

**Hardwick Parish Council**  
**Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 19 July 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, P Joslin, C Phillips and P Rangadurai.

In attendance: 15 members of the public, County Cllr M Atkins and Mrs A Griffiths (Minutes Secretary, LGS Services).

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

A resident spoke in support of the proposal in item 7.7 that the Parish Council should take over the maintenance of the areas in Meridian Fields which were not already due to be transferred to the Parish Council. He felt that it would be beneficial if the development were looked after as one entity, and it would be easier and cheaper.

County Cllr Michael Atkins spoke to his previously circulated written report

The Parish Council asked how residents could submit their concerns about EWR. Cllr Atkins suggested the local MP in the first instance. A further consultation is expected, possibly in 2024, once details of the heights and alignment have been published. Assurances had been given that roads would not be closed but the route would go under or over roads with slight diversions, and the Active Travel route left in place. Cllr Atkins added that he would be happy to hear people's comments and feed back. The Leader and Deputy Leader of the District Council were holding regular meetings with EWR. He advised that any comments should include mitigating suggestions for modifications rather than a simple objection. He also indicated he would be willing to write to the MP. The Parish Council asked for a copy of any letter sent. District Councillors had written to the Secretary of State expressing concerns about the alignment.

The Chairman reported on an EWR meeting at Cambourne. They were still happy to receive comments from individuals via the EWR hub on the internet. The maps shown still made it very difficult to determine the exact line of the route. There were 6 videos on the website where EWR managers and the Chief Executive answer frequently asked questions.

A resident asked how far the scheme was a done deal. The Prime Minister and Cabinet Ministers had committed to it but Treasury and Department of Transport support was less certain. As far as the County Council knew it was progressing, and it was necessary to go through the consultation and public inquiry process first.

**1. To receive apologies for absence**

Apologies were received from Cllr Rose (out of parish).

**2. Declarations of interest**

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

Cllr Rangadurai declared a pecuniary interest in item 7.7 as a resident of Meridian Fields. He indicated that he would have to leave the meeting at 9.15 pm.

Cllr Dabrowski also declared a pecuniary interest in item 7.7 as a resident of Meridian Fields.

Cllr Gill declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 7.2 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 received.

**3. To approve the minutes of the previous meeting on 21 June**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting on 21 June be approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record. (Prop CP, 2nd PR, carried with 5 in favour and 2 abstentions)

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

**4.1 (1) Appointment of webmaster**

RESOLVED, following the resignation of George Moffett, that Cllr Dabrowski be appointed Webmaster and Cllr Rangadurai Deputy Webmaster. (Prop PR, 2nd BC, unanimous)

**4.2 (5.1) Community Transport initiative – to consider any matters arising from letter to the Mayor or the Uber-style transport option**

RESOLVED to receive Cllr Armisen's verbal report that the Uber-style option had not been pursued as it did not appear to offer very good value for money and the costs made it unsustainable in the long term. The community bus was felt to be a better option.

RESOLVED not to pursue the Uber-style option and that the Highways Working Group should investigate longer term options and see what the community supported.

RESOLVED, noting that Stagecoach had requested another village meeting in August, to accept their offer but to arrange a date in September which was preferable to the Parish Council. (Prop JA, 2nd AG, unanimous)

RESOLVED to prepare and submit questions in advance and ask Stagecoach to be ready to answer. The meeting is to be publicised and residents asked to direct their questions to the Parish Council's Facebook page.

