenditure or payments of capital and interest made during the year on the authority's borrowings (if any).</i>
6. (-) All other payments	94,741	68,802	<i>Total expenditure or payments as recorded in the cash-book less staff costs (line 4) and loan interest/capital repayments (line 5).</i>
7. (=) Balances carried forward	366,188	381,989	<i>Total balances and reserves at the end of the year. Must equal (1+2+3) - (4+5+6).</i>
8. Total value of cash and short term investments	310,607	384,405	<i>The sum of all current and deposit bank accounts, cash holdings and short term investments held as at 31 March – To agree with bank reconciliation.</i>
9. Total fixed assets plus long term investments and assets	697,231	697,235	<i>The value of all the property the authority owns – it is made up of all its fixed assets and long term investments as at 31 March.</i>
10. Total borrowings	0	0	<i>The outstanding capital balance as at 31 March of all loans from third parties (including PWLB).</i>
11. (For Local Councils Only) Disclosure note re Trust funds (including charitable)	Yes	No	<i>The Council, as a body corporate, acts as sole trustee for and is responsible for managing Trust funds or assets.</i>
		✓	<i>N.B. The figures in the accounting statements above do not include any Trust transactions.</i>

I certify that for the year ended 31 March 2021 the Accounting Statements in this Annual Governance and Accountability Return have been prepared on either a receipts and payments or income and expenditure basis following the guidance in Governance and Accountability for Smaller Authorities – a Practitioners' Guide to Proper Practices and present fairly the financial position of this authority.

Signed by Responsible Financial Officer before being presented to the authority for approval


 Date 02/06/21

I confirm that these Accounting Statements were approved by this authority on this date:

22/06/21

as recorded in minute reference:

6.98

Signed by Chairman of the meeting where the Accounting Statements were approved

AA GU.

Section 1 – Annual Governance Statement 2020/21

We acknowledge as the members of:

HARDWICK PARISH COUNCIL

our responsibility for ensuring that there is a sound system of internal control, including arrangements for the preparation of the Accounting Statements. We confirm, to the best of our knowledge and belief, with respect to the Accounting Statements for the year ended 31 March 2021, that:

	Agreed		
	Yes	No*	
1. We have put in place arrangements for effective financial management during the year, and for the preparation of the accounting statements.	✓		<i>Yes' means that this authority: prepared its accounting statements in accordance with the Accounts and Audit Regulations.</i>
2. We maintained an adequate system of internal control including measures designed to prevent and detect fraud and corruption and reviewed its effectiveness.	✓		<i>made proper arrangements and accepted responsibility for safeguarding the public money and resources in its charge.</i>
3. We took all reasonable steps to assure ourselves that there are no matters of actual or potential non-compliance with laws, regulations and Proper Practices that could have a significant financial effect on the ability of this authority to conduct its business or manage its finances.	✓		<i>has only done what it has the legal power to do and has complied with Proper Practices in doing so.</i>
4. We provided proper opportunity during the year for the exercise of electors' rights in accordance with the requirements of the Accounts and Audit Regulations.	✓		<i>during the year gave all persons interested the opportunity to inspect and ask questions about this authority's accounts.</i>
5. We carried out an assessment of the risks facing this authority and took appropriate steps to manage those risks, including the introduction of internal controls and/or external insurance cover where required.	✓		<i>considered and documented the financial and other risks it faces and dealt with them properly.</i>
6. We maintained throughout the year an adequate and effective system of internal audit of the accounting records and control systems.	✓		<i>arranged for a competent person, independent of the financial controls and procedures, to give an objective view on whether internal controls meet the needs of this smaller authority.</i>
7. We took appropriate action on all matters raised in reports from internal and external audit.	✓		<i>responded to matters brought to its attention by internal and external audit.</i>
8. We considered whether any litigation, liabilities or commitments, events or transactions, occurring either during or after the year-end, have a financial impact on this authority and, where appropriate, have included them in the accounting statements.	✓		<i>disclosed everything it should have about its business activity during the year including events taking place after the year end if relevant.</i>
9. (For local councils only) Trust funds including charitable. In our capacity as the sole managing trustee we discharged our accountability responsibilities for the fund(s)/assets, including financial reporting and, if required, independent examination or audit.	Yes	No	N/A
			✓

*Please provide explanations to the external auditor on a separate sheet for each 'No' response and describe how the authority will address the weaknesses identified. These sheets must be published with the Annual Governance Statement.

