

Hardwick Parish Council
Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday 20 November 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 and S Rose.

In attendance: 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 Cllrs Dabrowski and Rangadurai (both out of parish).

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 4.2 and 7.2 as a Trustee, Guarantor and Director member of the Hardwick Community Centre Charity.

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.

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 16 October

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting on 16 October be approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record, after an amendment under item 5.2, Church play area, to read "RESOLVED to send a letter of thanks to the volunteers from the Church that had put down the topsoil;" and an amendment to item 8.1 to insert commas after "manufacturers" and "Everitt." (Prop BC, 2nd JA, carried with 5 in favour and 1 abstention)

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

4.1 (4.1) Repair of bench at Grenadier Walk – to consider quotations if received

RESOLVED, in the absence of a response from the first contractor approached, to ask the Handyman Contractor to quote for the work. (Prop AG, 2nd SR, unanimous)

4.2 (4.2) New Community Centre – to note that the contract has been signed

RESOLVED to note that the contract had not yet been signed as some of the amendments were yet to be made, and that Blue Ink had been asked to check the draft contract again so that the remaining changes could be made and the contract signed by the Parish Council.

RESOLVED to note that the Public Indemnity cover had been increased to £2M.

RESOLVED to note that Cllrs Gill, Rose and Armisen are to meet with Blue Ink.

RESOLVED that Cllr Rose should circulate the draft contract to members.

4.3 (4.3) Hill transfer of St Neots Road Public Open Space – to review and confirm whether the maintenance sum of £38,803.67 for Phase 1 and 2 of the Capstone Fields Development is acceptable and to consider invitation to meeting

RESOLVED that as Cllrs Rose, Joslin and Gill had met with Daniel Brown at Capstone Fields on November 11th for a look around at the site, unless Hill have something else in mind no further meeting was necessary.

RESOLVED having considered a query regarding the suitability of the fencing and whether some mesh could be placed between the rails to prevent small children getting out, given that the pond was considered to present a low risk, that no action was required at this time. However, should concerns be raised by RoSPA, the Parish Council could re-consider the matter and use some of the S106 money to make modifications to the fence if required.

RESOLVED to confirm to Hill that it accepts the maintenance sum of £38,803.67 for Phase 1 and 2 of the Capstone Fields development. (Prop SR, 2nd AG, carried with 5 in favour and 1 against)

RESOLVED that Cllr Joslin should check with Jane Mountain that all the outstanding issues, including the Village Map and the bus shelter, had been resolved. The next liaison meeting will take place on 5 December.

- 4.4 (4.6) Motorbikes using Miller's Way – to consider quotation received for barrier
RESOLVED to accept the quotation from The Handyman Contractor for £468.00 to put up rail and post fencing on the outside of the barriers at the Worcester Avenue end of Miller's Way. (Prop AG, 2nd SR, unanimous)

RESOLVED that the cost should be taken from the S106 funds for Miller's Way.

RESOLVED to monitor the condition of two bent bollards at the St Neots Road end of Miller's Way.

- 4.5 (4.8) Balfour Beatty street lighting survey – to consider quotations for more lights if received

RESOLVED, given that only one quotation had been received, to defer this item to the December meeting.

- 4.6 (5.2) Proposal that the Parish Council considers improvements to the Grenadier Walk play area as much of the equipment is very old, and how this should be funded

RESOLVED noting that the equipment and surface at the play area was prone to moss and that some of the equipment was old, to investigate the possibility of replacing this with new equipment to be sited at the western end of the playground, and grassing over the existing location.

RESOLVED to arrange for a site meeting with a playground equipment provider, to look at the area and make recommendations about possible improvements. Cllr Gill to meet with them and bring a recommendation to a future meeting (Prop AG, 2nd JA, unanimous)

- 4.7 (4.4 of 14.7.24) Neighbourhood Planning – to consider whether to proceed

RESOLVED to defer this item to the next meeting.

- 4.8 (4.7 of 19.6.24) Parking at the Church – to consider what action to take if any

RESOLVED having reviewed the previously suggested options of surfacing or gravel, which were expensive, as well as the principle of consistency and the need for enforcement, to take no action at this stage but to keep the matter under review over the winter and re-visit the item after six months. (Prop SR, 2nd AG, unanimous)

RESOLVED to write to Rev Clare Coates and the Allotments Society informing them that the Parish Council has reviewed this matter and whilst there has been no change to the Council's current policy that there should be no parking on the Village Green, it is not proposing to implement enforcement with signage at this time, but has decided to review the matter again in six months' time, to evaluate the position after the winter. (Prop CP, 2nd SR, unanimous)

RESOLVED, with regard to the persistent ruts on either side of the concrete track from Main Street up to the play area, to write to Caroline Chivers to ask for her comments and asking when these might be repaired.

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 having considered Cllr Coxall's report that farm vehicles had been seen crossing the Church play area to ask the suppliers of the bollards for a quotation to install one additional bollard between the first bollard and the "No kite flying" sign to prevent access by vehicles.

RESOLVED to note that the grass around the edges at Worcester Avenue play area had now been cut back.

RESOLVED to note that Cllr Rose was dealing with the moss at Grenadier Walk.

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 Defibrillator Machines (defibrillator) £697.98. (Prop CP, 2nd PJ, unanimous)

RESOLVED that Cllrs Phillips and Gill are to authorise the payments at the bank.

RESOLVED to check that payment for the delivery of the replacement cabinet door had been made.

