

Hardwick Parish Council
Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 17 July 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: Mrs Gail Stoehr (Clerk).

Open public session including reports from the County and District Councillors

None.

1. To receive apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllrs Armisen (no reason given) and Dabrowski (family circumstances).

Apologies had been received from Cllr Rose for anticipated lateness.

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 7.2 as a Trustee, Guarantor and Director member 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 91 June

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting on 19 June be approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record. (Prop BC, 2nd PJ, 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) Community Centre – to receive report from the Working Group and to consider the next steps

RESOLVED to defer this item to later in the meeting.

4.2 (4.1) Hedge at Recreation Ground – to consider quotations if received

Cllr Phillips declared a personal interest as one of the people requested to quote was a friend. One quotation had been received and the Chairman was meeting another contractor tomorrow morning.

RESOLVED given that the part of the hedge covered by the Tree Preservation Order extends to ten metres from the car park, that the vegetation that is more than ten metres from the car park is to be removed.

RESOLVED to delegate to the Clerk and Chairman to accept the lowest quote received. (Prop AG, 2nd CP, unanimous)

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

RESOLVED to purchase two signs at the sum of £20.30 each plus VAT and delivery from the supplier the Parish Council had previously used.

4.4 (4.6) Neighbourhood Planning – update and to consider the next steps

RESOLVED to defer this item until Cllr Rangadurai's return.

Cllr Rose arrived.

4.5 (4.7) Hill offer of public open space – to consider response

RESOLVED to note that nothing further had been received.

RESOLVED, given that snagging issues were outstanding, to defer this item pending a response.

4.6 (4.9) RoSPA reports – to consider quotations

RESOLVED to accept Cllr Rose's offer to clean the see-saw in Grenadier Walk and spray with "Wet and Forget".

RESOLVED to accept the quotation from Kettering Playsafe for the sum of £1,079.00. (Prop AG, 2nd BC, unanimous)

- 4.7 (8.4) To consider questions about new street lighting maintenance – update
RESOLVED, to note that whilst the Parish Council agreed to maintain four additional lights on St Neots Road only three had been installed. Cllr Rose had written to Hill and that a response was awaited. The lights had not as yet been transferred to the Parish Council and the Council had already previously decided that any streetlights it maintained be added to K&M's maintenance contract.

- 4.8 (4.5) To consider use of grasscrete on the village green
RESOLVED to defer consideration of this item until November. (Prop BC, 2nd AG, carried with 4 in favour and 1 abstention)

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 that the Clerk had used delegated powers to:

- Hire the Cabin for Community Centre Working Group meeting at a cost of £20.00.
- Upload a transfer to the current account of £20,000.

- 5.1.1 Football Club request for repairs to second pitch area
RESOLVED, given that the Football Club was bringing a second pitch into use and had requested permission to repair the area over a drain which had made it unsafe for play, to grant permission for the Club to carry out the works. (Prop SR, 2nd CP, unanimous)

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

RESOLVED, given that weeds and grass at Worcester Avenue needed to be cut back to ask RH Landscapes to do this and to add this to the contract for the remaining term of the contract. (Prop AG, 2nd CP, unanimous)

RESOLVED that Cllr Coxall should cut back the nettles at the Church play area.

A proposal by Cllr Coxall that the Parish Council purchases top soil to level the area by the bollards is to be an agenda item for the next 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 The Cabin at St Mary's (Room hire) £12.00, and that Cllrs Joslin and Phillips should authorise them at the bank. (Prop AG 2nd CP, unanimous)

Salaries	£688.49
Bradgate Fencing (Bollards at St Mary's Church)	£3696.00
K & M Lighting Services (Street light maintenance)	£57.60
RH Landscapes (Grass cutting)	£1068.00
William Lewis (Internal Audit)	£370.00
LGS Services (Admin support)	£1470.80

Credits, including bank and investment interest, and Pavilion rent, were noted.

RESOLVED note the uploading by the RFO of a transfer of £20,000 between accounts.

- 5.3.1 To consider the invoice including additional cost for the bollards on the Village Green/St Mary's play area

RESOLVED to pay the invoice from Bradgate Fencing for £3,696.00 for the bollards. (Prop SR, 2nd AG, unanimous)

- 5.4 To consider the Internal Auditor's report

RESOLVED to note the report of the Internal Auditor.

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

6.1 Planning applications and appeals

6.1.1 24/0994/CONDA – 26 Main Street – Submission of details required by conditions 3 (Buttresses) ad 4 (Brick sample) of listed building consent 24/00994/LBC
RESOLVED to note.

6.1.2 24/02453/PRIOR - 4 Martins Way Hardwick Cambridgeshire Single storey rear extension

RESOLVED to make no comments.

