

Hardwick Parish Council
Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 20 September 2023 at 7.00 pm
Held at The Cabin at St Mary's, Hardwick

Present: Councillors: S Rose (Chairman), D Cirillo, P Joslin, C Phillips and P Rangadurai.

In attendance: 5 members of the public including Shaun Hughes (Hardwick Climate Action Group), and Mrs A Griffiths (Minutes Secretary, LGS Services).

In the absence of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman, it was agreed that Cllr Rose should chair the meeting. (Prop CP, 2nd PR, unanimous)

Open public session including reports from the County and District Councillors

Sean Hughes of the Hardwick Climate Action Group provided an update regarding the trial of meadow areas which had been successful. The areas were now ready to be cut and this would be carried out by volunteers this weekend. He was seeking quotations for signage to explain the aims of the meadow areas.

Mr Hughes also asked about the approach by Hill for a new development and queried the Council's position relating to S106 funding and its commitments. Cllr Rose responded on the Council's behalf and covered matters also covered under item 8.1.

Two residents of Hall Drive spoke on item 5.4 regarding a gate which had been placed across Hall Drive, preventing access from Capstone Fields. They stated that Hall Drive was a private road and that there was no public right of way. Some residents at the southern end near the gate had met with Hill on two occasions regarding access. The residents had made it clear that anyone who could demonstrate rights of access could use the gate, and if Hill were able to provide evidence that others had rights of access along the private road, they would be willing to unlock the gate. The residents were required to maintain the section of road in front of their homes and Hill had offered £500 per annum to help with the maintenance of Hall Drive.

James Wakeling reported that the grant to the Pre-School had not been received. The position is to be checked. He had received the new Parish Council notice board and would install it as soon as possible, but suggested that the invoice be placed on hold until the condition had been checked as he had seen the delivery driver throw it down onto the driveway.

Mr Wakeling also expressed the view that Hall Drive was a legal right of way for pedestrians through to St Neots Road. The Parish Council will raise the issue with Hill at their meeting tomorrow. The Council had not authorised any legal action relating to the gate.

1. To receive apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllrs Gill (personal reasons), Dabrowski (out of parish) and Armisen (work commitment). Cllr Coxall was not present.

2. Declarations of interest

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

Cllr Joslin declared an interest in item 8.4 as a member of the Speed Watch group.

Cllr Rose declared an interest in item 8.2 as a Director, Trustee and guarantor 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 30 August and the confidential minutes of 19 July**
 RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting on 30 August be approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record, subject to the following amendment under item 8.10, after the first sentence, to read:
 “Relevant documents phase 1 S/3064/17/OL Condition 28 and Phase 2 21/01832/FUI 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.” And to delete the rest of the minute. (Prop PJ, 2nd SR, carried with 3 in favour and 2 abstentions)
- The archiving of old Parish Council minutes is to be an agenda item for the next meeting.
 RESOLVED that the confidential minutes of the meeting on 19 July be approved and signed by the Chairman. (Prop CP, 2nd PJ, carried with 2 in favour and 2 abstentions)
4. **Co-option to fill casual vacancy – to consider any applications received** (Prop PR, 2nd CP, unanimous)
 RESOLVED to co-opt Domenico Cirillo as a member of the Parish Council. Cllr Cirillo signed his Declaration of Acceptance of Office before taking his seat.
- On a proposition by the Chairman, it was agreed to vary the order of business to take item 5.4 next.
- 5.4 **(10) Gate in Hall Drive blocking the Capstone Fields access – to consider any necessary action**
 RESOLVED to receive the verbal report from Cllr Rangadurai that Hill had raised this matter at the quarterly liaison meeting and this would be followed up at tomorrow’s meeting.
 On a proposition by the Chairman, the meeting was briefly suspended to enable the residents to answer questions. The residents explained that they had had two meetings with Hill and were waiting for them to produce their legal documents regarding the right of way.
 Capstone Fields residents had also raised queries as they would prefer not to have to drive the long way round to access the centre of the village.
 The views of the residents present differed as to whether Hall Drive was a right of way.
 RESOLVED that Cllr Rangadurai should contact Dan Brown regarding a meeting so that the position can be clarified and evidence of any rights of way demonstrated.
 The meeting resumed.
5. **Matters arising or deferred from the last or previous meetings for discussion/decision**
- 5.1 **(6.3) LHI 2021-2022 contribution – to consider response from CCC**
 RESOLVED, having noted the response from Joshua Rutherford of CCC, to arrange an extra-ordinary meeting in October, preferably on a Wednesday at 7.00 pm at the Cabin, to clarify the costs further. (Prop SR, 2nd CP, unanimous)
- 5.2 **(8.11) Maintenance of Miller’s Way – to consider recommendation from contractor if received**
 RESOLVED, as a reply had not yet been received, to defer this item to the next meeting.
- 5.3 **(10) Lottery grant for the defibrillator – to consider update if received**

RESOLVED to note that it could take up to 12 weeks to hear the outcome of the Lottery Grant application for a defibrillator in the old telephone kiosk, and to continue pursuing the matter.

RESOLVED that Cllr Rose should clarify with Anne Jones the position regarding a defibrillator in the Cabin.