Salaries	£688.49
The Cabin (Room hire)	£18.00
RH Landscapes (Grass cutting)	£1092.00
Cambridgeshire ACRE (Renewal)	£65.00
LGS Services (Admin support Oct)	£1490.76

Credits, including investment interest, were noted. The NSI rate had been reduced slightly.

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

6.1 Planning applications and appeals

6.1.1 24/04125/HFUL – 16 Egremont Road – Demolition of garage. Part two storey part single storey side and rear extension with rear balcony, Juliet balcony and flue
RESOLVED to make no comment. (Prop AG, 2nd CP, unanimous)

6.1.2 24/03882/HFUL – 303B St Neots Road – Retention/regularisation of existing two storey outbuilding for ancillary use
RESOLVED to make no comment. (Prop SR, 2nd AG, unanimous)

6.2 SCDC decision and appeal notices and correspondence

6.2.1 24/03515/CL2PD – 11 Webb Close – Single storey extension to rear of property – Certificate granted by SCDC.

6.2.2 24/03354/FUL – 347 St Neots Road – Erection of 1 No. replacement self-build dwelling on existing residential plot of land – Permission granted by SCDC.

6.2.3 24/03203/HFUL – 38 Hall Drive – First floor side extension and rear dormer window with rooflights to front – Permission granted by SCDC.

6.3 Tree works applications

6.3.1 24/1153/TTCA – 1 Sadlers Close
Noted.

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

7.1 New Housing Developments and Planning Obligations
Taken earlier.

7.2 Community Centre update

RESOLVED to receive Cllr Rose's verbal report on a meeting with the architect, who was currently working on a design based on the brief. It was anticipated that if all goes to plan building could commence in approximately nine months' time.

7.3 Highways Working Group report

RESOLVED to note Cllr Joslin's previously circulated written report and it was noted that she had met with the CCC officer and Jo Baker, who had been provided with a list of questions. Cllr Joslin undertook to circulate the responses when received.
RESOLVED that whilst as notice had been sent out to all St Neots Road residents regarding the Cambourne to Cambridge Busway the consultation should be publicised to residents on Facebook.

7.4 Proposal that the Parish Council purchases, installs and arranges emptying of two new dog bins one in Main Street near Manor Crescent and one opposite the Blue Lion

RESOLVED, noting the cost, not to proceed with the purchase of two new dog waste bins, but ask the Handyman contractor for a quote to move the existing bin near the path into Grace Crescent, to a position on the grass verge at the corner of Portway and Toft Road, where it would be more visible. (Prop SR, 2nd BC, unanimous)

7.5 Proposal that the PC invite Alan Everitt to one of the Parish Council's upcoming meetings to clarify the PC's responsibilities when it comes to the MVAS to clarify the future of the MVAS

RESOLVED having considered the background and history of the Speed Watch group that whilst the Parish Council had purchased the equipment and loaned it to the group, it is a separate organisation independent of the Parish Council, and that the responsibility to seek more volunteers lay with Speed Watch rather than the Parish Council.

RESOLVED that Cllr Joslin, as a member of the Speed Watch group, along with the remaining group members, should seek volunteers to act as Speed Watch co-ordinator and collect the data.

RESOLVED that if none were forthcoming, Joshua Rutherford of CCC should be notified by Cllr Joslin as a member of the Speed Watch group that it was unable to continue due to the lack of volunteers.

RESOLVED that the equipment, which was still the property of the Parish Council, should be recovered and stored appropriately by the Council.

Cllr Rose left the meeting at 9.05 pm.

RESOLVED with regard to the MVAS equipment, which is also owned by the Parish Council, Cllr Armisen assisted by Cllr Phillips will continue moving the MVAS between locations, and charge the battery,.

If no volunteers were found for Speed Watch, the Speed Watch equipment could also be used and moved around the MVAS locations to provide two speed sensors in the village.

7.6 Re-painting of village sign – request that the Parish Council funds the cost of the paint (c£40)

RESOLVED, noting the resident's offer to re-paint the village sign free of charge, to approve funding of up to £40.00 for the purchase of paint, and to write thanking the resident and asking him to send the receipts to the Council so that he may be reimbursed. (Prop PJ, 2nd CP, unanimous)

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

8.1 Pavilion Energy Survey Certificate – to note correspondence from the Council's solicitor

RESOLVED to note the previously circulated correspondence.

8.2 CCC LHI applications 2025-2026 invitation to bid (deadline 10 January)

RESOLVED that Cllr Joslin should discuss possible projects with Cllr Dabrowski and bring any recommendations to the next meeting.

8.3 East West Rail – Non-statutory consultation (deadline 24 January 2025) and consultation webinar and events

RESOLVED to note the local consultation events. A notice will be placed on the notice board.

8.4 Ministries of Housing, Communities and Local Government – Consultation on enabling remote attendance and proxy voting at local authority meetings

Noted.

8.5 Greater Cambridge Partnership – Cambourne to Cambridge busway application submission
Noted.

8.6 CCC – National Highways A428 fund open again – invitation to apply/express an interest
Noted.

8.7 CCC Signals and Systems – speed sensor on St Neots Road (A1303)
RESOLVED to note that the speed sensor was now working.

8.8 SCDC Six free trees offer
RESOLVED to apply for a voucher for one potted silver birch tree to be planted on Parish Council land in either Pippin Walk or Worcester Avenue.

9. **Closure of meeting and items for the next agenda**
The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 11 December 2024.
RESOLVED that the budget meeting should be held on Wednesday 8 January 2025 at 7.00 pm.
RESOLVED that consideration of the need for meetings in August should be an agenda item for the next meeting.

There being no other business, the meeting was closed by the Chairman at 9.32 pm.

SignedChairmandate