6.2 SCDC decision and appeal notices and correspondence

6.2.1 24/01612/HFUL – 2 Limes Road – Single storey rear extension and loft conversion with rear dormer and skylights on the west elevation – Permission granted by SCDC

6.3 Tree works applications

6.3.1 24/0695/TTCA – St Mary’s Church, Main Street Lime (T1) - reduce over hanging limb over property 52 Main Street Hardwick to give a clearance of 3 meters - info only
RESOLVED to note.

On a proposition by the Chairman, item 4.1 was taken at this point.

4.1 (4.1) Community Centre – to receive report from the Working Group and to consider the next steps

Consideration was given to the Clerk’s previous advice on its Standing order 18c and also to which architects the brief when approved by the Parish Council should be sent. In brief weight was given to AMAs work with the Parish Council to date and their understanding of the Parish Council’s needs, the involvement of Hill given their less than timely responses on other ongoing matters and that proceeding with a new architect will inevitably take time to for them to understand the project’s requirements and also the Council’s human resources.

RESOLVED, to seek quotes from both AMA and also the independent architect identified by Cllr Rose who has a project with another council. This decision being subject to a) the willingness of the independent architect to quote, b) the reference received and c) any comments from Nikki Kerr on the architects to whom the brief should be given.

RESOLVED to approve the Architect Brief for the Hardwick Community Centre Project. (Prop AG, 2nd CP, unanimous)

RESOLVED that the decision on the appointment should not be made solely on cost but also on the ideas put forward by the architects. (Prop CP, 2nd AG, unanimous)

RESOLVED that Cllr Rose should put the brief out to the architects and answer any questions on the brief that the Clerk should seek the reference.

7. Members’ reports and items for information only

7.1 New Housing Developments and Planning Obligations

Nothing further to report.

7.2 Community Centre update

Taken earlier.

7.3 Highways Working Group report including update on LHI and PFHI

RESOLVED to receive Cllr Rose’s verbal report on the Greenways project and the improvement of the stretch of road from Portway to St Neots Road where needed and the inclusion of lighting which might now mean the Parish Council would not have to consider lighting along this stretch using the £15,000 S106 money.

RESOLVED to note that Josh Rutherford of CCC had indicated in his email that the pedestrian islands project could go ahead, and that Cllr Joslin should send a copy of this to the Clerk.

- 7.3.1 Junction Camb Rd / SNR Proposal that the Parish Council considers pressing highways for traffic lights at this point, public safety concerns have been voiced increased movement from existing office units and the now the approval at 147

RESOLVED that the Highways Working Group should consult with Josh Rutherford and that this should be an agenda item for a future meeting when requested by Cllr Joslin.

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

- 8.1 Resident – request for waste bin at Meridian Fields development

RESOLVED to ask Hill to install a bin and that the Parish Council should pay for emptying. (Prop SR, 2nd AG, unanimous)

RESOLVED if not that the Parish Council will pay for a bin subject to Hill granting permission for it before the land is transferred to the Parish Council and if so to ask James Wakeling to install it.

- 8.2 Hardwick Pre-School – request for grant

RESOLVED to thank the Pre-School for their application.

RESOLVED, given the Parish Council considers the application seems to be a normal maintenance item and does not meet the Council’s criteria, that the Parish Council therefore regrets that it is unable to assist on this occasion. (Prop SR 2nd CP unanimous)

- 8.3 Resident – Hardwick play park hedge

RESOLVED to ask RH Landscapes to cut back the hedge. (Prop

- 8.4 SCDC - EV charging grant and questions

RESOLVED to consider this matter if still available when the Community Centre is up and running and not to proceed this year. (Prop SR, 2nd CP, unanimous)

- 8.5 SCDC Indemnity agreement S106 Community Transport contribution

RESOLVED that the S106 Indemnity Agreement be signed by Cllr Rose and Gill.

- 8.6 CCC Community Energy Action Plan Community Engagement Consultation

Noted.

- 8.7 CCC Tam Parry Deed of Variation on S106 for S/3064/16/OL improvements to the accessibility of the bus stops through the improvements to the surface of Millers Way and the provision of traffic calming measures and pedestrian safety features on St Neots Road in the vicinity of the development

RESOLVED that the Parish Council was happy with Mr Parry’s suggestion with one minor exception; the Parish Council feels the existing bus shelters, which the Parish Council owns servicing east bound traffic are ok for now so it would wish the money to be for a bus shelter servicing west bound traffic. (Prop AG 2nd PJ unanimous)

9. Closure of meeting and items for the next agenda

The next meeting will be on Tuesday 20 August 2024.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 9.35 pm.

SignedChairmandate