

Hardwick Parish Council
Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 14 December 2022 at 7.00 pm
Held at The Cabin at St Mary's, Hardwick

Present: Councillors: A Gill (Chairman), B Coxall, S Krishnamurthy, G Moffett and S Rose.

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

Open public session including reports from the County and District Councillors

None.

1. To receive apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllrs Rangadurai (personal commitment), Armisen (conflict in calendar), Dabrowski (work commitment) and Phillips (unwell).

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 respect of the new Community Centre and explained the background and rationale for declaring a non-pecuniary interest. He was checking his position with CAPALC. He also declared an interest in any item relating to the Pavilion as a life member of Hardwick Football Club and a life member of HSSC.

Cllr Gill declared a non-pecuniary interest regarding the new Community Centre as a Trustee of the Charity, and confirmed that he would also check the position with CAPALC.

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 16 November, the confidential minutes of 16 November and the extra-ordinary meeting of 28 November

RESOLVED to note that there were no confidential minutes for the meeting on 16 November.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting on 16 November be approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record. (Prop GM, 2nd SK, unanimous)

RESOLVED that the minutes of the extra-ordinary meeting on 28 November be approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record. (Prop BC, 2nd GM, carried with 1 abstention)

4. To conclude business outstanding from the last meeting on 28 September due to time constraints

4.1 (7.4) Proposal that the Parish Council considers a way to reduce parking on the main road especially near the Church and shop

RESOLVED, having considered and reviewed the efforts made over many years, that the Parish Council has done all it can to bring about an improvement, and concludes that there is nothing further it can do as there are no viable solutions to the problem at the present time.

4.2 (7.5) Proposal to set up digitalisation of the current contracts: having documents in physical folders is not practical. We should explore setting up a working group to handle digitalisation. Create dropbox access and organize all files for the availability of council members

RESOLVED to defer this item to the next meeting.

- 4.3 (7.6) Community engagement – engagement activities proposed including Parish Council Quiz team, representation during Pippins cake and coffee, HPC surgery – discussion and potential commitment from other Parish Councillors
RESOLVED to defer this item to the next meeting when Cllr Dabrowski is present.
- 4.4 (7.7) Deed of Variation update and to consider the Millers Way funding given the start date may be before the S106 funds are received
RESOLVED that Cllr Moffett should put the dates of the works on the website (start 4th January and the anticipated end date is 27 January. The contractor is to write to nearby residents. The contract had been signed and the Civil Engineer would check all work was done in accordance with the design.
RESOLVED that this item be deferred to the next meeting to enable Cllr Dabrowski to report.
- 4.5 (8.4) HSSC – notification of ongoing Pavilion drain problems
RESOLVED nothing further had been heard and the Council had noted the comments made at the November meeting and was aware of the need for action.
5. **Matters arising or deferred from the last or previous meetings for discussion/decision**
- 5.1 (4.0.1) NHS outreach Covid vaccination sessions – to consider response
RESOLVED to note that the Cabin was unavailable on the dates requested, and the position with the funding was not known.
- 5.2 (4.2) Resident request for First Aid sessions and a second defibrillator – to consider if there has been any response from the Facebook article and if any other action is necessary
RESOLVED to note that there had not been any responses on Facebook.
RESOLVED that Cllr Moffett should obtain quotations for a second defibrillator.
RESOLVED that this should be an agenda item for the January meeting.
- 5.3 (4.3) Proposal that the Council writes to residents where hedges are overhanging
RESOLVED to receive Cllr Moffett’s verbal report that having contacted CCC, it had said they would only write to residents if the Parish Council had written to them first.
- 5.4 (4.4) Several parents in from Hardwick Pre School and Primary school have expressed their concerns about an absence of a painted zebra crossing in Egremont Road & in front of the school. I would like to bring this to the attention of the council to help find a solution
RESOLVED, having received Cllr Krishnamurthy’s verbal report on a site meeting made by herself and Cllr Rangadurai, that given the absence of interest from the School, it had not been possible to establish a need for a zebra crossing, to accept the recommendation from the Highways and Road Safety Group that the Parish Council should not proceed with the proposal at this time.
- 5.5 (4.6) Recreation Ground maintenance from 2023 – to consider outcome of discussion with Chris Fuller and additional quotations if received
RESOLVED to receive Cllr Rose’s verbal report on his discussion with Chris Fuller and that Cllr Rose should pursue this further on Mr Fuller’s return.
- 5.6 (7.3) Pavilion lease – to consider report from Working Group and recommendation on the rent survey
RESOLVED to note that Cllr Gill was in the process of obtaining quotations for a valuation of the lease as the District Valuer had declined to quote and that HSSC would be updated.

RESOLVED to note, with regard to queries raised by Councillors at the last meeting regarding the valuation of the Pavilion 10 years ago, and details of expenditure on the Pavilion in the intervening period that this information should be available in the budgets and minutes on the website, but that these documents were not accessible.

Cllr Rose declared a non-pecuniary interest in this item as an honorary life member of HSSC, and a non-pecuniary interest in the Pavilion as a life member of HSSC, and given that he was also involved in the discussions on behalf of HSSC when the previous lease was agreed, he would not participate in any discussions or vote on this item.

There was no item 5.7.

