

Hardwick Parish Council
Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 19 June 2024 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 and S Rose.

In attendance: 1 member of the public and Mr B Stoehr (Minutes Secretary, LGS Services)

Open public session including reports from the County and District Councillors

None.

1. To receive apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Phillips (personal commitment).
 Cllr Dabrowski gave his apologies for having to leave at 8.45 pm.

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 items 4.1 and 8.2 as a Trustee, Guarantor and Director member of the Hardwick Community Centre Charity.
 Cllr Rose declared a non-pecuniary interest in items 4.1 and 8.2 as a Trustee, Guarantor and Director member of the Hardwick Community Centre Charity.
 Cllr Rose declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 8.2 as a life member of Hardwick Sports and Social Club.

Cllr Coxall arrived at 7.02 pm.

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 15 May and 11 June

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting on 15 May be approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record. (Prop JD, 2nd PJ, unanimous)

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting on 11 June be approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record, after changing the reason for Cllr Dabrowski's apologies to "personal reasons". (Prop PJ, 2nd JA, carried with 4 in favour and 2 abstentions)

The Parish Council congratulated Cllr Dabrowski on the birth of a baby boy.

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

4.1 (11 June) Community Centre – to receive report on meetings with the Architect and the Working Group and to consider the next steps

RESOLVED further to the last meeting to note the written advice of the Clerk, that the Council could decide to suspend Standing Order 18c to enable the Parish Council to invite specific companies to tender. It would be permissible to ask AMA to draw up revised plans but that might necessitate the existing contract with AMA to be renegotiated. The Council should be very clear what the cost implication of AMA and associated professionals will be if this decision is made.

The Council must first take into consideration procedural requirements including but not limited to how the Council will ensure fair competition, achieve value for money and avoid anti-competitive behaviour and has avoided allowing non-commercial considerations (defined in Part 2 of the Local Government Act 1988) to influence its decisions. If the Council invites some suppliers and not others it has to record its reasons in its minutes."

RESOLVED to note that a new agreement would be needed with AMA as the original plan was not proceeding.

RESOLVED having considered options for proceeding and whether further consultation was required that the Parish Council was satisfied that it had already

held numerous consultations and there was no expectation of any different responses. (Prop JA, 2nd SR, unanimous)

RESOLVED to set up a Working Group composed of Cllrs Gill, Rose and Dabrowski and Alan West to come up with a basic brief for what the new building should contain, sufficient to enable the architects to provide a proposal/quote. (Prop SR, 2nd JA, unanimous)

RESOLVED to obtain quotations to remove any excess hedge growth on the rear of the hedge. (Prop SR, 2nd JD, unanimous)

4.2 (3.1) Proposal that the Parish Council investigates options for Community Transport for the next meeting – to consider report and recommendation

RESOLVED that Cllr Rose should check the precise wording of the S106 agreement to check how exactly the funds should be used, for example, for maintenance, upkeep or booking.

RESOLVED after consideration as to how the service might be run, whether the Parish Council would be open to provide funding from the precept in future, or whether it would expect the service to be self-sustaining financially, the priorities for the service as yet to be established and Impington model which could be a starting point, that more information should be brought to a future meeting.

4.3 (7.3) Defibrillator signage – to consider quotations if received

RESOLVED to defer this to a future meeting as the quotation for the signs had not yet been received.

4.4 (7.2) St Mary's access road – to consider any plan received from Chivers Farms for alterations to the entrance splay and widening of the track

RESOLVED to defer this item until a response is received.

4.5 (7.3) Parking at the Church signage and bollards – to consider response from Rev Clare Coates and quotation for signage if received

RESOLVED to note that the bollards were being installed on Friday 21 June.

RESOLVED, having considered the correspondence received, to defer and reconsider any action on parking restriction as new information had been received. (Prop SR, 2nd JA, unanimous)

RESOLVED that the bollards should be installed as planned.

RESOLVED to check whether it is permissible to use grasscrete on a Village Green.

4.6 (7.8) Neighbourhood Planning – update and to consider the next steps

RESOLVED to defer this item to the next meeting.

4.7 (7.11) Hill offer of public open space – to consider response

RESOLVED, having noted the response from Hill, that the Parish Council is happy to adopt the grass area at the play area, but has questions over the water area.