**4.3 (5.2) RoSPA report – to consider recommendations for Egremont Road play area and Skate Park**

RESOLVED to seek itemised quotes for the following:

Egremont Road:

- Check the diameter of shackle bolt at the Swing - Mixed - 2 Bay 1 Tango 2 Toddler Seat. If less than 70% of the original, it needs to be replaced.
- There is a missing secondary chain connector in the Swing - Mixed - 3 Bay 1 Basket 1 Buddy 3 Junior Seat. In addition the shackle bolt diameter needs to be checked and if less than 70% of original, it needs to be replaced.
- Inspect where the cable enters into a tube Cableway
- Missing caps in the Multiplay – Toddler
- Missing cap and slightly loose swing seat eye-bolts in the Swing - Mixed - 2 Bay 1 Tango 2 Toddler Seat caps
- Missing caps in the Swing - Mixed - 3 Bay 1 Basket 1 Buddy 3 junior Seat
- RESOLVED that Cllr Armisen should oil the Climber-Rota Web.

Skate Park

- Rivets missing at the Fun Box and the Half Pipe and a small hole on the side of the Fun Box.
- Flat Bank - With Platform would benefit from plates to be seam welded
- RESOLVED to note that whilst the barriers did not comply with the latest regulations, they were not broken and there was no need to take action until they were damaged or in need of replacement.

**4.4 (5.3) Complaints about unmown areas – to consider correspondence from Climate Action Group and if additional signage is required**

RESOLVED to note that a resident had kindly offered to cut back the middle portion of the Bramley Way grassed area.

RESOLVED to note the response from the Hardwick Climate Action Group.

RESOLVED to reply to Shaun Hughes confirming that the Parish Council approves the suggested wording and that Mr Hughes should erect the notices. <sup>(Prop AG, 2nd JD, unanimous)</sup>

4.5 (5.4) Pavilion lease update – report on meeting with HSSC

On a proposition by the Chairman, it was agreed to take this item at the end of the meeting.

4.6 (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 to note that Cllr Rose had looked through the accounts.

4.7 (6.7) To consider the Accounting Statements (Section 2 of the Annual Return)

RESOLVED to note that box 7 had been amended and minor amendments in the underlying records since the last meeting.

4.8 (6.8) To approve the Accounting Statements by resolution

RESOLVED that the Accounting Statements be approved and signed by the Chairman on the Council's behalf. <sup>(Prop CP, 2nd JA, unanimous)</sup>

4.9 (6.9) To ensure that the Accounting Statements are signed and dated by the person presiding at the meeting

RESOLVED that the Accounting Statements be signed and dated by the Chairman on the Council's behalf.

4.10 (7.1 of 17.5.23) PHFI 2021–2022 St Neots Road – to consider update report with revised costs

RESOLVED to accept the revised costs of £54,798.41 and to ask CCC to continue to progress the scheme for Option B. <sup>(Prop JD, 2nd JA, unanimous)</sup>

RESOLVED that Cllr Rangadurai should contact Hill to ask them when the lighting on St Neots Road under Phase 2 is being installed and ask them to install all the lights at the same time.

4.11 (8.2 of 19.4.23) Resident request that the Parish Council considers the suggestion by CCC that Hardwick applies for a Definitive Map Modification Order for maintenance of Millers Way in the light of the evidence presented by Alan Everitt recently. Alan Everitt suggests that the Parish Council gives him the job of applying but agree that a note making this clear he is doing so should be issued to him, copy to the CCC Definitive Map Manager

RESOLVED, having considered correspondence between Alan Everitt and CCC, that the Parish Council grants permission for Alan Everitt to apply for a Definitive Map Modification Order for Millers Way. RESOLVED to write to CCC confirming that Mr Everitt has the Parish Council's permission to pursue this matter. <sup>(Prop AG, 2nd JD, unanimous)</sup>

4.12 Portacabins outside 27 St Neots Road

RESOLVED to note SCDC's response that the case has remained active and they will shortly be contacting the owners to request that the Portacabins are removed from the site.

**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

RESOLVED to note that the Clerk used delegated powers as follows:

- The Cabin had been booked for 19<sup>th</sup> July for a meeting with HSSC to discuss the lease.

- An order had been placed with James Wakeling to install the Topsy bin at a cost of £150.

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

RESOLVED to note that this item was covered by the recent RoSPA reports.

