

Hardwick Parish Council
Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday 18 September 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, C Phillips, P Rangadurai and S Rose.

In attendance: Kiran Bacon (Hill) and Mrs A Griffiths (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 Dabrowski (personal reasons).

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 4.4 as a Trustee, Guarantor and Director member of the Hardwick Community Centre Charity.

Cllr Rose declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 3 as a Trustee, Guarantor and Director member of the Hardwick Community Centre Charity

Cllr Phillips declared an interest in item 4.5 as a friend of one of the contractors.

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 20 August

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting on 20 August be approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record. (Prop CP, 2nd BC, carried with 5 in favour and 2 abstentions)

RESOLVED to note that CCC had since confirmed the dates of the road closure to be from 17 to 30 September between 8 pm and 6 am.

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

4.1 (4.2) Proposal that the Council considers the provision of paediatric pads in the defibrillator

RESOLVED, having received confirmation from the supplier that the cost of the paediatric pads would result in an overall payment of £1.10 per day, to accept this figure and arrange for the paediatric pads to be provided. (Prop SR, 2nd PR, unanimous)

On a proposition by the Chairman, it was agreed to vary the order of business.

4.7 (4.5 of 17.7.24) Hill offer of Public Open Space – to consider attenuation pond

The Chairman outlined the Parish Council's concerns relating to taking responsibility for the pond, and the expense of clearing out the sediment.

Kiran Bacon of Hill explained that the Parish Council would not be responsible for the points where the water entered and exited, but if the pond did silt up, the Parish Council would be responsible for that, although it was not expected to happen often. Hill would provide the Parish with the sum of approximately £38,802 in total, as a one-off payment on transfer to cover ten years of maintenance, calculated on the same rate as grass cutting.

Mr Bacon stated that the pond was designed never to be full, and the water level would only rise to about 3 feet if required in extreme weather. The water would travel through the piece of infrastructure from the eastern side to the western side. Councillors observed that the water would enter the pond about one foot from the bottom and concerns were expressed that the pond could be subject to algae, or the connection could become blocked, requiring the use of a digger, and the pond could accumulate rubbish. It was confirmed that if vegetation/silting began to cut off

drainage, the Parish Council would be responsible for clearing it, and also for clearing rubbish. Members expressed concerns that children could gain access inside the wooden fence, and were urged to look at the attenuation pond at Capstone Fields, which was not the responsibility of the Council. If the Parish Council did not sign the agreement the responsibility would remain with the management company.

RESOLVED to defer a decision on this matter to a future meeting pending receipt of the official transfer documentation, as the Council considered it now had all the information it needed to make a decision at the appropriate time.

- 4.2 (5.2) Perimeter grass at Worcester Avenue – to consider quotation if received
RESOLVED to note that the contractors had undertaken to cut the area when they next attended.

- 4.5 (7.1) Hedge at Recreation Ground – to consider quotations if received
RESOLVED, having considered three quotations, to accept the quotation of £3,225 plus VAT from Acacia Tree Surgery, which also covered the removal of the bramble roots and a tree stump. (Prop AG, 2nd SR, carried with 6 in favour and 1 abstention)

- 4.3 (5.2) Repair of bench at Grenadier Walk – to consider quotation if received
RESOLVED as the quotation had not as yet been received to send a further reminder.

- 4.4 (7.1) To consider quotations from architects for the new Community Centre if received
RESOLVED the three quotations received being considered as previously agreed, not on the basis of cost alone, but also on the ideas put forward by the designers to accept the fee estimate from Hill's Inhouse Design Team for a full planning application for a proposed circa 350 sq m building for £7,200 plus VAT.
RESOLVED that Blue Ink should be a back up in the event of the project not proceeding as expected. (Prop PR, 2nd CP, unanimous)
RESOLVED that all three candidates be formally advised of the Council's decision.
RESOLVED that Cllr Rose should inform the Working Group of the Parish Council's decision on a confidential basis until the parties have been informed.
RESOLVED that Cllr Rose should arrange for the Working Group to comment on the concept design and communicate with the village.