RESOLVED to ask for clarification of the responsibility for the water area and whether the pond area at Meridian Fields is the Parish Council's responsibility. (Prop JD, 2nd SR, unanimous)

4.8 (7.13) Review of website operations – to consider how payments may be made

RESOLVED to note Cllr Dabrowski's previous verbal report on website issues, and also that the website domain name had expired due to a payment failure, as the providers only accept card payments.

RESOLVED that Cllr Dabrowski should prepare a paper setting out the webmaster's responsibilities, and that consideration of another provider should be an agenda item later in the year.

4.9 (8.6) To consider the recent RoSPA reports

RESOLVED to obtain quotes for consideration when they are received.

5. To consider any resolutions from the Annual Parish Meeting

5.1 Resident request that the Parish Council organises two dates for volunteer litter picking in the village

RESOLVED given that the previous organiser was unable to continue, to place an item on social media, the website and in Hardwick Happenings that the group is seeking volunteers to organise the litter picks.

RESOLVED that Cllr Dabrowski should liaise with Cllr Phillips about the advertising.

- 5.2 Proposal that the date of the Annual Parish Meeting be set in February annually to enable the date to be publicised in Hardwick Happenings

RESOLVED that the next Annual Parish Meeting should take place on 14 May 2025 and that future dates should be set at the end of the Annual Parish Meeting each year.

- 5.3 Resident request that a précis of the Annual Parish Meeting be placed in Hardwick Happenings

RESOLVED to provide Hardwick Happenings with a link to the minutes and reports on the website, and that Cllr Gill should publish the Parish Council report in Hardwick Happenings.

- 5.4 Resident request that the Parish Council publishes a letter requesting volunteers to organise the litter picking group and take on the roles of Community Speed Watch Co-ordinator and Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator

RESOLVED to contact various groups and ask them to make contact with residents seeking volunteers.

RESOLVED that the Parish Council is happy to support them by publishing the request on the website.

- 5.5 Resident request that the Parish Council specifies the names of the persons who will be giving each community group report to the Annual Parish Meeting alongside the agenda item

RESOLVED that the Parish Council will no longer invite community groups to give reports at the Annual Parish Meeting.

RESOLVED that the groups should contact the Clerk in time for the publication of the Annual Parish Meeting agenda if they wish to make a presentation.

RESOLVED that groups receiving grants be invited to the meeting in the following year.

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

RESOLVED to note that the Clerk had used delegated powers to:

- Contract RH Landscapes to spray Giant Hogweed plants found in the Spinney between Ashmead Drive and Sudeley Grove on the grounds of health and safety.
- Contract Kettering Playsafe to check and repair a swing at Egremont Road play area following an accident.

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

None.

- 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, plus Mr Groundsman (Fertiliser) £1662.00, and that Cllrs Gill and Joslin should authorise them. (Prop JD, 2nd PJ, unanimous)

Salaries	£742.89
St Mary's Church (Tree works St Mary's Church)	£5000.00
RH Landscapes (Grass cutting)	£879.00
The Cabin (Room hire)	£4.50
The Cabin (Room hire)	£12.00
The Cabin (Room hire)	£24.00

LGS Services (Admin support)

£1544.35

Credits, including bank and investment interest, and receipt of the S106 money for the St Neots Road development (Community Facilities), were noted.

- 6.4 To carry out a review of the effectiveness of the system of internal control that has been in place during the year under review (between 1 April 2023 and 31 March 2024)

The Parish Council noted the system of internal control and considered it to be sufficient.

- 6.5 To prepare the Annual Governance Statement (Section 1 of the Annual Return)
RESOLVED that statements 1-8 in the Annual Governance Statement be all answered "Yes," apart from Question 9 (Trusts) which was not applicable and Question 4 which is "No".

- 6.6 To approve the Annual Governance Statement by resolution
RESOLVED that the Annual Governance Statement be approved and signed by the Chairman and the Clerk on the Council's behalf. (Prop SR, 2nd PJ, unanimous)

- 6.7 To consider the Accounting Statements (Section 2 of the Annual Return)
The Accounting Statements were considered.

- 6.8 To approve the Accounting Statements by resolution
RESOLVED that the Accounting Statements which had already been signed by the RFO be approved and signed by the Chairman on the Council's behalf. (Prop SR, 2nd PJ, unanimous)

- 6.9 To ensure that the Accounting Statements are signed and dated by the person presiding at the meeting
RESOLVED that the Accounting Statements be signed and dated by the Chairman on the Council's behalf.

