

**Hardwick Parish Council**  
**Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 19 April 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, C Phillips, P Rangadurai and S Rose.

In attendance: 2 members of the public and Mrs Gail Stoehr (Clerk).

**Open public session including reports from the County and District Councillors**

The written report received from County Cllr Michael Atkins had been previously circulated.

A resident spoke to item 8.2 and his paper entitled "Future maintenance of Millers Way." He suggested that the Parish Council put the maintenance responsibilities for Miller's Way on to the County Council. If evidence had been provided that Miller's Way had been in use prior to 1949 then CCC would have had to adopt and maintain Miller's Way. He asked whether, if the Council could now provide evidence of unrestricted/unobstructed use prior to 1949, CCC would now adopt and maintain Miller's Way. He maintained that paragraph 12.3 of the County Council report left the door open.

**1. To receive apologies for absence**

Apologies were received from Cllr Moffett (holidays) for the April and May meetings.

On a proposition by the Chairman, the order of business was varied to take item 8.1 next.

**8.1 Speed Watch – Parish Council obligations regarding the MVAS equipment**

RESOLVED that Cllr Armisen should help to move the MVAS equipment as and when required. There was no need for a formal reply. (Prop JA, 2nd AG, unanimous)

**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 an interest in any item concerning the Pavilion and Recreation Ground as a life member and founding member of HSSC, and a member of the Hardwick Football Club. He declared non-pecuniary interest in items 4.6 and 7.2 as a Director and Trustee of the Hardwick Community Centre Charity.

Cllr Rangadurai declared an interest in any item relating to Meridian Fields as a resident.

Cllr Dabrowski declared an interest in any item relating to Meridian Fields as a resident and property owner.

Cllr Gill declared an interest in items 4.6 and 7.2 relating to the new Community Centre as a Director and Trustee of the Hardwick Community Centre Charity.

**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 15 March**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting on 15 March be approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record. (Prop PR, 2nd JD, unanimous)

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

**4.1 (Open) Hardwick Pre-school – to consider grant application for re-surfacing outside area**

At 7.35 pm, on a proposition by the Chairman, the meeting was briefly adjourned to ask James Wakeling, representing the Pre-School, where the other funding for the project was coming from. He replied that this was coming from various sources, including Hill; the work had already been carried out but had drained the Pre-school's accounts. The meeting re-opened at 7.45 pm.

The Clerk advised on the Parish Council's power for recreation but not for supplementing a bank account.

RESOLVED to donate £1000 towards the works conditional on the application being updated to state that the work has already been started/done, and on sight of the invoice. When both the amended application and the copy of the invoice have been received the Parish Council will transfer the £1,000. (Prop JD, 2nd JA, unanimous)

4.2 (7.4) Meeting with Stagecoach – to consider any matters arising from the meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> April

RESOLVED to note the statement from the Mayor which had been received by Cllr Dabrowski prior to the public meeting.

RESOLVED to note that between the Combined Authority and the bus providers, funding for the Citi 4 bus had been provided up to 2024.

.RESOLVED that the Parish Council should send two representatives to the joint parish meeting to be held in Cambourne in June.

RESOLVED that Dan Baker's notes on the Meeting with Stagecoach should be made available to the Parish Council for the website.

RESOLVED that now the bus situation had been resolved the PHFI application should be an agenda item for the next meeting.

4.3 (7.5.1 and 7.5.2) Community Transport Initiative – to consider any matters arising from the letter to the Mayor or the Uber-style transport option

RESOLVED to defer this item to the next meeting pending Ms Krishnamurthy drafting the letter for the Chairman..

4.4 (7.6) Meeting with Hill regarding residents' concerns – update on Dan Brown's attendance at a meeting

RESOLVED to note that Dan Brown had agreed either to attend a meeting or deal with issues by email.

RESOLVED to note ongoing problems at the allotments with the tap which had been reported to Hill by Cllr Rangadurai and Steve Gaze.

RESOLVED the bench is to be turned the correct way before handover to the Parish Council.

4.5 (4.2 of 15.2.23) Pavilion lease – to consider valuation received and any recommendation from the Working Group

RESOLVED, given that the Working Group was intending to meet in the next week, to defer this item to the next meeting.

4.6 (4.1) New Hardwick Community Centre to receive an update report from Cllr Rose on the tenders received and consider if any further action is required regarding the business plan, term and amount of the loan application, the budget forecast for FY2025 and the public consultation

At 8.11 pm, on a proposition by the Chairman, carried unopposed, in accordance with S1 (2) of the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960, in view of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, that is, as the reports and tenders

were confidential being commercially sensitive, the public were temporarily excluded from the meeting and were instructed to withdraw.

A resident left the meeting. The Clerk was invited to remain. The meeting re-opened at 9.05 pm. The meeting was reopened.

RESOLVED to note the Chairman of the Hardwick Community Centre Working Group will be putting out a report to the residents.