This Annual Governance Statement was approved at a meeting of the authority on:

22/06/21

and recorded as minute reference:

6.6

Signed by the Chairman and Clerk of the meeting where approval was given:

Chairman

AA GYM.

Clerk

LG 806

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Annual Internal Audit Report 2020/21

HARDWICK PARISH COUNCIL

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During the financial year ended 31 March 2021, this authority's internal auditor acting independently and on the basis of an assessment of risk, carried out a selective assessment of compliance with the relevant procedures and controls in operation and obtained appropriate evidence from the authority.

The internal audit for 2020/21 has been carried out in accordance with this authority's needs and planned coverage. On the basis of the findings in the areas examined, the internal audit conclusions are summarised in this table. Set out below are the objectives of internal control and alongside are the internal audit conclusions on whether, in all significant respects, the control objectives were being achieved throughout the financial year to a standard adequate to meet the needs of this authority.

Internal control objective	Yes	No*	Not covered**
A. Appropriate accounting records have been properly kept throughout the financial year.	✓		
B. This authority complied with its financial regulations, payments were supported by invoices, all expenditure was approved and VAT was appropriately accounted for.	✓		
C. This authority assessed the significant risks to achieving its objectives and reviewed the adequacy of arrangements to manage these.	✓		
D. The precept or rates requirement resulted from an adequate budgetary process; progress against the budget was regularly monitored; and reserves were appropriate.	✓		
E. Expected income was fully received, based on correct prices, properly recorded and promptly banked; and VAT was appropriately accounted for.	✓		
F. Petty cash payments were properly supported by receipts, all petty cash expenditure was approved and VAT appropriately accounted for.	✓		
G. Salaries to employees and allowances to members were paid in accordance with this authority's approvals, and PAYE and NI requirements were properly applied.	✓		
H. Asset and investments registers were complete and accurate and properly maintained.	✓		
I. Periodic bank account reconciliations were properly carried out during the year.	✓		
J. Accounting statements prepared during the year were prepared on the correct accounting basis (receipts and payments or income and expenditure), agreed to the cash book, supported by an adequate audit trail from underlying records and where appropriate debtors and creditors were properly recorded.	✓		
K. If the authority certified itself as exempt from a limited assurance review in 2019/20, it met the exemption criteria and correctly declared itself exempt. (If the authority had a limited assurance review of its 2019/20 AGAR tick "not covered")			✓
L. If the authority has an annual turnover not exceeding £25,000, it publishes information on a website/webpage up to date at the time of the internal audit in accordance with the Transparency code for smaller authorities.			✓
M. The authority, during the previous year (2019-20) correctly provided for the period for the exercise of public rights as required by the Accounts and Audit Regulations (evidenced by the notice published on the website and/or authority approved minutes confirming the dates set).	✓		
N. The authority has complied with the publication requirements for 2019/20 AGAR (see AGAR Page 1 Guidance Notes).	✓		
O. (For local councils only) Trust funds (including charitable) – The council met its responsibilities as a trustee.			✓

For any other risk areas identified by this authority adequate controls existed (list any other risk areas on separate sheets if needed).

Date(s) internal audit undertaken

18 06 2021

Name of person who carried out the internal audit

WILLIAM LEWIS

Signature of person who carried out the internal audit



Date

18/06/2021

*If the response is 'no' please state the implications and action being taken to address any weakness in control identified (add separate sheets if needed).

