

Hardwick Parish Council
Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 21 June 2023 at 7.00 pm
Held at The Cabin at St Mary's, Hardwick

Present: Councillors: A Gill (Chairman), B Coxall, P Joslin, C Phillips, P Rangadurai 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 and to note the resignation of Cllr Moffett**
 Apologies were received from Cllrs Dabrowski (work commitments).and Armisen (work commitments).
 The resignation of George Moffett as a member was noted. The Parish Council expressed thanks to him for all his hard work during his term of office.
 It was noted that following the resignation of a councillor, their Parish Council email would be removed. RESOLVED, given Cllr Dabrowski had previously indicated his willingness to take on the Webmaster role, that Cllr Rangadurai should speak to him about the possibility of his taking over as Webmaster.
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 item 5.4 as a life member and founding member of HSSC, and indicated his intention to leave the room while this was being discussed, having been involved in the previous update of the lease.
 Cllr Rose declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 8.2 as a Director and Trustee of the Hardwick Community Centre Charity.
 Cllr Gill declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 8.2 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 17 May**
 RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting on 17 May be approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record. (Prop CP, 2nd BC, carried with 4 in favour and 1 abstention)
4. **To consider application to fill casual vacancy – Pauline Joslin, 39 St Neots Road, Hardwick, CB23 7QH**
 On a proposition by the Chairman, the meeting was temporarily suspended to enable Mrs Joslin to expand on her application to re-join the Parish Council and answer questions from Councillors. The meeting resumed at 7.25 pm and she voluntarily left the room while the application was discussed.
 RESOLVED to co-opt Pauline Joslin as a member of the Parish Council. (Prop AG, 2nd BC, unanimous)
 Cllr Joslin re-joined the meeting at 7.35 pm and signed her Declaration of Acceptance of Office before taking her seat.
 Cllr Rose apologised that he would need to leave by 9 pm.
5. **Matters arising or deferred from the last or previous meetings for discussion/decision**

- 5.1 (7.2) Community Transport initiative – to consider any matters arising from letter to the Mayor or the Uber-style transport option
RESOLVED, given that Cllr Armisen was not present, and nothing further had been heard, to defer this item to the next meeting.
- 5.2 (8.4) RoSPA reports – to consider reports and recommendations for remedial works
RESOLVED, having received recommendations from Cllrs Gill and Coxall, to note the following works required:
Grenadier Walk:
Rocker/seesaw – removal of algae and bird mess
Brambles behind swing to be cut back
Swing shackles to be serviced
Worcester Avenue:
Remove grass, edge against the wall to be strimmed
Monitor safety surfaces though not currently a trip hazard
Church Play area:
Strim back nettles overgrowing the sign
Replace swing shackles
Ruts along sides of roadway – RESOLVED to write to the landowner to ask if there is anything they can suggest, noting that Cllr Coxall is willing to meet on site if wished.
Litter bin – RESOLVED to delegate to the Clerk to purchase a new Topsy bin.
Monitor surface in front of the swing
Replace swing shackles
Protruding manhole covers – build up ground around them.
RESOLVED to ask Cllr Armisen for his recommendations and to seek quotations for all the works identified.
RESOLVED in response to a resident reporting bird mess on the swing seat. that it was difficult for the Parish Council to take any action to prevent this.
RESOLVED to receive Cllr Rose's report that his test clean of two benches using the wet and forget method had had some effect and he felt that there had been an improvement.
- 5.3 (11.0.4) Complaints about unmown areas – to consider response from Climate Action Group
RESOLVED to receive Cllr Rose's report on correspondence with Shaun Hughes and that he should speak to the Climate Group again to clarify their understanding of the Council's requirements and report back to the next meeting.
RESOLVED in response to Cllr Rangadurai report that a tree had been cut down at the play area in Egremont Road, leading to complaints on Facebook to check the tree survey as it was believed this was part of the work identified by the survey to remove a diseased tree.
- 5.4 (7.3) Pavilion lease update and response from HSSC
RESOLVED that Cllrs Gill and Phillips should meet with Chris Cracknell and report back to the July meeting.
- 6. Finance, risk assessment and procedural matters**
- 6.1 To consider any quotes for urgent work required because of risk and the 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 to receive the reports on the St Mary's, Grenadier Walk and Worcester Avenue play areas, and to note that no additional work was required other than that identified in the RoSPA reports.

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 Mr Groundsman £1,320.00 (Decompaction and weed spraying) and £1,242.00 (Fertiliser). (Prop AG, 2nd SR, carried with 1 abstention)

Salaries	£853.28
SCDC (Bin emptying)	£240.00
RH Landscapes (Grass cutting)	£1350.00
LGS Services (Admin support May 2023)	£1464.40

Credits, including bank interest, were noted.

6.4 To carry out a review of the effectiveness of the system of internal control that has been in place during the year under review (between 1 April 2022 and 31 March 2023)

RESOLVED that Cllr Rose should carry out a check of the accounts before the next meeting.

RESOLVED to ensure that the all bank deposits on the Income and Expenditure accounts are shown against the correct bank name.

RESOLVED to clarify the change in balances in the General Fund since the last year end.