5.4 (10) Gate in Hall Drive blocking the Capstone Fields access – to consider any necessary action

Taken earlier.

5.5 (10) PFHI Option 2 submission – to consider timeline for works if received

Noted that a reply had not yet been received.

5.6 (10) To consider insurance cover for the Financial Services Compensation Scheme

RESOLVED to note that it was not possible to obtain insurance cover for this purpose.

5.0.7 HSSC drains

RESOLVED, noting that the claim had not yet been received, to continue to pursue the matter.

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 from Cllr Armisen.

RESOLVED in the absence of Cllrs Gill and Coxall, to note that no urgent works were required at the time of the last meeting.

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 CP, 2nd PR, unanimous)

Salaries	£591.88
Glasdon (Topsy bin St Mary's POS)	£205.67
The Cabin (Room Hire)	£27.00
RH Landscapes (Grass cutting)	£780.00
Notice board Company (Notice board Cambridge Road)	£1744.78
LGS Services (Admin support August 2023)	£1386.89
Hardwick Car Scheme (S137)	£250.00

RESOLVED that the payment for the notice board should be placed on hold pending confirmation that it had not been damaged during delivery.

Credits, including bank and investment interest, were noted.

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

7.1 Planning applications and appeals

7.1.1 23/03361/HFUL – 35 Bramley Way – Single storey extension to rear. New access gates with parking space to rear garden accessed from the garage area to rear

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

7.1.2 23/03305/S73 – Bourn Quarter, Bourn Airfield, St Neots Road – S73 to vary condition 2 (Approved plans) of planning permission 22/03651/FUL (Erection of

15,056 sq m/162,090 sq ft of commercial floorspace falling within use classes E(g) (ii) Research and Development, E(g) (iii) Industrial Processes, and B8 Warehouse and Distribution, landscaping, access and associated infrastructure works at Phase 2 of Bourn Quarter. This application is the subject of an Environmental Impact Assessment) amendments to the approved development referred to in the Planning Statement Addendum

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

7.2 SCDC decision and appeal notices and correspondence

None.

7.3 Tree works applications

7.3.1 23/09142/TTCA – 87 Main Street

RESOLVED that the Parish Council has no comments. (Prop PJ, 2nd CP, unanimous)

8. Members' reports and items for information only

8.1 New Housing Developments and Planning Obligations

RESOLVED that there was nothing to discuss at this stage regarding the new Hill proposals. It was observed that if any development were approved in the future, the S106 agreement would subject to negotiation with the case officer and the S106 officer, and was not predetermined.

RESOLVED to receive a verbal report from Cllr Rose that the Council had been invited to the meeting with Hill and the developers to receive an update on their plans, as a courtesy. Hill were holding a public meeting on Saturday 23 September to inform the village about the proposals.

Cllr Rose reported that Hill wished to encourage as many people as possible to complete their survey. They had offered a contribution to charity for each completed survey, and had suggested that this should go to the Community Centre Charity. RESOLVED that consideration of a statement by the Parish Council clarifying that Hill had offered this donation as a gesture of goodwill and reiterating that the Council is not involved in consultations with Hill, should be an agenda item for the next meeting.

RESOLVED that Cllr Rangadurai should draft a statement for consideration at the next meeting.

Hill had also asked whether the Parish Council would print their poster and display it on the Parish Council notice board. Information had already been delivered to all homes and was available on Facebook and in other locations in the village.

RESOLVED that the Parish Council declines to print the poster and place it on the Parish Council notice board, but has no objections if Hill wish to print a poster and put it on the village notice board themselves.

RESOLVED that Cllr Rose should inform Hill accordingly. (Prop DC, 2nd PR, unanimous)

8.2 Community Centre update

RESOLVED to receive a verbal report from Cllr Rose that cost reductions were still being pursued and the ground investigations were progressing slowly.

8.3 Comberton Greenway Safety Considerations

RESOLVED to note that, unlike other villages on the route, there are no safety measures proposed for Hardwick in locations where the Greenway intersects with roads.

RESOLVED that the Highways Working Group should follow this up.

Cllrs Joslin and Cirillo indicated their willingness to assist Cllr Dabrowski on the Highways Working Group.

RESOLVED that Cllr Rose should convey this to Cllr Dabrowski.

8.4 Greenways update and Comberton Speed Reduction

Cllr Joslin observed that there could be a drainage issue at Port Way due to flooding. A suggestion was also made for a segregated cycle track in Main Street for safety reasons.

At 9.00 pm, it was agreed that the meeting should continue.

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

None.

10. Closure of meeting and items for the next agenda

RESOLVED in response to Cllr Joslin’s report that CCC required an indication by the end of September as to whether or not the Parish Council wished to submit an LHI bid for 2024-2025 to respond to CCC that the Parish Council does wish to submit an LHI bid for 2024-2025, in order to keep the option open.

RESOLVED that this should be an agenda item for the next meeting.

Cllr Joslin highlighted by way of clarification that planning permission for Meridian Fields and Capstone Fields were approved by the Minister to meet the 5 year land supply.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 9.12 pm.

SignedChairmandate