- 5.8 (8.2) Resident request to purchase Parish Council land in Blenheim Way
RESOLVED to respond to the resident that it is not the Parish Council's policy to sell its land. (Prop AG, 2nd SR, unanimous)
- 5.9 (8.3) CCC LHI scheme 2023-2024 invitation to bid – to consider report and recommendation from Highways and Road Safety Working Group
Taken previously under item 5.4.
- 5.10 (8.5) PHFI 2021-2022 St Neots Road – to consider costs and recommendations from the Highways Working Group that the Council chooses the second option
RESOLVED, given Cllr Dabrowski was not present, to defer this item to the January meeting.
- 5.11 (9) To set up an HR Working Group/Committee and agree its terms of reference and membership and review other working groups and member responsibilities
RESOLVED to defer this item to the next meeting in view of the absence of several members.
- 5.13 (5.4 of 28.9.22) To consider quotations for carrying out a tree survey
RESOLVED having considered the two quotations received, to accept the quotation from Eastern Tree Surgery for £1200.00 plus VAT, as the cheaper quote, to carry out the survey for the existing areas only at this stage. (Prop SR, 2nd GM, unanimous)

6. Finance, risk assessment and procedural matters

- 6.1 To consider any quotes for urgent work required because of risk and Clerk's use of delegated powers
None.
- 6.2 To receive play areas and skate park inspection reports and consider if any work is required
RESOLVED that Cllrs Gill and Krishnamurthy should carry out the inspection which had not been possible due to the snow.

At 8.28 pm, on a proposition by the Chairman, it was agreed to vary the order of business to take item 8.1 next as it concerned some of the invoices presented for payment.

- 8.1 New Housing Developments and Planning Obligations including invitation to members to attend a meeting with the HCCWG to update them on the Community Centre project
RESOLVED to receive Cllr Rose's verbal report regarding the architect's revised fee proposal last July to one of the members of the Community Centre Working Group, but unfortunately this had not been shared with the rest of the group or passed on to the Parish Council.

The revised fee proposal reflected an increase in the amounts due to AMA Architects, the Grove Construction Consultants (Structural Engineer) and Andrew Firebrace Partnership (Quantity Surveyor), based on the anticipated increased valuation for the larger building.

The Working Group had discussed and accepted the reasons for the revised proposal and was satisfied that the increased fees should be paid. The Working Group was requesting that the increased invoices be approved and paid by the Parish Council, subject to the invoices being correctly addressed to the Council and subject to the Architects' confirmation that the work has been carried out.

Cllr rose also reported that a Charity had been set up to support the fundraising efforts of the Working Group, and that he was involved in opening a bank account, and registering with HMRC. An extra-ordinary Parish Council meeting was therefore being held on Wednesday 21 December to ensure that the Council's consideration and decision was formally recorded in the minutes and ensure transparency.

6.3 To receive the financial report and approve the payment of bills

RESOLVED that the payments as listed as below in the finance report should be paid, plus RH Landscapes (grass cutting) £780.00, AMA Architects (Community Centre fees) £9244.00, Grove Construction Consultants (Community Centre) £6912.00 and Andrew Firebrace Partnership (Community Centre) £7920.00. (Prop BC, 2nd GM, carried with 4 in favour and 1 abstention)

Salaries and Pensions	£854.34
Cambridgeshire ACRE (Affiliation fee)	£57.00
LGS Services (Admin support November)	£1420.46
RPM (Play equipment repair)	£576.00

7. Planning Applications and Decision notices and tree works applications

7.1.1 22/04862/S73 – Land at 147 St Neots Road – S72 to vary condition 2 (approved drawings) of ref: 21/03438/FUL (Erection of 9 self-contained residential flats and associated infrastructure and works) to remove the communal roof terrace and replace with an array of 52 photovoltaic panels

Noted for information only.

7.1.2 21/03438/CONDB – Land at 147 St Neots Road – Submission of details required by Condition 19 (Materials) and 29 (Archaeology) of planning permission 21/03438/FUL

Noted.

7.2 SCDC and appeal decision notices - to note

7.2.1 21/03438/NMA2 – Land at 147 St Neots Road – Non-material amendment on application 21/03438/FUL for minor adjustments to internal layouts and communal areas, minor changes to opening positions and reduction in glazing and minor changes in position and thickness of external envelope - Permission granted by SCDC.

7.2.2 21/01832/NMA1 – Land south of St Neots Road – Non-material amendment on permission 21/01832/FUL for alterations to bin storage and removal of hanging tiles to gable fronted garages – Permission granted by SCDC.

7.3 Tree works applications

7.3.1 22/1413/TTCA – 52 Main Street

RESOLVED that the Parish Council has no objections.

On a proposition by the Chairman it was agreed to extend the meeting by a further half hour to enable the remaining items to be taken.

8. Members' reports and items for information only

8.1 New Housing Developments and Planning Obligations (continued)

RESOLVED with regard to funding to note that the National Savings and Investments account was limited to £1,000,000, and that the Parish Council is aware that there is more than £85,000 in the Unity Trust account, and therefore not protected under the Financial Services Compensation Scheme.

8.2 GCP Making Connections Consultation/Survey - to consider the recommendation from the Highways Working Group

RESOLVED having considered the Working Group’s draft response, that Cllr Krishnamurthy should submit this after two amendments: under question 4, to respond with “More routes,” “Fast, high frequency services,” and “Increased rural services;” and under question 6, Greenways, to respond “Strongly support.” (Prop SK, 2nd AG, unanimous)

RESOLVED that the response should be placed on the website.

8.3 Proposal that the Council considers works to the notice board in Main Street

RESOLVED that the notice board in Main Street should be refurbished by replacing the cork board and that James Wakeling be asked to undertake this work. (Prop AG 2nd BC unanimous)

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

9.1 SCDC – Six free trees scheme

RESOLVED, noting that some trees previously planted had snapped, to apply for one larger tree and that Cllr Gill should order the tree online.

10. Closure of meeting and items for the next agenda

RESOLVED that consideration of the location for the EV charger should be an agenda item for the next meeting.

RESOLVED that a proposal that Cllr Dabrowski be added as a signatory on the Unity Trust Bank account should be an agenda item for the next meeting.

The budget meeting will be held on 25 January.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 9.23 pm.

SignedChairmandate
