

Minutes of the Hardwick Annual Parish Meeting
held on 22 May 2024 at 7.00 pm
at the Cabin at St Mary's

Present: 11 parishioners including Parish Council members,

In attendance: County Councillor Michael Atkins and District Councillor Lina Nieto and Mrs A Griffiths (Minutes Secretary, LGS Services)

Cllr Tony Gill presided.

1. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Rev Clare Coates (St Mary's Church), Rev Kate Gaze (Hardwick Evangelical Church), Alan Everitt (Community Speed Watch).

Following a question it was clarified that it was the community groups, not the Parish Council, to determine who they wished to represent them at the APM and that the Council relied on the groups to notify it of any changes to representatives' contact details.

2. Minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting on 25 April 2023

The minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting on 25 April 2023 were approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

3. Matters arising

None.

4. Reports:

4.1 The Parish Council (Cllr Tony Gill)

The Chairman read his report on the Council's activities and matters of interest to the village which is appended to these minutes.

A resident observed that the EWR plans could be seen on the Cambridge Approaches website. The Chairman added that whilst Hardwick was not previously expected to be significantly affected, the construction sites would cross the Hardwick to Toft and the Toft to Comberton roads, with potential delays and road closures affecting school routes. Crossings would be elevated. Where EWR had previously carried out works in other areas, they had been very slow in getting the roads repaired afterwards.

A resident raised the issue of parking at the Village Green, commenting that the Church was a community building with insufficient parking space, and parking was needed for weddings, funerals and dropping off children. It was felt that parking on the main road would be hazardous and the Parish Council was asked whether it could consider resurfacing the area under the trees to create more parking. The Chairman explained that this was a designated Village Green and that the Parish Council had a statutory duty to protect the Green. The area was not suitable for parking as it became churned up. The Parish Council had considered grasscrete or similar, and the cost of all options was prohibitive; indicative costs for putting gravel down were some £100,000. The Council had therefore decided to try to prevent parking in the short term, to protect the Green. A resident asked where people should park. The options included Main Street and the layby.

Another resident asked whether the Council would reconsider if a cheaper alternative could be found. The Chairman confirmed that the Council would listen to a future suggestion. It had agreed to purchase signs to be installed at either end of the Green. The bollards were awaiting installation.

A resident suggested arrangements could be made to use the business car park across the road at weekends, perhaps for a fee.

4.2 Presentation of the last audited accounts

The last audited accounts (year ending 31 March 2023) had been published and were available on the website via the link on the agenda.

4.3 The District Councillor (Cllr Lina Nieto)

Cllr Nieto presented her verbal report, which covered:

- Cllr Nieto confirmed her willingness to represent and support residents and praised community members for getting involved.

- Residents' concerns about the Luton flight path changes had been raised by Cllr Nieto at the District Council and by Anthony Browne MP.
- The Congestion Tax had been dropped. Cllr Nieto was opposed to the proposals.
- Cllr Nieto was working with developers regarding the handover of the developments, raising the concerns of residents and scrutinising the developers' commitments.
- Casework and supporting residents with issues.
- The General Election.
- The District Council budget had been approved.

4.4 The County Councillor (Cllr Michael Atkins)

Cllr Michael Atkins spoke to his written report appended to these minutes

Cllr Atkins was asked whether the 20 mph limit scheme was still open, and whether the Parish Council could take it up. Cllr Atkins confirmed it would run every year. Some parishes would get it as part of the Greenways scheme.

An update was requested on Greenways. The Comberton Greenway is being constructed in stages; Long Road and the spur to Hardwick will be the last to be completed. There had been problems linking the route to the northern end of the village. The public responses were being worked through. The scheme would probably be completed within the next 12 months. .

Cllrs Atkins and Nieto were asked what they were doing for Hardwick. It was understood that the Greenway would come out in The Pastures, and there were concerns about the need to travel from the centre of the village to The Pastures to access it. It was hoped to hear more details soon. The Parish Council observed that the route was as far away from the village as it could be, even though it was intended to help students travel from Hardwick to Comberton. Assistance was also sought from Cllr Nieto regarding issues with the Community Centre project, especially if a new planning application was required.

In response, Cllr Nieto outlined her involvement in supporting Hardwick residents and indicated her willingness to help.

Cllr Atkins outlined the background to the Greenway. The GCP funding conditions focused on travel to work in the area, and it was necessary to negotiate with the landowners. Whilst there would be more of a detour, there would still be an off-road route from the bottom of the village to and down Long Road.

Cllr Atkins provided an update on the Cambourne to Cambridge busway. The latest plans involved running the buses on the old A428 but it was not proposed to close the road to cars. There would be no loss of trees or restrictions for cars on St Neots Road. The scheme was currently on hold in a chain of negotiations. The Environment Agency had said there should be no new developments in Cambridge due to water extraction from chalk streams, and the Government and Environment Agency were trying to agree a plan to free up water resources to enable the Cambourne developments to go ahead.

4.5 Police

No report available.

4.6 Hardwick Sports and Social Club

The report from the Hardwick Sports and Social Club, (appended), was read out in full by Mr Cracknell

Mr Cracknell expressed appreciation to the Parish Council and to Cllr Dabrowski for putting together a grant application to improve insulation and energy consumption.

4.7 Hardwick Community Association

No report received.

4.8 Hardwick Community Centre Working Group

The Hardwick Community Centre Working Group report from Mr Alan West is appended in full to these minutes.

Mr Steve Rose provided a verbal update on recent developments. The efforts to raise significant funding or achieve significant cost savings had not been successful and the group

was now looking to a new plan for the way forward. Updates would be available on the HSSC website, in Hardwick Happenings and on Facebook. Funding availability was £1.5m before any borrowing and the S106 money could only be spent on community facilities. The aim was to achieve a project for the benefit of the whole village using that money. The Parish Council had held a meeting with the current architects and was now meeting the Working Group to decide the way forward.