**Note: If the response is 'not covered' please state when the most recent internal audit work was done in this area and when it is next planned; or, if coverage is not required, the annual internal audit report must explain why not (add separate sheets if needed).

Cllr Grenville Chamberlain OBE

2021-22 Annual Report to Hardwick Parish

8th April 2022

Introduction

Thanks to everyone in the village for your support during the year. It has been an honour to be your representative and as am not seeking re-election I wish my successor every success in future.

South Cambridgeshire District Council is one of several layers of local government and sits between the Parish and County levels. It covers 105 villages and the two towns of Cambourne and Northstowe. Although SCDC collects Council Tax on behalf of other local authorities, only a portion of this is collected for the district.

To help people deal with rising energy costs, the Government has announced that households which are in Council Tax band A to D will receive a £150 Energy Bills Rebate. Some band E properties will also receive the rebate if the householder pays the equivalent of band D where disabled relief has been applied. The £150 will be paid separately, rather than deducted from the collection amount. To qualify:

- The property must be occupied as a sole or main residence
- Payments must be made to the liable council taxpayer
- Properties with the following exemptions will also be eligible:
 - Class N – students
 - Class S – under 18
 - Class U – severe mental impairment
 - Class W – occupied annexe
- Accounts in receipt of Council Tax Reduction (CTR) will be eligible
- Any properties that are unoccupied, classed as a second home, or the liable party is a local authority, corporate body, housing association, or government body, will not be eligible.

More information can be found at: www.scambs.gov.uk/council-tax

Finance

There are many things to welcome in the 2022-23 South Cambs District Council budget such as money towards environmental improvements and building more council houses. However, there were some elements that I couldn't support:

- **Putting up council tenants' rents by the legal maximum of 4.1%. Ordinary people are being asked for restraint in asking for pay rises to control inflation, yet institutional landlords seem happy to fuel inflation through rent rises.**
- **£200,000 for re-carpeting the council building and £70,000 for redecoration. This makes up the majority of this year's council tax increase, £327,000. The building is in excellent condition and does not need to be renovated.**

- An increase in Council Tax by the maximum legally allowed - £5 for a Band D property. This is not appropriate when there is a squeeze in the cost of living.
- It was also revealed through the course of the February budget meeting that over £500,000 has been used to pay staff to leave the council over the past four years via early retirement settlements, gardening leave and redundancies.
- Increased external borrowing for the purpose of commercial investment. I don't believe we should be borrowing nearly £150m in uncertain times especially when this risk could burden residents with further tax if the investment strategy that the budget relies on goes wrong. At a time when businesses are seeking to reduce their operating space, this is a high risk venture.

The council is facing other potential problems, as over £300,000 is at risk of being returned to developers for failing to deal with their applications on time.

Producing audited accounts on time has been a major problem for the district over the last couple of years. The accounts for the year ending March 2018 were signed off just before Christmas 2020 (these accounts were originally due to be signed off in the autumn of 2018). The accounts for the following year (2018-19) were signed off last week, on 29th March. Not only are these accounts more than two years late, but they have also taken more than fifteen months since the previous year's accounts, which will make it very difficult for the council to catch up again in future years.

Planning

Planning is another department where the District Council has been struggling to keep up with its workload. It has struggled to recruit and retain enough suitably qualified planning officers, and has been spending heavily on outside consultants.

Since the council's ruling group started a "business transformation" project following their election win in 2018, there has been a considerable amount of churn in staff. There was no need for such a project at that time, as the council had been working efficiently, but unfortunately it has become an example of the proverb "if it ain't broke, don't fix it". Many experienced planning staff have left to work for other local authorities who pay similar salaries but are situated in parts of the country where the cost of living is lower.

For most planning applications, including householder applications, there is an eight-week period during which a local authority should make its decision. Applicants who have to wait longer than this period are entitled to appeal to the Secretary of State for non-determination.

Since last year, there has been a steady stream of people contacting me to say that they have lodged a planning application but have heard nothing in the following weeks and months and have been unable to get any kind of update on what is happening.