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 (Retention) £1,914.78. <sup>(Prop PR, 2nd BC, unanimous)</sup>

Salaries	£591.88
Mark Harrod Ltd (Goal nets)	£161.02
W Lewis (Internal audit)	£360.00
The Cabin (Room hire)	£48.00
RH Landscapes (Grass cutting)	£780.00
Eastern Tree Surgery (Tree works – High, Med, Low)	£9966.00
LGS Services (Admin support June 2023)	£1423.95

Credits, including bank interest and Pavilion rent, were noted.

Cllr Dabrowski confirmed that he was now a signatory on the account.

The Chairman reported that he had written to NS & I who had confirmed that the backdated interest was paid on 3 July.

It was noted that the tree, reported at the last meeting, which had been cut down, prompting complaints on Facebook, was felled due to disease as part of the Tree Survey work. Cllr Rangadurai has posted this on Facebook.

6. **To consider any planning applications and decision notices and tree works applications**

6.1 Planning applications and appeals

6.1.1 23/02447/FUL – Land west of 283 St Neots Road – Erection of 1 no. two storey dwelling and associated works

RESOLVED to object to the application as the building is out of character with the other buildings that front St Neots Road. <sup>(Prop AG, 2nd CP, unanimous)</sup>

6.1.2 23/02651/HFUL 24 Ashmead Drive – Single storey side extension

RESOLVED to support the application. <sup>(Prop AG, 2nd CP, unanimous)</sup>

6.2 SCDC decision and appeal notices and correspondence

6.2.1 23/01520/HFUL – 29 Bramley Way – Single storey front and rear extensions – Permission granted by SCDC.

6.2.2 23/01290/FUL – 45 Meridian Close – Change of use from agricultural to garden use – Permission granted by SCDC.

6.2.3 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 – Condition discharged in full.

6.3 Tree works applications

None.

7. **Members' reports and items for information only**

7.1 New Housing Developments and Planning Obligations

RESOLVED to receive a verbal report from Cllr Gill that a meeting for information gathering purposes only was due to take place on Monday, and that he would report back to the next meeting.

In response to a question, Cllr Gill replied that nothing further had been heard from Pigeon, who had been asked to return to the Council when they had completed the purchase of the land.

7.2 Community Centre update

RESOLVED to receive a verbal report from Cllr Gill that he and Cllr Rose, along with Alan West, Chairman of the Working Group, had met representatives of the Lottery Fund. The first application had been declined because the Lottery Fund had reduced the maximum sum available. Some useful hints to support the application had been received, such as including more information on the proposed use of the building. A new application for £275,000 will be submitted in due course.

7.3 PFHI 2021, Pedestrian uncontrolled crossings St Neots Road and near Millers Way, does the HPC Highways Working Group have a completion date for this project. I understand that Option B value £58,850 has been accepted by HPC

RESOLVED to note that there was no completion date as yet but the scheme was being progressed.

7.4 Ray Barker memorial bench owned by HPC, located on the green area in front of the Church, is in need of maintenance, does the Council have any recommendations

RESOLVED to note that the bench had been cleaned last year by Cllr Rose and painted by Cllr Coxall. Cllr Rose will remove algae again this year.

7.5 Home owner St Neots Road notified me that she has vermin infestation (rats) in the roof void of her bungalow, the local environmental health officer has been notified and is taking action to advise all households in the area to be diligent

Resolved that Vermin infestation should be reported to the SCDC Environmental Health department by the resident..

7.6 I was approached by several school/pre-school parents on a follow up regarding the zebra crossings in front of the school in Limes Road and Egremont Roads. They still view this as an item to pursue as they feel unsafe crossing the roads with their children. They have also expressed interest regarding the adoption of roads for the 20 mph. Attached a letter from a resident regarding the need for a pedestrian crossing. I would kindly consider adding this to the Highways Working Group to find a suitable response/plan

RESOLVED to receive Cllr Rangadurai's verbal report that residents were still in support of a pedestrian crossing outside the school and suggestion that it would be necessary to budget for the Parish Council's contribution to the LHI scheme bid when applications open, and also for the 20 mph scheme.

