

Hardwick Parish Council
Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 20 March 2024 at 7.00 pm
Held at The Cabin at St Mary's, Hardwick

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

In attendance: County Cllr M Atkins and Mr B Stoehr (Acting Clerk).

Open public session including reports from the County and District Councillors

County Cllr Atkins's written report was noted.

1. To receive apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllrs Rose (out of parish), Rangadurai (personal reasons disclosed) and Dabrowski (work commitment). Cllr Cirillo 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 Gill declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 7.2 as a Trustee, Guarantor and Director 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 February

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting on 21 February be approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record, after amendments under the open session, line 1, to read "323 St Neots Road" and under item 2.1 to remove the reference to the declaration of interest by Cllr Dabrowski, who was not present. (Prop JA, 2nd CP, carried with 4 in favour and 1 abstention)

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

4.1 (4.1) LHI 2021-2022 village entrance features – to note funding available

RESOLVED to note the Parish Council funds available towards the project.

RESOLVED that the Parish Council requires a breakdown of the figures, including, for example, design costs, for the options, in order to know exactly what it is getting.

RESOLVED to note Cllr Joslin had asked CCC for the costs for the updated PFHI for the traffic islands project to increase the number of islands, but had not yet received a response.

RESOLVED to ask Joshua Rutherford of CCC for a breakdown of costs for the signage, gateways and road marking options.

4.2 (4.2) Ruts on access road to St Mary's POS including protection of the village green and to consider quotations for bollards if received

RESOLVED to note the quotation from Bradgate Fencing.

RESOLVED to receive Cllr Coxall's verbal report that he had met with Caroline Chivers who was happy to engage and contribute towards the cost of dealing with the ruts, but would like the entrance to be modified to make turning in easier for the farm vehicles.

RESOLVED that Cllrs Coxall and Gill should meet Ms Chivers to discuss the matter further.

On a proposition by the Chairman, the order of business was varied to take item 4.6 next.

- 4.6 (5.2) Farm traffic crossing St Mary's Public Open Space – to consider report on meeting with farmer
RESOLVED to receive Cllr Coxall report that he had spoken to the farmer who had claimed they had access rights. He asked whether the bollards could be placed to prevent access across the green near the play area.
RESOLVED to order 10 metal “Hardwick” bollards to be installed at a cost of £2840.00. (Prop CP, 2nd JA, unanimous)
RESOLVED that Cllr Coxall should meet with the contractor to decide on the exact locations.
RESOLVED to obtain quotations for three collapsible bollards to allow access for large vehicles when needed.
- 4.3 (4.2) To consider parking at the Church/Cabin
RESOLVED to receive Cllr Joslin's report on parking issues on the green under the trees near the lights. The cost of installing a parking surface would be prohibitive.
RESOLVED to obtain a quotation for signage reading “No parking on Hardwick Village Green” and to inform the Church that the Parish Council is considering a ban on parking due to the condition of the green.
- 4.4 (4.4) To consider any update on pedestrian islands (PHFI)
RESOLVED to receive Cllr Joslin's report that she had not heard from CCC. It was noted that the previous costs supplied were five years old and new prices will be needed from CCC.
- 4.5 (4.6) Lighting on St Neots Road – to consider survey if received
Deferred as the survey had not yet been received.
- 4.6 (5.2) Farm traffic crossing St Mary's Public Open Space – to consider report on meeting with farmer
Taken earlier.
- 4.7 (7.4) Street light maintenance – to consider revised quotations if received
Deferred as the quotations had not yet been received.
- 4.8 (7.5) Review of website operations
RESOLVED to defer this item as Cllr Dabrowski was not present.
- 4.9 (4.5) Neighbourhood Planning – to consider any report on the training meeting
RESOLVED to receive the Chairman's verbal report on the training session which has outlined purpose, the process and its timescale should the Parish Council decide to progress this via a working group. The Planning Officer had provided links to the information.
- 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 the notice board has been repaired.
- 5.2 To receive play areas and skate park inspection reports and consider if any work is required
RESOLVED to receive the reports. No issues were raised.
- 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 The Cabin (Room hire) £36.00 and SCDC (bin emptying) £249 and that the payments be authorised by Cllrs Gill and Phillips. (Prop PJ, 2nd AG, unanimous)

Salaries	£747.08
The Cabin (Room hire)	£42.00
LGS Services (Admin support Feb)	£1397.31
Defib Machines (Rent 24/25 Defibrillator)	£649.80
CCC Archives (Inclosure Award scan)	£35.50

Credits, including investment interest, were noted.

RESOLVED to note that the interest payments on the February finance report should have been recorded as:

NS&I interest	£3,049.04
Cambridge & Counties Bank interest	£519.63

5.4 To consider the Admin support contract renewal

RESOLVED to note that the contract renewal was due from 1 April 2024.

RESOLVED to contract LGS Services at £13,000 for a rolling contract with an annual increase linked to the National Joint Council annual increase plus the office fees to increase by the RPI increase. (Prop CP, 2nd JA, unanimous)

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

6.1 Planning applications and appeals

6.1.1 24/00619/HFUL – 25 Limes Road – Single storey rear extension

RESOLVED to support the application. (Prop AG, 2nd PJ, unanimous)

6.1.2 24/00527/CLPD – 11 St Neots Road – Certificate of lawfulness under S192 for a hip to gable extension with a rear dormer, single storey rear extension and the construction of a detached garage/workshop

RESOLVED to support the application as it is improving an old bungalow. (Prop AG, 2nd PJ, unanimous)

6.2 SCDC decision and appeal notices and correspondence

6.2.1 24/00046/HFUL – 19A Howells Way – Erect a double garage – Permission granted by SCDC.

6.2.2 23/04073/FUL – Land west of 283 St Neots Road – Erection of 1 no. single storey dwelling and associated works and part use of land as orchard/wild garden. (Re-submission of 23/02447/FUL – Permission granted by SCDC.

6.3 Tree works applications

6.3.1 24/0223/TTCA – Old Rectory, Main Street – To note response made between meetings under delegated powers. The Parish Council made no comment.

Noted.

6.3.2 24/0319/TTCA – St Mary’s Church, Main Street

RESOLVED that the Parish Council has no objections.

7. Members’ reports and items for information only

7.1 New Housing Developments and Planning Obligations

RESOLVED to receive the Chairman’s verbal report that the Local Plan had been delayed. Hill will be holding a public meeting at some point.

7.2 Community Centre update

RESOLVED to note the Working Group’s “Plan B” for a smaller hall is being investigated. It was hoped an extension could be built in future if possible. The updated costs were still awaited.

7.3 Highways Working Group report

Cllr Joslin reported that the Highways items had been covered previously in the meeting but this should remain an ongoing agenda item for the future.

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

8.1 CCC – Proposed changes to weed control procedures – request for feedback

RESOLVED to note the correspondence from CCC.

RESOLVED to respond that the Parish Council wishes to use the weed control procedures for this year and that Cllr Armisen should complete the survey. ^(Prop AG, 2nd JA, unanimous)

9. Closure of meeting and items for the next agenda

The next meeting will be on Wednesday 17 April 2024.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 8.49 pm.

SignedChairmandate