

Hardwick Parish Council
Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 21 February 2024 at 7.00 pm
Held at The Cabin at St Mary's, Hardwick

Present: Councillors: A Gill (Chairman), B Coxall, P Joslin, C Phillips and S Rose.

In attendance: One member of the public and Mr B Stoehr (Acting Clerk).

Open public session including reports from the County and District Councillors

The agent for the planning application for 323 St Neots Road spoke regarding the application. Some amended plans had been circulated via SCDC to address comments received from Highways and neighbours.

1. To receive apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllrs Rangadurai (out of parish) and Dabrowski. Cllrs Armisen and Cirillo were 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 8.1 as a member of the Hardwick Climate Action Group.

Cllr Rose declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 7.2 as a Trustee, Guarantor and Director of the Hardwick Community Centre Charity.

Cllr Gill declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 7.2 as a Trustee, Guarantor and Director of the Hardwick Community Centre Charity.

Cllr Gill declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 6.1.2 as he knows the applicant.

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 meetings on 17 January and 24 January

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting on 17 January be approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record, after inserting as a new paragraph under item 9 as the penultimate paragraph

RESOLVED that when payments are approved by Council the Council will appoint named signatories to authorise them at bank (Prop SR 2nd AG unanimous)

The Acting Clerk advised in response to a query as to whether George Moffett was still a signatory on the Cambridge and Counties Bank or NSI accounts that the Clerk/RFO does not have the power to administer these accounts and that a signatory would need to follow this up.

Cllr Rose reported that he believed it was important that the Clerk/ RFO was aware of all current signatories of all current banks at all times and that he believed that the Clerk/ RFO should be able to access such information directly with the Council's banks, as well as being able to access directly, as far as possible, account balances and transactions. May I ask the Clerk – do we have this in place for Unity, for C&CB and NS&I? (Prop CP, 2nd BC, unanimous)

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting on 24 January be approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record. (Prop SR, 2nd PJ, unanimous)

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

4.1 (4.3) LHI 2021-2022 village entrance features – to consider response from CCC

RESOLVED to note the response from Josh Rutherford of CCC. The original cost was approximately £23,000 including £15,000 from CCC.

A proposal was made ^(SR) that the Parish Council should proceed on the basis that the Parish Council does not have to pay any more than previously agreed.

RESOLVED to confirm how much is remaining from the CCC funding and in the Parish Council's budget for this project, and to consider the matter further at the next meeting.

4.2 (4.3) Ruts on access road to St Mary's POS including protection of village green

RESOLVED to proceed with the installation of either metal or concrete bollards, approximately 1 metre high, to be concreted in and spaced approximately 10 metres apart, along the northern edge of the track, and to seek quotations per bollard installed. ^(Prop AG, 2nd PJ, unanimous)

Consideration of the ruts and parking at the Church/Cabin is to be an agenda item for the next meeting. ^(PJ)

4.3 (4.6) Community Centre Project - to consider an alternative date for a meeting with the Architect

See item 7.2.

4.4 (7.3) To consider update on pedestrian islands (PHFI) if received

RESOLVED to defer this as no updates on progress had been received from CCC.

4.5 (7.5) Neighbourhood Plan invitation to meeting – update

RESOLVED to note that a meeting had been arranged for 13 March for members' training with the SCDC Officer.

4.6 (7.6) Lighting on St Neots Road – to consider survey if received

RESOLVED to defer this as no update had been received from Balfour Beatty.

4.7 (5.1 of 13.12.23) Review of other village newsletters – to consider responses received

RESOLVED to note the information received from other villages.

4.8 (4.3 of 18.10.23) Maintenance of Millers Way landscaping – to consider price for regular cuts to be added to the contract

RESOLVED to accept the quotation for 8-9 cuts per annum at £25.00 per cut and to add it to the contract. ^(Prop AG, 2nd PJ, unanimous)

4.9 To consider the E bike scheme update

RESOLVED to note that there had been very little use and there had been issues with the lock and bike availability.

4.0.10 (9) Banking

RESOLVED that Cllrs Rose and Gill should follow up on seeking authorisation for access only to the Cambridge and Counties and NS&I accounts for the Clerk and the Acting Clerk. ^(Prop SR, 2nd AG, unanimous)

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, having received Cllr Gill's report that all the doors on the new notice board had fallen off, to ask the manufacturer to repair them as a matter of urgency.

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

The play inspection reports were received. No issues were raised.

RESOLVED to note that a farmer crosses the Village Green (St Marys play area) to access the field beyond. Cllr Coxall is meeting with the farmer to discuss this and will report to a future meeting.