I am pleased to report that, at long last, approval has been given to redevelop the site of the burnt out derelict building on the corner of Cambridge Road and St Neots Road. It is hoped that the owner will now remove the offending building without further delay.

Another area of concern is Planning Enforcement. My group submitted an alternative budget this February with funding for an additional post for a planning enforcement officer. This was voted down during February's budget meeting.

Work is proceeding on the next Local Plan, in which the District Council and Cambridge City Council are working together on a proposal for a "Greater Cambridge" Local Plan. The two councils have decided to build more than the Government has asked them to. They propose building 48,840 new flats and houses across both council areas between 2020 and 2041, around 12,000 more dwellings than the Government requires. To put the number in context, Cambridge City had 52,000 houses in 2020. The Councils have chosen not to stick to the Government 'standard method' for calculating new housing which shows that around 36,700 new dwellings are needed to 2041.

Transport

There are several other major transport projects currently being designed. Firstly, East West Rail (EWR): a new railway line connecting Oxford and Cambridge. The official routes being consulted on pass by Cambourne, with a station either north or south of that town, before heading south to join with the existing line from Royston near Harston. Two pressure groups - the Cam Bed Rail Road (CBRR) and Cambridge Approaches (CA) - have been campaigning for a "northern route" that would pass between Dry Drayton and Madingley and then between Girton and Oakington with a station called Northstowe on the outskirts of Oakington (but far from the town of Northstowe) before entering Cambridge from the north.

I have been working with our MP, Anthony Browne, on bringing forward a project to add additional slip roads at the Girton Interchange in order to reduce traffic through the village. One slip road turns left from the northbound M11 onto the westbound A428. Another turns left from the eastbound A428 to the new roundabout on the A1307 local road, connecting to Madingley, Dry Drayton and the northbound A14. The third starts at another roundabout on the A1307 providing an on-ramp to the southbound M11.

Former Mayor James Palmer's visionary project to create a metro system with tunnels under the centre of Cambridge was permanently scrapped last October. This has left the various authorities in the Cambridge area to "muddle through" as best they can with short term and piecemeal projects to deal with the symptoms of congestion and over development in the area.

The two guided busways being proposed by the Greater Cambridge Partnership (GCP), the Cambourne to Cambridge (C2C) and the Cambridge South East Transport (CSET) projects have both been an ongoing source of argument for some time. The current C2C route would be very environmentally destructive, requiring 3,000 trees to be cut down along a strip of land nearly 3km long past Hardwick, and concreting over a significant stretch of countryside for a Park and Ride at Scotland Farm. My position is that the trees in Hardwick should be saved and that there should be several smaller car parks distributed along the route instead of one giant car park at Scotland Farm, with the current Park and Ride on Madingley Road retained (the official plan is to close it).

It is the official policy of the District Council to support a congestion charge for Cambridge. At February's Full Council meeting a motion to reverse this policy was put forward by my group but it was defeated along party lines. Cities like Singapore, London and Stockholm already had the best metro systems in the world before they imposed congestion charging. Cambridge does not have public transport to this level. It would be very unfair if residents of Cambridge City who live inside the charging zone are exempt, while residents of South Cambridgeshire villages have to pay the full price despite having few or no other travel options. We are to be punished for not using the public

transport that hasn't been provided for us.

Environment

This is one area where my group has been working co-operatively with the current administration. I don't believe that because we're in opposition we should automatically do the opposite of what the administration does. In recent times we have supported council motions for the district to become zero carbon by 2050, to declare a Climate Emergency and to request that the pension fund divest from investment in fossil fuels. The Council has policies of being 'Green to the Core' and 'Doubling Nature' that I am also very happy to support.

Far from coming at an economic cost, I believe that zero carbon initiatives will encourage new technologies, boosting efficiency, innovation and entrepreneurship. It will also make us healthier, as diesel fumes are a major cause of cancer, heart disease and dementia. In the case of investing in oil companies it is also because of the financial risks that these investments pose for the council's staff and retirees.