- 6.10 To consider alternative venue/date for the August meeting and resident request that the Council considers the timing of its meetings
RESOLVED that the August meeting should be held on Tuesday 20 August if the meeting room is available, or on Wednesday 28 August if not available.
RESOLVED to increase the booking time to three hours. (Prop JD, 2nd PJ, unanimous)

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

- 7.1 Planning applications and appeals

- 7.1.1 24/02099/FUL – Newton House, 147 St Neots Road – Redevelopment to form 2 No. 1 bedroom, 3 No 2 bedroom and 2 No. Studio apartments with associated car parking, cycle storage and bin storage (amendment to 21/01345/FUL)
RESOLVED to make no comment and leave it to the planners to decide. (Prop AG, 2nd PJ, carried with 4 in favour and 1 objection)

- 7.1.2 24/01974/HFUL – 10 Quince Road – Single storey side extension
RESOLVED to support the application. (Prop JD, 2nd PJ, unanimous)

- 7.1.3 24/01913/S73 – Pumping station, Grace Crescent – S73 to vary condition 1 of ref S/4551/17/RM (Application for approval of reserved matters for layout, scale, appearance and landscaping (not EIA) for the erection of up to 98 dwellings and associated works following outline planning permission S/1694/16/OL) for additional sheep sculpture and 2 additional wobble boards along with a new multiplay equipment of similar quality to the original planning approved play equipment
RESOLVED to support the application. (Prop JD, 2nd AG, unanimous)

- 7.1.4 24/00619/CONDA – 25 Limes Road – Submission of details required by Condition3 (Arboricultural method statement and tree protection plan) of planning permission 24/00619/FUL
RESOLVED to make no comments.

7.2 SCDC decision and appeal notices and correspondence

7.2.1 24/01653/PRIOR – 11 St Neots Road – Single storey rear extension – Prior approval not required.

7.2.2 24/01342/HFUL – 10 Grenadier Walk – Single storey rear extension – Permission granted by SCDC

7.2.3 24/00994/LBC – 26 Main Street – Repairs to the existing garden wall running from the garage parking area to the right hand side of the entrance doorway including the addition of weep holes along the length of the wall, repointing of the minor cracks, reinforcement of the major cracks and the construction of three brick buttresses on independent foundations – Permission granted by SCDC.

7.3 Tree works applications7.3.1 24/0584/TTCA – 2 Sadler's Close

RESOLVED that the Parish Council has no objections.

8. Members' reports and items for information only8.1 New Housing Developments and Planning Obligations

Taken earlier.

8.2 Community Centre update

Taken earlier.

8.3 Highways Working Group report

RESOLVED to receive the written report of the Highways Working Group, containing more information on the PFHI costs. Further details were awaited.

A question will be asked about the letter of variation from Hill at the Liaison meeting tomorrow.

RESOLVED that the Parish Council is happy for the working group to progress matters relating to Greenways.

RESOLVED to receive Cllr Rose's verbal report on the Greenways meeting, and the proposed plans for the section from Portway to St Neots Road. This will be posted online when copies are received.

8.4 To consider questions about new street lighting maintenance in various areas of the village

RESOLVED to note that more information was expected at the Liaison meeting tomorrow.

RESOLVED to check if the street light fund had been retained or had been released to reserves.

8.5 Proposal that the Parish Council ensures that an energy survey for the Pavilion is obtained

RESOLVED to proceed with the survey at a cost of up to £500.00, and to instruct someone to carry this out. (Prop JD, 2nd SR, unanimous)

RESOLVED to check with the solicitor why this was not recommended at the time that the lease was being negotiated. (Prop JD, 2nd SR, unanimous)

9. To consider any correspondence/communications received requiring formal noting by or a decision of the Council9.1 SCDC - Green Spaces Shared Prosperity Fund Year 2 Applications – invitation to apply

RESOLVED to forward the details to the Sean Hughes and the Hardwick Climate Action Group.

9.2 SCDC – Environmental Crime Team - noted**9. Closure of meeting and items for the next agenda**

The next meeting will be on Wednesday 17 July 2024.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 9.34 pm.

SignedChairmandate