

**Hardwick Parish Council**  
**Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 30 August 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 S Rose.

In attendance: 5 members of the public, including Fiona Davey (Caldecote, Dry Drayton and Hardwick Community Car Scheme), and Mr B Stoehr (Acting Clerk).

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

James Brochie introduced himself and his proposal for a boot camp on the Recreation Ground. 35 people were interested in boot camp sessions in Hardwick. The MUGA was currently available for use in winter or poor weather.

Fiona Davey on behalf of the Community Car Scheme spoke regarding their grant application. They are looking to rotate funding requests between the other participating villages annually so that they are not regularly approaching each council, and a request would only be made every three years if required. The drivers were currently covering approximately 1000 miles per month including trips to the hospital.

**1. To receive apologies for absence**

Apologies were received from Cllr Rangadurai (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 Rose declared a non-pecuniary interest in items 8.2 and 8.2.1 as a Director, Trustee and guarantor of the Hardwick Community Centre Charity.

Cllr Gill declared a non-pecuniary interest in items 8.2 and 8.2.1 as a Director and Trustee and guarantor of the Hardwick Community Centre Charity.

Cllr Joslin declared an interest in item 5.4 as a member of the Speed Watch group.

**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 19 July**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting on 19 July be approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record, after an amendment under item 7.6, paragraph 2, second sentence, to read "St Neots Road should have a controlled crossing at the junction with Cambridge". (Prop CP, 2nd JD, carried with 6 in favour and 1 abstention)

**4. Co-option to fill casual vacancy – to consider any applications received**

None received. RESOLVED to repost the advertisement on Facebook.

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

**5.1 (4.3) RoSPA report repairs – to consider any quotations received**

RESOLVED, to accept the revised quotation from Kettering Play Safe subject to clarification that the quote only includes the requested items and that costs do not exceed the provided quote. (Prop SR, 2nd JD, unanimous)

**5.2 (8.1) Aircraft noise – to consider complaints from residents and request that the Parish Council objects to the changes**

On a proposition by the Chairman, it was agreed to suspend the meeting briefly to enable a resident to outline the objections.

In 2008 the consultation on flight path changes had drawn 15,000 responses with 85% of respondents against. However the latest consultation had only received 2,000 responses due to the poor advertisement of the consultation during Covid. There had been no public consultation and residents were only able to submit complaints. The Parish Council was asked to write to the names on the supplied flyer raising their objections. It was suggested that the Council might wish to contact the RELAS group to find out their next steps.

It was not thought that there was a conflict between the Luton traffic and small aircraft from Duxford.

The meeting resumed.

RESOLVED that Cllr Phillips should share the flyer with other local Parish Councils and on Facebook.

RESOLVED that the Chairman should draft the response with support from Cllr Dabrowski, to be sent to all the parties listed in the flyer.

5.3 (8.3) Caldecote, Dry Drayton and Hardwick Community Car Scheme – request for financial support

RESOLVED to approve a grant of £250.00 to the Caldecote, Dry Drayton and Hardwick Community Car Scheme, which in the opinion of the Council, is in the interests of the area and its inhabitants. (Prop SR, 2nd JD, unanimous)

5.4 (8.7) Resident – request for additional MVAS post on St Neots Road

RESOLVED to receive Cllr Joslin's verbal report that an additional post would need Highways approval and an appropriate line of sight. It was reported that the post may have an appropriate line of sight on the northern side of St Neots Road.

RESOLVED that Cllr Joslin should discuss this with the Speed Watch Group.

It was hoped that when the crossings were installed it would slow the traffic.

In response to a question whether speed bumps had been considered for St Neots Road, it was thought that this would also require a reduction in the speed limit. Speed bumps had been considered for Cambridge Road and were very unpopular with residents.

RESOLVED to respond to the resident that the Parish Council is working to install crossings at Millers Way and at the end of St Neots Road, and that they should contact the Speed Watch Group to discuss the additional MVAS post. (Prop JD, 2nd CP, unanimous)

**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 report from Cllr Coxall that a seat on one of the children's swings is a bit loose but not currently a problem. RESOLVED that Cllr Coxall should monitor this.