The Shared Waste Service has operated the county's first electric bin lorry since late 2020. Two more are due to begin working this year. The Shared Waste Service has around 55 diesel collection vehicles, using around 50,000 litres of diesel a month, and the cost of this is surely rising rapidly. Electric vehicles are not only more environmentally friendly but are easier to maintain as they have fewer moving parts. Battery technology has advanced to the point where, despite the distances between our villages, electric vehicles are now suitable for this role. I hope that this is the first step towards replacing all of the Council's diesel-powered vehicles.

A solar farm is to be constructed at the Greater Cambridge Shared Waste depot in Waterbeach, which I fully support. This includes a solar panel power plant on land adjacent to the depot, along with a battery storage system, charging islands, cabling and other associated works to form a smart micro-grid. It will enable the operation of more electric bin lorries.

I would like South Cambridgeshire District Council to return to being one of the top recycling councils in the country. In 2010, the council set itself the target of "meeting or surpassing a 65% recycling and composting rate by 2012" and in October 2010 achieved a monthly rate of 63.7%. In recent years, as the council has been overwhelmed by all kinds of other problems, ambitious targets like this have fallen by the wayside. In the 2019/20 English rankings for recycling and composting, www.letsrecycle.com/councils/league-tables/2019-20-overall-performance, the Greater Cambridge Waste Service only achieved a rate of 49.3%, coming 92nd out of 341 councils.

Hardwick Community Centre Working Group

It has been a pleasure to work with colleagues on the Community Centre Working Group where great progress has been made towards the submission of a planning application for the new building. My thanks must go to all involved for their dedication and commitment to this exciting new development for the Village.

And finally, my thanks to all residents for their friendship and support over the last 7 years that I have served as your District Councillor.

Cllr Grenville Chamberlain OBE

19th April 2022

Report to the Hardwick Annual Parish Council Meeting 2022

Legal name & status: Hardwick Sports & Social Club Ltd – IPS 29242R

Hardwick Sports and Social Club Limited (the Club) was registered as a limited company under the Industrial and Provident Societies Act 1965 on 25th June 2001 and operates under approved Registered Club rules.

The Club operates as a co-operative for the benefit of its members. The Club rules do not allow any distribution of profits, or assets on a winding up to be made to the members. The Club complies with the legal requirements of the IPS registration, publishes annual accounts presented to, and approved by, its members and makes an annual return to the Financial Services Conduct Authority.

Lease:

The Club occupies the Pavilion under the terms of a 10-year lease from Hardwick Parish Council, negotiated with, and signed by, both parties, the current lease expires on 29th September 2023. We previously held a lease under which a peppercorn rent of £1 per annum was payable but we now pay rent assessed at a commercial market value with an agreed rent review and break clauses.

Additionally, the Club now meets the running costs of the Pavilion (including dressing rooms & toilets) and demise as defined within the lease and registered plan.

Licences:

The Club is licensed to sell alcohol and has a Club Registration Certificate which permits sale of alcohol within the club until 2am on special occasions and other events as determined by the management committee.

The Club is licensed for the preparation and sale of food and the Club Manager, and relevant members of staff, are trained and hold the appropriate food preparation & hygiene certificates.

The Club holds all necessary licences for TV & music broadcast including a public performance & copyright licences issued by the Performing Rights Society for public broadcast of music (live & recorded), digital, recorded and satellite TV which is displayed in the Club on multiple plasma displays, and more recently via a projector and screen.

Report to the Hardwick Annual Parish Council Meeting 2022

Any profits generated in the operation of the licensed premises are, and have been, re-invested in the Club for the benefit of its members and are also used to support local organisations, clubs and charities.

