

Hardwick Parish Council
Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday 16 October 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 S Rose.

In attendance: Mr B Stoehr (Minutes Secretary, LGS Services).

Open public session including reports from the County and District Councillors

None. The County Councillor's written report was noted.

1. To receive apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllrs Dabrowski, Phillips and Rangadurai.

2. Declarations of interest

2.1 To receive declarations of interests from Cllrs on items on the agenda and details of dispensations held

Cllr Rose declared a non-pecuniary interest in items 4.2 and 7.2 as a Trustee, Guarantor and Director member of the Hardwick Community Centre Charity.

Cllr Gill declared a non-pecuniary interest in items 4.2 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 18 September

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting on 18 September be approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record. (Prop BC, 2nd SR, unanimous)

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

4.1 (4.3) Repair of bench at Grenadier Walk – to consider the quotation if received

Deferred to the next meeting as no quotations had yet been received.

4.2 (4.4) New Community Centre – update on appointment of architect

RESOLVED to note Cllr Rose's written report which covered why the Parish Council would not now proceed with Hill but had instead appointed Blue Ink Ltd to take the project forward.

The Chairman of the Community Centre Working Group had asked that "Plan A" included provision for a consulting room and would like this to be investigated. This would be accommodated within the pre-agreed budget. This would allow a small health provision in the village of which there is currently none.

The Parish Council looked forward to receiving plans in the near future.

Blue Ink Ltd will be sending a contract to the Parish Council for signature.

4.3 (4.7) Hill offer of Public Open Space – to consider whether the Parish Council agrees to the transfer of the Public Open Space including the attenuation pond

RESOLVED that the Parish Council agrees subject to contract to the transfer of the Public Open Space including the attenuation pond. (Prop SR, 2nd JA, unanimous)

With regard to the question of how to manage the wildlife in the pond, it was noted that there should be little to do unless protected species such as newts were present, which could require some restrictions.

RESOLVED that the Parish Council should be mindful of safety once the land is transferred to the Council, and that fencing may need to be considered in future.

4.4 (5.1) Overhanging trees at Recreation Ground – to consider any quotations received

RESOLVED to accept the quotation from Oakes and Watson for £290.00 plus VAT. (Prop SR, 2nd JA, unanimous)

4.5 (7.4) Proposal that the Parish Council considers future MVAS data collection and recording arrangements

RESOLVED to note that the equipment belongs to the Parish Council and has been loaned to the Speed Watch group which was an independent group.

Cllr Armisen indicated his willingness to help with moving the MVAS and charging the batteries, but does not have the capacity to download and analyse the data.

RESOLVED that Speed Watch group need to try advertising for volunteers. The Parish Council is willing to continue providing the MVAS equipment but does not have anyone available that can take on the additional responsibilities.

RESOLVED that Cllr Armisen should respond to Speedwatch. (Prop AG, 2nd SR, unanimous)

4.6 (8.2) Motorbikes using Miller's Way – to consider quotations if received

RESOLVED that the Parish Council is satisfied with the specification drawn up by the Handyman Contractor for the work subject to receipt of the quotation.

4.7 (8.6) CCC LHI 25/26 round - Expression of Interest Survey update

RESOLVED to note that non-completion of the survey does not restrict making an application, and that the Working Group is to consider a project.

4.8 To consider Balfour Beatty Street Lighting Survey

RESOLVED to note the report and the recommendation that four additional lights will be needed.

RESOLVED to seek quotations for the additional lights suggested.

RESOLVED that this would be beneficial to residents of Meridian Fields.

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

None.

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

RESOLVED to receive the reports.

Worcester Avenue – the grass around the edge had not been cut.

RESOLVED to chase this again.

Grenadier Walk –

RESOLVED that Cllr Rose should spray this the moss under some equipment.

A proposal ^(AG) that the Parish Council considers improvements to the Grenadier Walk play area, as much of the equipment is very old, is to be an agenda item for the next meeting. This could possibly be funded by S106 money.

Church Play area – RESOLVED to send a letter of thanks to the volunteers from the church that had put down the topsoil.

RESOLVED to ask RH Landscapes if they could clear the vegetation covering the "No Kites" sign.

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 a transfer between accounts of £42,000.00, (Prop JA, 2nd SR, unanimous)

RESOLVED Cllrs Rose and Gill to authorise the payments at the bank. (Prop JA, 2nd SR, unanimous)

Salaries	£688.69
National Allotment Society (Affiliation fee)	£66.00
RH Landscapes (Grass cutting)	£879.00
LGS Services (Payroll services)	£144.00
The Cabin (Room hire)	£12.00
LGS Services (Admin support Sept)	£1495.06

Credits, including bank interest, Pavilion rent, a Wayleave payment and receipt of the Precept, were noted.

Thanks were expressed to the Clerk for arranging the transfer.

5.4 Grass cutting tender 2025-2027 – to consider specification and if this can be put out to tender

Cllr Joslin reported that she was a member of the Climate Action Group, who were unsure whether they wished to continue with the Bramley Way project.

RESOLVED to amend the grass cutting tender specification accordingly, subject to a satisfactory response from Shaun Hughes.

RESOLVED that quotations for the maintenance on new developments are to be added as necessary. (Prop AG, 2nd SR, unanimous)

5.5 To consider the date of the December meeting

RESOLVED that the December meeting should be held on 11 December 2024 in the Cabin.

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

6.1 Planning applications and appeals

6.1.1 24/03515/CL2PD – 11 Webb Close – Single storey extension to rear of property

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

6.2 SCDC decision and appeal notices and correspondence

6.2.1 24/02731/CL2PD – 1 Ellison Lane – Certificate of lawfulness under S192 to convert existing garage to habitable accommodation – Withdrawn.

6.2.2 24/02099/FUL – Newton House, 147 St Neots Roa – Redevelopment to form 2 No. 1 bedroom, 5 No. 2 bedroom and with associated car parking, cycle storage and bin storage (amendment to 21/01345/FUL – Permission granted by SCDC.

RESOLVED to ask the developer of Newton House to let the Council know when they are going to commence the work so that the village can be notified.

6.3 Tree works applications

None.

7. **Members' reports and items for information only**

7.1 New Housing Developments and Planning Obligations

Nothing to report. The Council is waiting to hear about new development frameworks.

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.

RESOLVED that the Parish Council is in agreement to install two islands once the outstanding funds are received.

RESOLVED that Cllr Joslin should contact Tam Parry. (Prop PJ, 2nd AG, unanimous)

RESOLVED to note that approximately £20,000 was to be used towards the Millers Way works, which had already been spent.

RESOLVED that Cllr Joslin should obtain a quotation from the engineer for the price of the pedestrian islands.

RESOLVED to receive Cllr Gill's verbal report that a flyer regarding Greenways had been circulated to all properties. A session will be taking place tomorrow from 3.30 pm – 7.00 pm in The Cabin with the Greenways representatives. It was noted that some councillors did not receive a copy of the flyer.

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

8.1 Display cabinet – to consider response to broken door and shipping costs

RESOLVED having considered the response from the manufacturers, and the email from Alan Everitt, to approve the shipping costs and order a new door for delivery to the school. (Prop AG, 2nd SR, unanimous)

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

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 20 November 2024.

There being no other business, the meeting was closed by the Chairman at 8.20 pm.

SignedChairmandate

APPROVED