4.7 (5.3) To consider additional bank signatories

RESOLVED that all members except for Cllr Coxall should be signatories on the Unity Trust bank account. (Prop JD, 2nd AG, carried with 6 in favour and 1 against)

4.8 To review the Council's policy regarding payments

RESOLVED to adopt:-

“The Clerk and RFO shall have delegated authority to authorise the payment of items only in the following circumstances:

a) If a payment is necessary to avoid a charge to interest under the Late Payment of Commercial Debts (Interest) Act 1998, and the due date for payment is before the next scheduled Meeting of council, where the Clerk and RFO certify that there is no dispute or other reason to delay payment, provided that a list of such payments shall be submitted to the next appropriate meeting of council [or finance committee];

b) An expenditure item authorised under 5.6 below (continuing contracts and obligations) provided that a list of such payments shall be submitted to the next appropriate meeting of council [or finance committee]; or

5.6. For each financial year the Clerk and RFO shall draw up a list of due payments which arise on a regular basis as the result of a continuing contract, statutory duty, or obligation (such as but not exclusively) Salaries, PAYE and NI, Superannuation Fund and regular maintenance contracts and the like for which council may authorise payment for the year provided that the requirements of regulation 4.1 (Budgetary Controls) are adhered to, provided also that a list of such payments shall be submitted to the next appropriate meeting of council. (Prop JD 2nd JA unanimous)

Clarification was sought on whether this would solve the payments to the builder once the tender and payments schedule was agreed by Council.

4.9 (4.4) To re-consider the Parish Council's appointment to Speedwatch

Taken earlier under item 8.1.

**5. Finance, risk assessment and procedural matters**

5.1 To consider any quotes for urgent work required because of risk and the Clerk's use of delegated powers

None.

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

RESOLVED to receive the report on the St Mary's Play Area.

RESOLVED that the other reports will be submitted to the Clerk once the inspections have taken place.

A proposal will be brought to the next meeting for additional barriers.

5.3 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 John Cobb (Miller's Way) £36,380.82. (Prop SR, 2nd JA, unanimous)

Salaries	£579.34
Civilistix (Millers Way project management)	£1123.15

LGS Services (Admin support March 2023)	£1603.28
Carter Jonas (Pavilion valuation)	£1200.00
RH Landscapes (Grass cutting)	£390.00
CAPALC (Affiliation fee)	£660.54

Credits, including bank interest, Pavilion rent and a VAT reclaim, were noted.

- 5.4 To consider room bookings for the venue from June onwards  
RESOLVED to continue with the Cabin until further notice. (Prop SR, 2nd JA, unanimous)
- 6. To consider any planning applications and decision notices and tree works applications**
- 6.1 Planning applications and appeals
- 6.1.1 23/01045/TELNOT – Near 17 Ashmead Drive – Installation of 1 x 9m light pole  
Noted.
- 6.1.2 23/00841/CL2PD – 1 Ashmead Drive – Certificate of lawfulness under S192 for replacement of existing conservatory with a single storey rear extension  
Noted.
- 6.1.3 21/03438/CONDE – Land at 147 St Neots Road – Submission of details required by conditions 9 (surface water drainage) and 11 (surface water maintenance) of planning permission 21/03438/FUL  
Noted.
- 6.2 SCDC decision and appeal notices and correspondence
- 6.2.1 23/00440/HFUL – 23 Grace Crescent – Loft conversion with front or rear facing dormers, internal wall removal – Permission refused by SCDC.
- 6.2.2 23/00228/PRIOR – 11 Sudeley Grove – Ground floor rear extension – Prior approval not required
- 6.3 Tree works applications
- 6.3.1 23/0301/TTCA – 26 Main Street  
RESOLVED that the Parish Council has no comments.
- 7. Members’ reports and items for information only**
- 7.1 New Housing Developments and Planning Obligations  
Pigeon Developments were looking to purchase land.
- 7.2 Community Centre update  
Taken earlier under item 4.6.
- 7.3 Proposal that consideration be given to a response to the resident who has reached out in the Parish Facebook Page and has requested an explanation for the raise in the Hardwick component of the Council Tax. The Council to agree unanimously on a post explaining the process and reason to be posted on social media?  
RESOLVED that the resident be asked to write to the Clerk.
- 8. To consider any correspondence/communications received requiring formal noting by or a decision of the Council**
- 8.1 Speed Watch – Parish Council obligations regarding the MVAS equipment  
Taken earlier.
- 8.2 Resident – Millers Way – future maintenance arrangements  
RESOLVED to ask the resident if he will on the Parish Council’s behalf put forward the question to CCC as to whether it would maintain Millers way if evidence of unrestricted/unobstructed use prior to 1949 was provided to it as he has all the

information to do so and if the answer was yes gather and submit the required evidence to CCC. (Prop JD, 2nd AG, unanimous)

8.3 PB Circuit Training – request to use the hard courts and surrounding grass for fitness classes

RESOLVED to invite him to attend the May meeting to answer Councillors’ questions and bring his risk assessment and insurance information before any further consideration.

8.4 Resident – Request that the Parish Council cut down the tree stumps on the recreation ground to the rear of their property

RESOLVED that the resident can carry out the work themselves subject to a written risk assessment.

8.5 CCC 20 mph scheme (deadline 30 April) to consider if an application is to be made

RESOLVED, , even though of the 111 response to the Facebook survey 65/35 were in favour of an application, given that there was no evidence of accidents in Main Street and Cambridge Road, it was difficult to provide specific evidence to support an application, that the Parish Council would not make an application this year., (Prop SR, 2nd CP, unanimous)

9. Closure of meeting and items for the next agenda

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 9.59 pm.

Signed .....Chairman .....date

---