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 A Gill (Website expenses) £153.59, and that the payments be authorised by Cllrs Joslin and Phillips. (Prop PJ, 2nd SR, unanimous)

Salaries	£644.88
EPS (Soakaway testing HSSC)	£804.00
LGS Services (Admin support Jan)	£1386.02
Roythornes (HSSC Lease renewal)	£20.00
Kettering Playsafe (Play area repairs)	£846.66
AFP (Community Centre Engineering review)	£3000.00
Greenbarnes (Notice board parts)	£213.64
SLCC (Membership fee)	£149.25

Credits, including bank and investment interest, were noted.

RESOLVED to check the second NS&I interest payment to confirm that it is from NS&I.

5.4 To consider the date of the Annual Parish Meeting

RESOLVED that the Annual Parish Meeting should be held on Wednesday 22 May, in the Cabin if available.

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

6.1 Planning applications and appeals

6.1.1 24/00492/HFUL – 2 Sudeley Grove – Retrospective two storey side extension and single storey rear extension

RESOLVED that the Parish Council makes no comment and leaves the decision to the Planners. (Prop AG, 2nd SR, unanimous)

6.1.2 24/00157/FUL – 323 St Neots Road – Erection of a dwelling and garage

RESOLVED that the Parish Council supports the application. (Prop CP, 2nd SR, carried with 4 in favour and 1 abstention)

6.1.3 24/00046/HFUL – 10A Howells Way – Erect a double garage

RESOLVED, noting that the application was for 19A Howells Way, not 10A, that the Parish Council supports the application. (Prop AG, 2nd CP, unanimous)

6.2 SCDC decision and appeal notices and correspondence

6.2.1 23/04773/HFUL – 22 Laxton Avenue – Roof extension with dormer – Permission granted by SCDC.

6.2.2 23/04379/HFUL – 301 St Neots Road – Single storey side extension and replacing existing conservatory with single storey rear extension – Permission granted by SCDC

6.3 Tree works applications

6.3.1 24.0118/TTPO – 2 Ashmead Drive

RESOLVED that the Parish Council make no comment.

7. Members' reports and items for information only

7.1 New Housing Developments and Planning Obligations

RESOLVED to receive the Chairman's verbal report on a meeting with Hill. Hill had sent a report for the website and placed a link on Facebook. Hill appeared to have taken on board the comments made at the public meeting in September. Hill is to hold a further public meeting and will publish details in Hardwick Happenings.

RESOLVED to receive the Chairman's verbal report on a meeting with Pigeon who had received pre-application advice from the Planning Department which had indicated that the proposals were not possible.

7.2 Community Centre update

RESOLVED to receive Cllr Rose's verbal report that the CCTV and Ground Investigation surveys had been completed and sent to Andrew Firebrace. These had revealed no significant cost savings. A meeting of the Hardwick Community Centre Working Group had taken place. There had been no news of additional grants and the costs were increasing due to inflation. The Working Group's conclusion was that it could not continue with the existing plans due to the cost. A cut down version of the plans is being explored and the contractor has been asked for a cost for the reduced footprint plans before the Parish Council considers the next steps.

7.3 Highways Working Group report

Cllr Joslin reported that the Working Group were looking at a number of projects.

7.4 Street light maintenance

RESOLVED to obtain updated quotations from Balfour Beatty and from K & M Lighting Services for maintenance costs, for the Parish Council's consideration.

7.5 (3) Review of website operations

RESOLVED to defer this item as Cllr Dabrowski was not present.

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

8.1 Hardwick Climate Action Group – request that the Parish Council pays for the meadow areas signage

RESOLVED to note that the Parish Council had previously agreed that if the Action Group wished to run trials it was on the basis that nearby residents were made aware of the trials. The group had suggested signage and the Parish Council had been asked to approve the wording, but had only agreed to fund the mowing at its recent meeting. RESOLVED to agree to pay the £75.46 costs on this occasion reimbursing Mr S Hughes but that the Parish Council will not pay any additional costs for the Hardwick Climate Action Group's trial project. The Parish Council had not previously agreed to pay for signage. (Prop SR, 2nd AG, unanimous)

8.2 St Mary's Church request for financial support for repairs to the Church and tree works

RESOLVED, in the light of the recent change to the legislation, that the Parish Council agrees to cover the cost of the tree works at a cost of approximately £5,000. (Prop SR, 2nd CP, unanimous)

RESOLVED to check with the RFO whether the Parish Council can reclaim VAT if it commissions the works itself.

8.0.3 Resident – fence overhanging Parish Council land

RESOLVED given that a resident had reported that a fence in Cambridge Road had been replaced but the old fence was left and was leaning over Parish Council land, to write asking the house owner to rectify the situation.

9. Closure of meeting and items for the next agenda

The next meeting will be on Wednesday 20 March 2024.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 8.58 pm.

SignedChairmandate