

Hardwick Parish Council
Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 19 February 2025 at 7.00 pm
Held at The Cabin at St Mary's, Hardwick

Present: Councillors: A Gill (Chairman), O Awoyinka, and P Joslin.

In attendance: Mr Ben Stoehr (Acting Clerk).

Open public session including reports from the County and District Councillors

None.

1. To receive apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Rose (out of parish), Cllr Armisen (out of parish), and Cllr Phillips (unwell).

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 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 15 January and the budget meeting on 8 January

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting on 15 January 2025 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record. (Prop PJ, 2nd AG, carried with 2 in favour and 1 abstention)

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

4.1 (4.1) Village map at the Church – report on discussion with Hill

The Chairman reported that Dan Brown of Hill had not yet replied to his email request and he would follow up.

4.2 (4.3) Outstanding S106 funding Capstone Fields Pedestrian Islands Bus Shelter– update on discussions

Cllr Joslin reported that Tam Parry had accepted the argument from 2021 to change the use of the funds, but the matter was awaiting legal paperwork to be completed.

4.3 (4.4) Outstanding S106 funding for street lighting improvements and to consider correspondence from Hill regarding the adoption of street lights

It was noted that the handover offer from Hill was still awaited.

It has previously been agreed that the lights should be added to Parish Council's existing maintenance contract once adopted.

The adoption status of a street light in Main Street needs to be checked.

4.4 (4.5) Grenadier Walk play improvements – to consider recommendations if received

The Chairman verbally reported that he had met another play equipment company on site and a proposal was awaited, but only one proposal had been received so far.

Cllr Gill is arranging a site meeting with another play equipment company.

4.5 (4.7) East West Rail non-statutory consultation – to note submission made

The submission was noted.

The Chairman reported that he had received correspondence and an invitation from Haslingfield Parish Council to attend a meeting in March at which Pippa Heylings MP would be present.

4.6 (9) Re-allocation of roles arising from vacancies

Deferred to the next meeting.

- 4.7 (3) Parish Council voting procedure and recording of decisions in the minutes
RESOLVED, having noted the correspondence received, that the Parish Council will ensure that all decisions have a recorded proposer, seconder and vote in future.

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.

RESOLVED, with regard to the Community Centre payments, to delegate to the Clerk in conjunction with Cllr Rose and the Chairman to make payments to the architects and for any required reports, surveys, etc, in line with signed contracts required to take the project up to planning application stage. (Prop AG, 2nd PJ, unanimous)

RESOLVED to circulate the signed contract to all Councillors when signed. (Prop AG, 2nd PJ, unanimous)

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

The reports were received and it was noted that the bench repair in Grenadier Walk had been completed.

- 5.3 To receive the financial report and approve the payment of bills

RESOLVED that the payments as listed below in the finance report should be paid, and that Cllrs Gill and Joslin should authorise the payments at the bank. (Prop PJ, 2nd OA, unanimous)

Salaries	£700.55
RH Landscapes (Removal branch Laxton Avenue)	£180.00
RH Landscapes (Playpark hedging)	£360.00
RH Landscapes (Millennium Way footpath)	£480.00
Handyman Contractor (Grenadier Walk bench seat replacement)	£278.80
Bradgate Fencing (Bollard at St Mary's play area)	£708.00
The Cabin (Room hire)	£36.00
Blue Ink Architecture (Community Centre)	£5850.00
LGS Services (Admin support)	£1477.64

Credits, including bank and investment interest, were noted.

- 5.4 Grass cutting and village maintenance contract 2025 – 2027 inclusive – to consider tenders

RESOLVED, having considered the quotations received, to accept the quotation from RH Landscapes for £13,565 for the grass cutting and village maintenance contract 2025-2027 inclusive, as being the best value, given that the Parish Council was satisfied with their previous service. It was noted that the open spaces in Capstone Fields and Meridian Fields would be cut by the Council following the transfer of the land. (Prop AG, 2nd PJ, unanimous)

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

- 6.1 Planning applications and appeals

- 6.1.1 25/00373/HFUL – 25 Cambridge Road – Dropped kerb
RESOLVED to support the application. (Prop AG, 2nd PJ, unanimous)

- 6.1.2 25/00382/HFUL – 1 Ellison Lane – Conversion of existing integral garage into habitable accommodation

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

- 6.2 SCDC decision and appeal notices and correspondence

None.

- 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.
- 7.2 Community Centre update
The Chairman verbally reported that the architect had produced a preliminary design and has recommended cost consultants and other consultants to enable him to produce more comprehensive plans. There were surveys carried out for the previous project and it was hoped that these could be re-used.
Two quotations had been received for approximately £27,000 for mechanical engineers. Another supplier has been asked to quote and has quoted just under £15,000. The estimate for the total project cost has been requested to ensure that the build comes within budget.
It was reported that they were aiming for mid-March for the submission of the planning application.
The latest preliminary plans had been published in Hardwick Happenings.
- 7.3 Highways Working Group report
Noted.
Cllr Joslin reported that confirmation was needed from Hill that the County Council and District Council have an agreement to adopt the streetlights on St Neots Road, and that she would continue investigating.
- 8. To consider any correspondence/communications received requiring formal noting by or a decision of the Council**
- 8.1 Hardwick Happenings – request for financial support
RESOLVED, having considered the request, to approve a grant of £3,000.00 to Hardwick Happenings, as in the opinion of the Council it is in the interests of the area and its inhabitants, it was agreed to release the payment immediately. (Prop AG, 2nd PJ, unanimous)
- 8.2 Resident concerns regarding Egremont Road traffic
The request was considered, and it was noted that the Greenway project would introduce a 20 mph limit in Main Street and Cambridge Road but not the Limes Estate.
The item was deferred to the next meeting to ask CCC about the process for extending the yellow lines on both sides of Egremont Road up to the Sudeley Way junction.
- 8.3 Salty Sailor Fish Truck – Request for permission to operate a mobile fish and chip van from the Hardwick Play Park on Tuesdays and Fridays
RESOLVED to respond that the Parish Council has no objections, but would prefer that the van parks perpendicular to the hedge, and subject to the proprietor supplying his own waste bins and all litter being removed from the site. The proprietor should also ask HSSC to confirm they are agreeable. The Parish Council's will may be reviewed if complaints are received. (Prop AG, 2nd PJ, unanimous)
- 8.4 The Cabin at St Mary's – to note increase in hire charge
Noted.
- 8.5 CCC Planning Local Validation List consultation (deadline 10 March)
Noted.
- 8.6 Resident - MVAS Battery charging and solar panels
RESOLVED to order two solar power conversion kits for the MVAS at a cost of £399 plus VAT each.
RESOLVED that the Parish Council would carry out the installation itself, but that this may be re-considered if the Council is unable to do so. (Prop AG, 2nd PJ, unanimous)

8.7 Resident – request for Council system of reviewing if actions have been resolved
RESOLVED to add an item to the agenda entitled “Updates on members responsibilities and outstanding tasks’.” (Prop AG, 2nd PJ, unanimous)

9. Closure of meeting and items for the next agenda

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 19 March 2025.

There being no other business, the meeting was closed by the Chairman at 9.08 pm.

SignedChairmandate

APPROVED