

Hardwick Parish Council
Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 25th January 2023 at 7.00 pm
Held at The Cabin at St Mary's, Hardwick

Present: Councillors: A Gill (Chairman), J Armisen, B Coxall, J Dabrowski, S Krishnamurthy, G Moffett, C Phillips, P Rangadurai and S Rose.

In attendance: Mrs Gail Stoehr (Clerk &RFO).

Open public session

None.

1. To receive apologies for absence

None as all present.

2. Declarations of interest

2.1 To receive declarations of interests from councillors on items on the agenda and details of dispensations held

Cllr Rose declared an interest as a life member of HSSC; and also as a life member of Hardwick Football Club; and in any other item relating to the Community Centre as a Director/Trustee of the Hardwick Community Centre Charity none of which were pecuniary interests.

Cllr Gill declared a non-pecuniary interest regarding the new Community Centre as a Director/Trustee of the Hardwick Community Centre Charity.

Cllrs Gill, Armisen, Dabrowski, Krishnamurthy, Moffett, Phillips, and Rangadurai declared an interest in item 7.setting as Precept as Council Tax payers.

2.2 To receive written requests for dispensation and grant any as appropriate for items on this agenda

RESOLVED to grant a dispensation for four years for setting the precept to Cllrs Gill, Armisen, Dabrowski, Krishnamurthy, Moffett, Phillips, and Rangadurai ^(Prop AG 2nd CP unopposed)

3.2 (4.13) New Hardwick Community Centre - consideration of funding for the project and whether a PWLB loan is to be applied for and the next steps

RESOLVED to defer this item to later in the meeting and to vary the order of business to take items 4 and 5 next and together.

4. To review the budget for financial year ending 31 March 2023 against receipts and payments and to consider any outstanding projects or spending and to make arrangements for these and to consider and earmark any reserves

RESOLVED to:-

- Rename S106 Community Bus funds to Community Transport
- Note that the cost of the Zoho emails was now £132pa and website security £76 the latter being last paid in April 2022. Cllr Moffett is to find out the security level of the website to which the payment relates,
- Earmark at the financial year end the Grounds Improvements budget to a Special Projects budget instead as the grounds improvements are not being progressed.
- Earmark at FY end the Community Centre fit out costs budget.
- Note the Council is on a variable contract for street lighting electricity.

RESOLVED to receive the Chairman's verbal report that the initial camera investigation showed a rod blocking the drain. Further investigations from the other direction were also required.

RESOLVED as the estimate for the works was now £8,255 and this is still an emergency to increase the delegation spending power to the Chairman and Clerk to £10,000.

RESOLVED to receive Cllr Rose's verbal report that the new community centre drain would not follow the route of the existing pavilion drain as previously thought.

RESOLVED given the unforeseen delays to the Millers Way contract due to health and weather not to insist the contract is signed by the end of the month but let it roll for now and trust it will be signed ASAP.

5. To consider a budget for FY2024 based on historic costs and existing contracts and proposals by Councillors

RESOLVED having noted the baseline budget prepared by the RFO

To increase advertising to £3,300 to include the increased email costs and a grant to Hardwick Happenings

To include £8000 for grounds maintenance, £4,000 for street lighting and £2,500 S145 entertainment Operation Orb (Coronation) and £10,000 for bank interest

3.1 (4.5) Resident request for a second defibrillator – to consider quotations and whether to proceed

RESOLVED that Cllr Moffett together with the Clerk's help and as co-signatory should apply for Lottery Grant funding expected to take 12 weeks, but in the event that it is not successful to include £2,000 in the FY2024 budget. (Prop JD, 2nd AG unanimous)

3.2 (4.13) New Hardwick Community Centre - consideration of funding for the project and whether a PWLB loan is to be applied for and the next steps

RESOLVED to consider Cllr Rose's report also that of Cllrs Krishnamurthy and Armisen on loans, repayment terms and possible options for the length of loan.

RESOLVED to apply for a loan towards the cost of the new Hardwick Community Centre (Prop JA 2nd SK unanimous)

RESOLVED to include £15,000 in the FY24 budget to cover the one loan repayment that will be required in FY24

RESOLVED to include £10,000 fit out costs be included in the FY24 budget.

RESOLVED, given the date of the tender returns was now 10th February and building start date June 2023, to give further consideration to the term and amount of the loan application and also the budget forecast for FY25 once the tenders had been received.

RESOLVED that the preparation of a business plan and arrangements for the public consultation required for the loan application be considered at the next meeting.

5. To consider a budget for FY2024 based on historic costs and existing contracts and proposals by Councillors continued

RESOLVED, having reviewed the reserves and level of general reserves and outstanding commitment and orders to release £4,306 to balance the budget. (Prop SR 2nd AG unanimous)

6. To approve the budget for financial year ending 31st March 2024

RESOLVED that the budget for FY24 be approved showing payment of £93,980.00 (Prop JA 2nd AG unanimous)

3.3 Proposal that the Parish Council considers if it wants to apply for EV Charger grant from SCDC

RESOLVED that as there was not a suitable location on the recreation ground not to progress this at this time (Prop SK, 2nd AG unanimous)

3.4 (5.3) Proposal that the Parish Council open a Unity Trust Savings Instant access account with 1.4% interest rate

RESOLVED noting that this would not reduce the Council’s FSCS risk with Unity Trust Bank but increase the interest raised to open a Unity Trust Savings Instant Access Account (Prop SR 2nd JD unanimous)

3.5 (5.3) to consider increasing the level of Fidelity guarantee insurance to £2m for £56 premium (does not cover extended FCSC guarantee)

RESOLVED to increase the level of fidelity guarantee to £2 million for a premium of £56. (Prop Sr 2nd JD unanimous)

7. To set and demand the precept required for the Parish Council to balance its budget

RESOLVED, having released funds from General Reserves, to set and demand from the District Council a precept of £75,400, being an increase of approximately 9.4% over last year on the new Band D rate, being the amount required by the Parish Council to balance the budget for FY24. (Prop CP, 2nd PR, 8 in favour and 1 against)

8. Closure of meeting

There was no further business and the meeting was declared closed by the Chairman at 10.12pm.

SignedChairmandate