Management

The Club is run by its officers and management committee who are elected annually by the Members and meet every month. The Club has a Disciplinary Sub Committee to apply appropriate sanctions in the event of misconduct by members. We are pleased to report that the Disciplinary Sub Committee are rarely required to convene as members consistently adhere to our rules & code of conduct.

Membership:

As a licensed premise operating under a Club Registration Certificate it is a requirement that persons over 18 become members to comply. In order to become a club member an individual must be proposed and seconded by existing Club members, new members pay a subscription fee currently £10 per annum (£5 renewal before the 28th of February) or alternatively Life membership is available on payment of £75.

Applications for membership are considered each calendar month at the meeting of the Management Committee.

Most of our members live in Hardwick with an increasing number coming from adjoining villages as a result of attending events and other activities held at the premises.

The Club encourages as wide a membership as is possible and the members living outside of a 5-mile radius of the Club usually have familial links to Hardwick and the proximate villages.

The Club invested in a computerised system four years ago that allows our Secretary and Manager to update our records without recourse to a written format, as has happened in the past. Ultimately, this has encouraged frequent users to become members, and has made the renewal of expired memberships easier to track.

Our membership numbers have seen a steady increase over the years, but all this came to a halt with the arrival of the Covid pandemic of the last 25 months. Our membership numbers for the past four years are 2018 (422), 2019 (496), 2020 (331), 2021 (364). Clearly, with the Club being closed for many months, the opportunity to attract new Members have been limited. This has had a significant impact on our income. We are delighted to see that there is a small increase on the membership figures of 12 months ago.

Report to the Hardwick Annual Parish Council Meeting 2022

Activities

The Club supports sporting and other activities in the village including making financial contributions to local community activities and charities nominated by members and approved by the management committee.

We have also raised money, purchased and installed an external Defibrillator for the benefit of the whole community, which is accessible 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

The Club currently opens 5pm each evening Tues – Thursday, 4pm on Fridays and from midday at weekends and 2pm on Bank Holidays. We look forward to a return to 7 day a week opening when it is financially viable to do so.

HSSC has a 2 x 9 ball Pool teams, two Darts Team (including a new Ladies Team), A craft morning (one Monday a month), and the Hardwick Friendship Club has a free let (as a condition of our lease) and meets every Thursday afternoon from 2pm. The Women's institute also run a darts team from the premises. We hold a monthly Quiz Night (1st Thursday of the month) and Monthly Bingo (2nd Friday of every month).

Improvements 2021 – 2022.

The Club continues to invest in, and improve, the premises. The Club is currently engaged in negotiations with our suppliers with a view to obtaining a significant grant that will allow us to completely refurbish both the ladies and gents' toilets.

Staff

Lindsey Haynes took over as Club Manager in November 2018. Our staff are all local residents who are friendly and welcoming, and serve, our Members and their guests.

We believe that HSSC provides a warm welcome to its members and everyone who attends. We pride ourselves on the diverse age groups that use the facilities and the rapport between ourselves and external groups.

The Past Year.

In common with so many local groups, and venues, the past 2 years have proved extremely challenging for the HSSC. We have been required to close our premises for many months and clearly this has had a dramatic effect on both our Members and the Club's income. I would like to thank the Parish Council for their ongoing support, they very quickly agreed to suspend our rent payments until such time as we returned to business as usual and this has been a great help. The Club have now notified the Parish Council that we intend to resume our full rental payments when the next instalment is due.

Report to the Hardwick Annual Parish Council Meeting 2022

The past year saw the arrival of the Hardwick Party to the village and the Club were delighted to play a very significant part in the success of the venture, we eagerly anticipate a future re-run, 2023?

The Present/Future.

The Club reopened for restricted business hours earlier this year and we now look forward to the coming year in the hope that things can only get better!

We are also looking forward to the forthcoming celebrations being held in June to mark the Platinum Jubilee of HM Queen Elizabeth 2nd.