RESOLVED to note that the bin at St Mary's play area has been installed but does not have a bin bag at present.

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. (Prop SR, 2nd JD, unanimous)

Salaries	£591.88
RH Landscapes (Grass cutting)	£960.00

LGS Services (Admin support July 2023)	£1396.64
CCC (LHI Contribution – Village entry features)	£1179.98

Credits, including bank interest, the recovery of backdated interest, and a resident's contribution for replacement of the notice board, were noted.

RESOLVED, noting that the LHI contribution does not include the contribution for the island, to write to Joshua Rutherford of CCC to ask for confirmation of the costs and check whether the Parish Council has been consulted about partial works being completed. RESOLVED to keep the payment to CCC on hold pending clarification.

RESOLVED to check the status of the insurance claim for the HSSC drains.

RESOLVED to check the position on the notice board order from Greenbarnes.

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

### 7.1 Planning applications and appeals

#### 7.1.1 23/02740/HFUL – 8 Russet Walk – Two storey rear extension

RESOLVED to support the application. (Prop AG, 2nd JA, carried with 5 in favour and 2 abstentions)

### 7.2 SCDC decision and appeal notices and correspondence

#### 7.2.1 23/02110/HFUL – 23 Grace Crescent – Loft conversion with front and rear dormers. Internal wall removal – Permission granted by SCDC

#### 7.2.2 23/01432/HFUL – 44 Main Street – Single storey flat roof extension to front and side, loft conversion, alterations to main dwelling, alterations to detached annex, pergola style gym, raised swimming pool and doors to existing carport – Permission granted by SCDC.

#### 7.2.3 21/03438/CONDF – Land at 147 St Neots Road – Submission of details required by conditions 17 (hard and soft landscaping), 19 (external materials), 25 (vehicle access materials), 28 (EV charging), and 29 (archaeology) of planning permission 21/03438/FUL – Condition discharged in full.

#### 7.2.4 21/03438/CONDG – Land at 147 St Neots Road – Submission of details required by conditions 8 (contaminated land) parts b) and c) of planning permission 21/03438/FUL – Condition discharged in part.

#### 7.2.5 23/02447/FUL – Land west of 283 St Neots Road – Erection of 1 no. two storey dwelling and associated works – Withdrawn.

### 7.3 Tree works applications

#### 7.3.1 23/0842/TTCA – 16 Main Street

Noted.

## 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 on a meeting with Hill and Chivers regarding the land east of Cambridge Road, to receive an update on the plans. The developer is to present the plans to the Parish Council on 11 September at 7 pm. The developers are then planning to present them at an open meeting at the School on Saturday 23 September.

### 8.2 Community Centre update

RESOLVED to receive a verbal report from Cllr Rose that there had been no change since the last meeting. The Working Group was still looking to reduce costs and seek alternative funding.

#### 8.2.1 Approval of costs for Community Centre surveys

RESOLVED to receive Cllr Rose's verbal report that surveys would be needed at some point but there may be a cost reduction compared to the tender prices, and may enable further cost reductions in the build costs.

RESOLVED to approve a payment of £2,500 to seek quotations and a report, plus the cost of surveys (estimated to be £4,000-£8,000) up to a maximum of £10,500 combined. (Prop CP, 2nd AG, unanimous)

- 8.3 Report request of Quarterly meeting Hills and PC, this must be an ongoing item surely PC and village needs to be informed/updated used to be done through Hardwick Happenings and Facebook! Stopped in April 2022! Wonder why! Who is the communication WG?

RESOLVED to note that at the last meeting Cllr Rangadurai had reported on the Meridian Fields meeting and it was agreed that the information could be included on Facebook.

- 8.4 Stagecoach is there now a date for their public village meeting, there is a need to keep residents informed

RESOLVED to note that Stagecoach were proposing dates in the first week of October. RESOLVED that Cllr Armisen should confirm the dates. The Council was seeking questions from the village to put to Stagecoach. As soon as the date is known, it will be publicised on Facebook and in Hardwick Happenings.