A resident asked whether there was provision to spend the money on any other community buildings and what the timescale was. Cllr Rose confirmed that the money had to be spent on community facilities and under the first tranche, building must commence by 2029. A resident asked what would happen if the project did not go ahead in the next couple of years, as leaving it too late might result in the loss of funds. Cllr Rose replied that this had not yet been discussed but if a new design and planning application were to be decided upon, it was hoped to be able to start by mid 2025, as much of the preparatory work had been done and a decision could be taken quickly.

District Cllr Nieto suggested a community engagement day but Cllr Rose explained that there had already been at least three consultations, and information would be shared via the website, etc. It was now time for discussions to take place between the Parish Council and Working Group.

4.9 Hardwick Scouts and Guides

No reports received.

4.10 St Mary's Church

The report from Rev Clare Coates is appended.

4.11 Hardwick Evangelical Church

David Instone-Brewer read the report of the Hardwick Evangelical Church appended in full to these minutes

4.12 Hardwick WI (Teresa Soley)

The report from the WI (appended) was read out by the Minutes Secretary in Ms Soley's absence.

4.13 3rd Hardwick Brownies

The report from the Brownies (appended) was read out by the Minutes Secretary in the absence of the representative.

4.14 Hardwick School

No report received.

On a proposition by the Chairman, the report of the PTA was taken here.

Hardwick PTA

James Wakeling (PTA Chairman) reported verbally on fundraising events, such as quizzes and golf days. The PTA covers the Hardwick and Cambourne Campuses jointly and holds both joint and separate events, to help teachers or carry out repairs around the school. The group has 21 volunteers and would like to get the community involved in all activities. A Carnival is to be held on 13 July.

4.15 Hardwick Pre-School

The report from the Pre-School (appended) was read by Lucy Hill, Chair of the Pre-School.

Ms Hill was asked whether there was a limit to the number of children. Numbers are currently around 40, which would be full capacity.

A Committee Member commented that if further development took place, there were concerns that the space would be insufficient, as the numbers would increase and a larger area would be needed to accommodate expansion. He explained that the School did not have sufficient budget to convert the Community Room to a Pre-School unless instructed to do so by the LEA. He added that the Pre-School wished its offer to be bigger and better, and not to burden the County Council.

Mr Rose observed that it was up to the Community Room Trustees whether they wished to relinquish the Community Room, and one condition was that facilities would be made

available for the Pre-School. The Committee Member explained that the group were at capacity, and would need to comply with ratios, employ more staff, and would require more room resulting in increased costs. More wrap around care such as a Breakfast and After School Club would need to be provided.

The Pre-School Chairman added that the need for staffing for 2.5 year olds and 1:1 Special Educational Needs provision, was greater than before, and stretched the resources and space.

4.16 Hardwick Litter Picking Volunteers

No report received. It was observed that the previous organiser was not continuing in the role, and a new organiser was required. Thanks were expressed to her for her hard work. Cllr Joslin offered to collect the equipment.

A resident stated that volunteers were available and asked the Parish Council to organise two dates for litter picks on Saturdays in March and October. The previous arrangements were outlined. The Parish Council explained that the litter picker was responsible for the recreation ground but not other areas. A volunteer kindly did litter picking in St Neots Road and appreciation was expressed for the good work she was doing. This will be an agenda item for the next Parish Council meeting. The resident asked the Council to let her know the dates so they could be publicised.

4.17 Hardwick Community Speed Watch

Mr Everitt's Speed Watch report (appended) was read by the Minutes Secretary in the absence of Alan Everitt, who had conveyed his apologies.

The Chairman asked how much enforcement was undertaken by the Police. Mrs Joslin explained that they had to be visible and they issued warning letters but were not enforcing the speed limits. District Cllr Nieto offered to help with asking the Police to attend particular areas. The Chairman asked if she could request a speed check on St Neots Road, given the levels of speed recently measured. Cllr Nieto confirmed she would be happy to do so once a new Co-ordinator had been appointed.

4.18 Neighbourhood Watch

No report received. It was noted that the organiser had previously expressed a wish to stand down.

4.19 Hardwick Climate Action Group

No report received.

4.20 Hardwick and Caldecote Cricket Club

No report received.

4.21 Hardwick Football Club

No report received.

4.22 Other

None.

5. Applications for awards of small grants to projects

None. Three application forms were distributed for completion and return to the Clerk.

6. Any other Parish Matters including any resolutions

Cllr Nieto suggested a wine bar should be provided at the Annual Parish Meeting and that she would be happy to help serve. The Chairman explained that the Council used to provide refreshments but people did not stay.

A resident expressed disappointment that more people were not in attendance, and requested better communication, commenting that there were many more groups in the village than those shown on the agenda. Another asked that the date be advertised in Hardwick Happenings in addition to the notice boards, website, and on Facebook. The Chairman explained that the meeting had already been publicised on the notice boards, website and the Parish Council's Facebook page, but the date when the meeting was set was not necessarily in line with the Hardwick Happenings publication dates. However, in future the date of the meeting could be decided in February in order to meet the March/April issue deadline. The Parish Council was asked to share the dates of meetings via every avenue available and place a précis of the

Annual Parish Meeting in Hardwick Happenings, along with a letter from the Parish Council asking for volunteers to come forward to organise the litter picks, Community Speed Watch and Neighbourhood Watch. A further request was made that the Parish Council include the name of the person giving the report for each group on the agenda.

8. Closure of meeting

Residents were thanked for attending.

There was no further business and the meeting was declared closed at 9.30 pm.

Signed _____(Chairman) _____(Date)

DRAFT