- 4.6 (8.0.3) Aircraft noise post consultation review – update
RESOLVED to receive the Chairman's verbal report that he had submitted a response to the post-consultation review.

- 4.7 (4.5 of 17.7.24) Hill offer of Public Open Space – to consider attenuation pond
Taken earlier.

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 Chairman had emailed the Clerk regarding the report by a resident of overhanging trees at Egremont Road by the recreation ground.

- 5.2 To receive play areas and skate park inspection reports and consider if any work is required
None.

- 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 PKF Littlejohn (External Audit) £756.00, except for the payment of £1,470.80 to LGS Services shown in the finance report which was a duplicated item.
RESOLVED that Cllrs Gill and Phillips should authorise payments at the bank. (Prop CP, 2nd SR, unanimous)

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| Salaries | £840.49 |
| Mr Groundsman (Top dressing Recreation Ground) | £4644.00 |

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| RH Landscapes (Grass cutting) | £879.00 |
| LGS Services (Admin support) | £1453.57 |
| The Cabin (Room hire) | £18.00 |

Credits, including bank interest and pitches rent, were noted.

RESOLVED to note that the External Audit had been completed and that in the Auditor's opinion the information in Sections 1 and 2 of the AGAR is in accordance with Proper Practices and no other matters have come to our attention giving cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements have not been met.

5.4 Opus Energy – changes to street lighting provision

RESOLVED, given that Opus Energy were no longer continuing to provide unmetered supply services, to contract Suffolk County Highways as its alternative supplier, whose estimated total invoice cost for last year would have been £509.56, representing a considerable saving on last year's payment to Opus of £2,796.23. ^(Prop AG, 2nd SR, unanimous)

5.5 Insurance renewal – to consider quotations received

RESOLVED to renew the Council's insurance cover with Zurich on a 3 year Long Term Agreement, for an annual premium of £2,612.89. ^(Prop AG, 2nd SR, unanimous)

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

6.1 Planning applications and appeals

6.1.1 24/03203/HFUL - 38 Hall Drive – First floor side extension and rear dormer window with rooflights to front

RESOLVED to support the application. ^(Prop AG, 2nd PJ, carried with 6 in favour and 1 abstention)

6.1.2 24/03354/FUL – 347 St Neots Road – Erection of 1 no. replacement self-build dwelling on existing residential plot

RESOLVED to support the application. ^(Prop AG, 2nd PJ, carried with 6 in favour and 1 abstention)

6.2 SCDC decision and appeal notices and correspondence

6.2.1 S/3440/18/OL - Bourn Airfield St Neots Road Bourn Cambridge CB23 2TQ - Outline planning permission for a new mixed use village comprising residential development of approximately 3500 dwellings mixed uses comprising employment retail hotel leisure residential institutions education community facilities open space including parks ecological areas and woodlands landscaping engineering for foul and sustainable urban drainage systems footpaths cycle ways public transport infrastructure highways including a principal eastern access from the roundabout on St Neots Road and western access with Broadway including first section of strategic public transport route associated infrastructure groundworks and demolition with all matters reserved except for the principal highway junctions from the St Neots Road roundabout and onto Broadway with some matters reserved except for access. This application is subject to an Environmental impact assessment – Permission granted by SCDC.

6.2.2 24/02453/PRIOR – 4 Martin's Way – Single storey rear extension – Prior approval not required.

6.2.3 24/01913/S73 – Pumping station, Grace Crescent – S73 to vary condition 2 (materials) of ref: S/2107/19/VC (Variation of condition 2 (materials) of planning permission 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 two additional wobble boards along with a new multiplay equipment of similar quality to the original planning approved play equipment – Permission granted by SCDC.

6.2.4 Shipping containers in St Neots Road

RESOLVED to note that SCDC had issued an enforcement notice for the removal of the two stacked shipping containers.

Cllr Joslin reported that there had been another application to build 7 flats on the corner of St Neots Road and Cambridge Road,

Cllr Armisen left the meeting at 9 pm.