- 8.5 Update needed concerning the meeting with Chivers representatives otherwise it's not a secret - PC acts for the Village

Taken earlier.

- 8.6 Bin Brook extra run-off from Capstone could there be a flooding problem with existing adjacent properties, has consideration been given, the overgrown badly maintained Bin Brook and drain under St Neots Road opposite Weatherheads - has Mark spoken to PJ about this?

RESOLVED having noted that the waterway is called Callow Brook, not Bin Brook, that Cllr Joslin should report the issue to CCC and ask them to survey the gulley pots to check they are clear.

RESOLVED to check at the next meeting with Hill where the Capstone Fields run off goes.

- 8.7 Bus shelter solar lights, vegetation now seems to have cleared, Alan Everitt has cleared the vegetation and has been doing it each year since the lights went in - but he has informed the PC that he is not able to do it any-more. It's still out with Highways for the higher up overhanging branches see the report page The maintenance has been clearing the branches and brushing the dead leaves off the solar panels. will there be ongoing maintenance of these lights. If needed 8.8 PJ has the necessary keys to gain access to the lights

RESOLVED that Cllr Armisen is happy to keep the solar panels clear.

- 8.8 There was no item 8.8.

- 8.9 Next meeting date to be announced as part of the current agenda

RESOLVED to include the next meeting date in the minutes under "Closure of Meeting."

- 8.10 Update installation time frame ref new street lights Capstone to Millers

RESOLVED to note the planning condition for the lights. Relevant documents phase 1 S/3064/17/OL Condition 28 and Phase 2 21/01832/FU1 Condition 31. 15-16 new lights in total to be supplied and installed by Hill. 12 lights in phase 1 (Capstone to

Hall Drive), 3-4 lights are phase 2 (Hall Drive to Millers). Some of the new 15-16 lights are replacement of existing lights. Maintenance was an issue with the 3-4 lights RESOLVED to check the time frame at the next meeting with Hill. Hill are required to install the lights on the first occupation.

RESOLVED to note that Tam Parry of CCC has funding for maintenance of a bus shelter on the south side of St Neots Road, where there are currently no bus shelters.

- 8.11 Maintaining/regular trimming of the grass edging area at Millers, the grass is already encroaching the new Tarmac path

RESOLVED to ask RH Landscapes to trim the area.

- 8.12 Main Street Notice Board

RESOLVED to follow this up with James Wakeling.

- 8.13 Bin at St Mary's Play Area

RESOLVED to note that the bin had been installed.

RESOLVED to note that the bin at the front of the Church was broken and tied to a post, to replace it with the same type of bin as the newly installed bin. (Prop BC, 2nd CP, (unanimous))

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

- 9.1 Resident – Request to run boot camp on the Recreation Ground

RESOLVED to grant permission for the sessions to be held, subject to the Parish Council's right to revoke permission if necessary in the future.

RESOLVED that there should be no cost at present.

RESOLVED that the boot camp tyres need to be stored safely so they cannot be used by children.

At 9.00 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, employment 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.

- 10 Employment Matters

RESOLVED to appoint Ben Stoehr as Acting Clerk in the absence of Gail Stoehr. (Prop AG, 2nd SR, unanimous)

The meeting resumed at 9.05 pm.

11. Closure of meeting and items for the next agenda

Cllr Dabrowski gave his apologies for the September meeting.

The following are to be agenda items for the next meeting:

- The Lottery grant for the defibrillator - status to be checked.
- A gate in Hall Drive blocking the Capstone Fields access.
- The PFHI Option 2 submission - timeline of works to be checked.
- Premiums for the Financial Services Compensation Scheme – to be checked.

Cllr Joslin reported that she attends the monthly Coton meeting regarding the Coton busway and offered to report back. RESOLVED that Cllr Joslin could report to the Highways Working Group for information.

The next ordinary meeting will be held on 20 September 2023.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 9.10 pm.

Approved