RESOLVED, noting that the backdated interest payment from NS&I had not yet been received, that the Chairman should write to them requesting reimbursement of the interest paid by them to the wrong payee.

6.5 To prepare the Annual Governance Statement (Section 1 of the Annual Return)

RESOLVED that statements 1-8 in the Annual Governance Statement be all answered "Yes," apart from Question 9 (Trusts) which was not applicable. (Prop SR, 2nd CP, unanimous)

6.6 To approve the Annual Governance Statement by resolution

RESOLVED that the Annual Governance Statement be approved and signed by the Chairman and the Clerk on the Council's behalf. (Prop SR, 2nd CP, unanimous)

6.7 To consider the Accounting Statements (Section 2 of the Annual Return)

RESOLVED to defer this item until Cllr Rose has had the opportunity to review the accounting statements.

6.8 To approve the Accounting Statements by resolution

RESOLVED to defer this item until Cllr Rose has had the opportunity to review the accounting statements.

6.9 To ensure that the Accounting Statements are signed and dated by the person presiding at the meeting

RESOLVED to defer this item until Cllr Rose has had the opportunity to review the accounting statements.

7. To consider any planning applications and decision notices and tree works applications

7.1 Planning applications and appeals

7.1.1 23/02106/FUL – 11 St Neots Road – Replacement dwelling and car port following the demolition of an existing dwelling, garage and outbuildings

RESOLVED that the Parish Council is neutral. (Prop AG, 2nd CP, unanimous)

7.1.2 21/03438/CONDG – Land at 147 St Neots Road – Submission of details requested by condition 8 (Contaminated land) parts b) and c) of planning permission 21/03438/FUL

Noted.

7.1.3 21/04995/CONDA – 181 St Neots Road – Submission of details required by conditions 3 (bin and cycle stores) and 10 (biodiversity enhancement) of planning permission 21/04995/FUL

Noted.

7.1.4 23/02110/HFUL – 23 Grace Crescent – Loft conversion with front and rear dormers, internal wall removal

RESOLVED that the Parish Council is neutral. (Prop AG, 2nd SR, unanimous)

7.1.5 23/02262/FUL – Newton House, 147 St Neots Road – Amendment to approved apartments (21/01345/FUL) to include 2 No. Studio Apartments within roof space
RESOLVED that the Parish Council objects on the grounds that this will add two more cars and parking on a crowded site and road. (Prop AG, 2nd CP, unanimous)

RESOLVED, given the number of dwellings in this building will now increase from five to seven, that the Parish Council should keep an eye on whether the two sites are being developed together, because of the implications for S106 funds.

7.2 SCDC decision and appeal notices and correspondence

7.2.1 23/00656/HFUL – 26 Hall Drive – Part demolition and part proposed roof raise to create front and rear first floor extension – Permission granted by SCDC.

7.3 Tree works applications

None.

8. Members' reports and items for information only

8.1 New Housing Developments and Planning Obligations

RESOLVED to receive a verbal report from Cllr Rose that the owners of the land east of Cambridge Road had invited him and Cllr Gill to a meeting with the landowner and developer for an update on their latest plans. Cllr Rose confirmed that this would not imply any agreement or approval, but would simply be to find out what was happening.

8.2 Community Centre update

RESOLVED to receive a verbal report from Cllr Rose that the application to the National Lottery Community Fund had been declined. He, along with the Chairman and Alan West, would be discussing this with the Community Fund on Friday to ascertain their reasons for refusal and ask whether they would consider a smaller loan. The Hardwick Community Centre Working Group were pursuing the possibility of a smaller building and raising more funds, and would be looking at a reduction in the size of the building at their meeting on Thursday, which could enable the building to go ahead if a favourable response is not received from the National Lottery Community Fund. The potential cost reductions were insufficient for the larger building to go ahead at this stage.

8.1 (Continued) New Housing Developments and Planning Obligations

RESOLVED to receive Cllr Gill's verbal report that Cllr Rangdurai's list of issues relating to Meridian Fields had been sent to the solicitor. A liaison meeting would take place tomorrow. Cllr Rangadurai is trying to obtain details of the contract between the management company and the estate maintenance.

RESOLVED as anti-social behaviour had been reported at Meridian Fields and given that the land is not yet the responsibility of the Parish Council, the Chairman will raise the issue at the next Police liaison meeting.

- 8.3 Proposal for the buying of goal replacement nets
<https://www.eurosoccercompany.com/goal-posts/goal-nets/16-x-7ft-4.88-x-2.13m-9-a-side-nets/harrod-2.5mm-nets-for-steel-freestanding-goals-pair-16-x-7ft-4.88m-x-2.13m> for the 2 goals post located at the rec and that are in much use by our young community (these goal post are different ones than the ones used by the football team).

RESOLVED to purchase two goal post nets at an approximate cost of £119 for two.
(Prop AG, 2nd PR, unanimous)

Cllr Rose left the meeting at 9.00 pm.

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

- 9.1 SCDC – Streets service charges for additional bin installations/emptying
Noted.

- 10. **Closure of meeting and items for the next agenda**

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 9.03 pm.

SignedChairmandate