6.3 Tree works applications

6.3.1 24/0938/TTCA – 7 Sadler's Close

RESOLVED that the Parish Council has no objections.

7. Members' reports and items for information only

7.1 New Housing Developments and Planning Obligations

Nothing to report.

7.2 Community Centre update

Taken earlier.

7.3 Highways Working Group report including update on LHI and PFHI

RESOLVED to note Cllr Joslin's previously circulated written report.

Cllr Joslin reported on her attendance at the Coton Greenways meeting, where the CCC representative had referred to a Highways "Expo" taking place in Hardwick on 30 September.

RESOLVED, given that the Parish Council had not been notified of this, that Cllr Joslin should check the position with the CCC officer.

Cllr Rose reported on his attendance at the Liaison meeting between Hill, the Parish Council and SCDC, chaired by District Cllr Lina Nieto. The following points were noted:

- The outstanding sums of £54,000 for Capstone Fields, and £7,000 for bus shelter had not yet been received by the Parish Council as they were still going through legal procedures.
- The Co-ordinator was pushing for the provision of a Village Map board for the village and was seeking responses on other issues from Hill.

7.4 Proposal that the Parish Council considers future MVAS data collection and recording arrangements

RESOLVED to defer this item to the next meeting.

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

8.1 Resident – Request to purchase Parish Council land at Blenheim Way

RESOLVED to reiterate that the Parish Council's policy is not to sell its land, and that the Council therefore declines the request.

8.2 Resident – Motorbikes using Miller's Way and reduced access to car park

RESOLVED to seek quotations to put up post and rail fencing at the Worcester Avenue end of Miller's Way, at the same height as the barriers, to join the outer edge of each metal barrier to the adjacent boundary of Miller's Way, so as to prevent motorcyclists from riding around the outside of the barriers to access Miller's Way.

8.3 CCC Active Travel Hierarchy consultation (deadline 30 September)

Noted.

8.4 Combined Authority Bus Franchising consultation (deadline 20 November)

RESOLVED to ask Cllr Armisen to respond to the consultation.

8.5 Resident request that the Parish Council extends the effort

8.5.1 To continue to pursue the pedestrian islands on St Neots Road (started in 2019)

RESOLVED to note that efforts to pursue the pedestrian islands in St Neots Road were ongoing and that funding was awaited.

8.5.2 To pursue the Bourn Airfield S106 fixed use cycle path that will deliver the village entrance interventions near 1 St Neots Road (our secured then aborted LHI 21-22)

RESOLVED to note the Parish Council had no information as yet on the S106 and would consider this further when received.

RESOLVED with regard to the LHI 21-22 bid, it was the Parish Council's understanding that having been given the breakdown of costs for the different elements, that the Parish Council would do what it could afford, and that this was proceeding.

8.5.3 To press for and secure the Greenways work on Main Street which should also secure traffic calming

RESOLVED that the Greenways work on Main Street could start as early as 2025. as no land would need to be purchased on Main Street/Cambridge Road.

8.6 CCC LHI 25/26 Round Expression of Interest Survey (South)

RESOLVED that Cllr Joslin should discuss this matter with the Highways Working Group and to defer this item to the next meeting if necessary.

8.7 Resident update on Millers Way FP6 Definitive Map Modification Order (DMMO) – to consider if any further action is required by the Parish Council

RESOLVED to note the reply from CCC that the additional information provided did not provide satisfactory evidence that the route was public highway at the dates put forward and consequently Hardwick Footpath No 6 was not maintainable at public expense.

RESOLVED, noting that the County Councillor was unlikely to go against the Officer's decision, and that taking legal advice would prove prohibitive, and given that the quality of the work would be long lasting, to reply to the resident thanking him for his time and effort in pursuing this matter, but going forward the Parish Council sees no prospect of a positive outcome in pursuing this matter further. (Prop CP, 2nd AG, unanimous)

9. **Closure of meeting and items for the next agenda**

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 16 October 2024.

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

SignedChairmandate