Beyond the autumn we are excited at the prospect of welcoming new neighbours, namely the Community Centre. The Officers and Committee of the Club have worked closely with the Community Steering Group and whilst we anticipate the occasional problem once building works gets underway, the project has our full support. We feel both premises will compliment each other in the services we provide to the village.

Chris Cracknell - Club Chairman (since August 2019).

On behalf of Hardwick Sports & Social Club Management Committee.

12th April 2022.

HARDWICK ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 2022
COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION YEAR MARCH 2021- MARCH 2022

Hardwick Community Association has been in existence since 1979. Over the years it has been very active but latterly, not so. We have had three meetings in the past year, the AGM in March 2021, in September and the AGM again in March 2022.

In this meeting last year, I announced that sadly, the Parent & Toddler group had disbanded due to the lack of a committee. I am pleased to say that the group has been resurrected and restarted at the beginning of the Autumn term.

Due to Covid-19 and the subsequent lockdowns, many of the affiliated groups have not used the school facilities as in the past so the affiliation fees have been waived since April 2020. However, lettings fees have increased at the school which some groups have found difficult to manage.

The current officers are still:

President	Anne Jones
Chairman	Alan West
Vice Chairman	Steve Gaze
Treasurer	Claire Arber
Minute Secretary	Jane Humphries

The following groups in the village are affiliated to the Community Association and benefit from cheaper room hire:

St Mary's Church
Hardwick Guides
Evangelical Church
Hardwick PreSchool
3rd Hardwick Brownies
Hardwick W.I.
Hardwick 3.15 Club
Dragon Fencing Club
Bourn Players
Parish Council
Pippin's & Co
Hardwick Happenings
Hardwick Climate Action Group

The Cabin at St Mary's

Obviously, when the new Community Centre is up and running and the Community Room becomes part of the school, the Community Association will become redundant. There will however, be a management committee set up to run the new facility.

The next Community Association Meeting will be on Thursday September 15th at 7pm.

Anne Jones (President)

April 2022



Hardwick Evangelical Church
Broadway House
149-151 St Neots Rd
Hardwick,
Cambridge
CB23 7QJ

01954 211900
HardwickEvangelical@gmail.com

Report to Hardwick Parish Council AGM, 19 April 2022

On 1 April 2021 Kate Gaze was appointed sole minister.

The church continued to meet online for Sunday services until September 2021, when we were able to resume meeting in the school hall with appropriate Covid precautions.

Since September 2021 the church has helped to facilitate the Baby and Toddler group with personnel and administrative support.

In conjunction with St Mary's we prompted people to create Advent Windows again this year, with a small box of children's activities offered for families to enjoy at home relating to the displays, taken up by about 30 homes.

At Christmas 2021 we modified the design of the outdoor Nativity scene to allow more space to gather for carol singing on Christmas Eve, which was attended by about 180 people.

Also at Christmas the church provided 25 hampers for families in need, anonymous to us and distributed by the school. Also we helped to coordinate more hampers from other organisations.

The church built the pop-up Easter Garden again this year, it having been well received in 2021 when it was possible to meet outside during lockdown. The 2022 design has an emphasis on the crisis in Ukraine and offers a focus for prayer and contemplation, with people available every evening for 15 minutes to pray or talk.

Three Children's Special Sunday meetings were held, at Christmas, Valentine's Day and Easter, with several additional families attending.

In April 2021 the church moved from its upstairs office in Broadway House to a larger room on the ground floor, which we have called The Living Room, equipped with office facilities and flexible meeting space. We aim to make this available for small meetings although there has been a slow start as the country emerges from Covid restrictions. At present we hold an open "drop in" on Monday mornings and twice a month we are joined by the SCDC Welfare and Money Maximisation Officer to offer advice on benefits, housing and budgeting. We also hope that, as refugees from Ukraine arrive in the village, The Living Room can be available as a place for them to meet each other.

Rev'd Kate Gaze.