RESOLVED to receive the Chairman's verbal report that he had responded to a resident's query that the Millers Way crossing would not be a controlled crossing, but would have pedestrian islands in the middle. Cambridge Road should have a controlled crossing as part of the busway scheme when it proceeds.

RESOLVED to note that residents' letters in support of the LHI bid for a pedestrian crossing by the school should be sought.

7.7 As a follow-up from the Hardwick-Hill liaison meeting held in June last month, Hill have subsequently sent over the terms and conditions of the contract between Encore (service provider) and the Meridian Way (the management company where each resident in Meridian Field is a default managing director). Several residents would like the maintenance of the lands to be taken over by the PC and will support this initiative if the PC agrees to take over the estate and treat it as any other part of the village. Currently, the residents of Meridian Fields pay £175 a year per household that is on top of the council tax. The company Encore has also not provided any services

that reflect the collection and almost £9000 from the total pool goes towards an administrative charge. Capstone Fields residents will pay £255 per household as well and a similar amount towards the administration charge. The above mentioned contract itself does not restrict the managing directors of Meridian Way to disengage Encore but the residents would like to understand if the PC is willing to take over before further pursuits will be undertaken. I am happy to lead this project on behalf of Meridian Fields and Capstone following discussions at the council meeting

RESOLVED to receive Cllr Rangadurai's verbal report that Hill have contracted a management company to carry out the maintenance of areas which are not due to be taken over by the Parish Council, including the pebble path, lights and pond, subject to a charge for residents of £175.00 pa for Meridian Fields and £255.00 pa for Capstone Fields. However, over 50% of the charge was for the management company's administration fees. The residents wished the Parish Council to take over the maintenance of the additional areas which were to be maintained by the management company.

The Chairman proposed that the Parish Council should meet with residents, representatives of Hill and the management company, to discuss the position and try to move matters forward.

RESOLVED that Cllr Rangadurai should seek to arrange a meeting between the Parish Council, the District Council and representatives from Hill and the management company to establish details of the costs, etc, to facilitate progress in this matter.

4.5 (5.4) Pavilion lease update – report on meeting with HSSC

At 9.12 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, legal matters, the public were temporarily excluded from the meeting and were instructed to withdraw. The remaining members of the public left the meeting and did not return.

The meeting resumed at 10.05 pm.

Cllr Dabrowski left the meeting at 10.05 pm.

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

8.1 Residents – Complaints about aircraft noise and request that the Parish Council objects to the changes

RESOLVED to defer this item to the next meeting.

8.1.1 Resident - request that the Parish Council prepare a leaflet to inform the village of the Post Implementation Review and where to lodge their complaints or support

The Chairman will ask Cllr Dabrowski to put details of the contact information on the website. A leaflet has already been distributed

8.2 Resident request to use Recreation Ground for bootcamp classes

RESOLVED to ask the resident to attend the next meeting to enable the Parish Council to ask questions regarding the proposal.

8.3 Caldecote, Dry Drayton and Hardwick Community Scheme – request for financial support

RESOLVED to ask the resident to attend the next meeting to enable the Parish Council to ask questions regarding the application.

- 8.4 District Cllr Nieto – enquiry whether Cllrs require her support in any way for example with the new housing developments and planning applications  
Noted.
- 8.5 District Cllr Nieto – enquiry whether Cllrs would like to discuss further the effects of the newish Luton flight path on residents and whether the Parish has received any reports on this matter  
Noted.
- 8.6 SCDC – Consultation on the review of the Statement of Licensing Policy (Licensing Act 2003)  
Noted.
- 8.7 Resident – Request for additional MVAS post on St Neots Road  
RESOLVED to defer this item to the next meeting.
- 9. **Closure of meeting and items for the next agenda**  
There being no other business, the meeting closed at 10:12 pm.

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

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