Hardwick WI Report 2021-22

Despite Covid restrictions we have been able to hold 11 meetings this year and our summer social. April to September were online meetings which were well attended and included talks on the WI resolution – the Subtle Signs of Ovarian Cancer, Banned by the BBC and a local charity the Lisa Kent Trust which delivers education in the Gambia. The latter gave such inspiration that we decided to fund raise for them by holding a Christmas coffee morning and we raised £300!

In May we held a sale as part of the Captain Tom 100 event raising funds for Joe's Buddy Line; a mental health charity. We sold home made cakes, plants and donated items making a fantastic £352.

Our August Summer Social was our first face to face meeting. We held a bring and share supper and sat outdoors enjoying being back together again!

In September we held our first indoor meeting. This was a social event which went down well as we had a lot of catching up to do! Other meetings have included a very interesting talk on Pearls. At this meeting we also asked members to Wear It Pink and asked if they would like to donate to Breast Cancer Now, raising a wonderful £165. Other meetings have seen us decorating ceramic pendants and learning a bit of burlesque dancing with the Burlesque Bombshells.

The Village celebration in September included a Produce Show in which members entered items such as cakes, photos, knitting and crocheting in the various competitions. Our WI made and sold cream teas raising funds for the Arthur Rank Hospice and East Anglian Air Ambulance raising £200 for each of the charities.

In total we have raised an amazing £1217 for charity this year!

When possible through lockdown we held the much needed Cuppa, Cake and Chat getting groups of 6 or more together depending on what was allowed at the time. Members hosted many a 'Good Read' get together in their gardens and the group continues to meet regularly. The Colour Wheel continues to go from strength to strength meeting twice a month in the Cabin. The walking group has also been on some lovely local walks.

Food is always a big draw for our meetings and in that vein we have had 2 dining out events, one at the Three Horseshoes in Madingley and the other at Middletons restaurant in Cambridge. In the summer we have also had get togethers at our local pub and a fun trip to the pantomime in January.

All of our ventures have been relayed to CFWI for the newsletter and to the local community in the Hardwick Happenings.

Our secretary attended the virtual AGM in June as our delegate and some members have enjoyed Denman at Home on a range of subjects such as cookery demonstrations, family history and virtual walks around London.

During lockdown some of our members have been knitting baby hats for the Rosie maternity hospital. We also entered a fairytale Christmas tree in St. Mary's church festival.

Unfortunately December's home grown entertainment for our Christmas meeting was curtailed as Covid raised its ugly head again but we enjoyed a socially distanced buffet supplied by the members and a quiz.

The committee organised a Chinese takeaway meal and made desserts for the members for our January social.

As of today our membership stands at 35.

Sadly however, we lost one of our long standing members and past president, Jane Giddings, this year, she is much missed.

Thank you to all the committee for ensuring we could still meet throughout a difficult year and we look forward to a new year with a varied exciting programme of events and activities.

Carolyn Purser

Hardwick WI President.

Speed watch was resurrected in 2018 once the residents comments in preparation for the Village Plan were made available. Fear of speeding traffic was one of the top three concerns and 89% of residents wanted something done about it. Speed Watch volunteers quickly measured and reported disrespectful and of course illegal speeds and as a result the Parish Council applied both for a Speed Display to go on posts (Movable Vehicle Activated Sign -MVAS) and a Traffic Calming solution for Cambridge Road.

The Covid 19 restrictions prevented continuous speed checks by the team in person but Speed Watch offered to manage the MVAS Speed Displays for the Parish Council and the displays continued to operate and be moved around the village (thanks to Paul Crinson of the Speed Watch team). These speeds have been reported every 28 days both to Police and Highways. The Speed Watch team currently has 10 volunteers. We continue to work with the Police Speed Camera operations.

As a result, we now have a quieter village in terms both of vehicle numbers and generally lower speeds. There are still idiots recorded at over twice the limit near the school and on St Neots Road trying to make a point but hopefully these are not residents of Hardwick.

If you would like to be part of this team, please contact the village coordinator, details in Hardwick Happenings and on the village web site.