# Hardwick Parish Council

## Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 15 October 2025 at 7.00 pm Held at The Cabin at St Mary's, Hardwick

Present: Councillors: A Gill (Chairman), J Armisen, B Coxall, I Giddings, P Joslin and S Rose.

In attendance: 11 members of the public including representatives from Old Monk's Cricket Club and Mr Ben Stoehr (Minutes Secretary, LGS Services).

**Open public session including reports from the County and District Councillors**

A resident conveyed the apologies for absence of another resident who had written to the Council in connection with items 7.2 and 8.4, and raised questions about the Community Centre Project. The Chairman explained that the items raised could not be taken tonight although there was some overlap with items 7.2 and 8.4.

Another resident spoke about her insurance claim relating to the Council's trees.

**1. To receive apologies for absence**

Apologies were received from Cllr Awoyinka (no reason given), and from County Cllr C Morris.

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

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**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting on 17 September 2025 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record, after amendments under item 7.1 to change "east" to "west" in line 3 and delete the words "as they considered that there was a possibility" in the last sentence. (Prop PJ, 2nd BC, carried with 5 in favour and 1 abstention)

On a proposition by the Chairman, the order of business was varied.

7.2 Community Centre update

Cllr Rose provided an update on the Community Centre. The planning application was practically ready, with just a few minor reports to be added, and the intention was that the Parish Council would review the plans in depth prior to submission. Further delays could incur additional costs. The plans were expected in time for the November meeting.

8.4 Resident – concerns about the proposed community centre building

On a proposition by the Chairman, the meeting was closed at 7.29 pm to allow Alan West to speak and to take questions and comments from the floor. The meeting re-opened at 7.43pm

It was noted that this project had been consulted on extensively and many meetings had previously been held so there was little point in re-running the consultations. SCDC had previously approved the "Plan A" application and the only reason it did not proceed was due to the build cost. The community had been involved at every stage and the Chair of the Community Centre Working Group, Alan West, had been primarily responsible for disseminating information. All the latest plans and updates were on the Community Centre website and updates in Hardwick Happenings. The plans had been continually adjusted to take on feedback. Data to substantiate the

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build had been continually updated. The Parish Council had the funds to proceed. Four open meetings had been held to hear from the community and refine the plans based on feedback at each stage.

There was a monthly item on Parish Council agendas to provide updates and answer questions. Whilst the resident's suggestion was to pause and review the project, the outcome could be to end the project. The plans when prepared would be presented to the Parish Council and residents would be able to attend and comment as normal.

The Community Centre Charity information is available from Companies House and the Charity Commission, and the Charity is currently set up to help with raising funds and is able to claim Gift Aid on donations. whilst the Charity could eventually take on the running the Community Centre, but this had not yet been decided by the Parish Council.

It was noted that the proceeds from the sale of the old Village Hall were invested in the community room at the school. The developers were putting in £600,000 to release the community room for solely school use.

The plans would be available at the next Parish Council meeting for the public to view and comment. There was nothing further to be decided at this point as this would be considered at the next meeting.

8.1 Cam Valley Cricket Club – Request to use Hardwick Recreation Ground as a home ground
In addition a request had also been receied from he Old Monks Cricket Club.

RESOLVED noting the Council's previous agreement to allow the Football Clubs to extend their pitches onto part of the cricket square that Cllr Rose should contact the Football Club to inform them that the Cricket Clubs were interested in using the Recreation Ground and that an informal meeting should be arranged between the two Cricket Clubs and the Football Club with Cllrs Rose and Giddings, who will bring a proposal to a future meeting. (Prop SR, 2nd IG, unanimous)

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

4.1 (4.2) Replacement bench at Cambridge Road - to clarify fixing arrangements
RESOLVED to order the bench and concrete fixing kit with delivery to the School. (Prop IG, 2nd AG, unanimous)

4.2 (4.3) Resident request that the Parish Council purchases a new Android tablet to download MVAS data – to consider make, model and specification
RESOLVED as no-one was presently available to take on the responsibility for downloading the data not to proceed with a purchase.
RESOLVED to check whether the Parish Council has a signed obligation to download data.

4.3 (4.6) Alternative options to zip ties on play equipment – to consider recommendation
RESOLVED noting that metal spikes cost £8.00 per metre from Toolstation to leave this item in abeyance until the new swings were installed.

4.4 (4.9) Biodiversity funds received – to consider options for spending
RESOLVED to note that this had been agreed as a standing item at the last meeting but that there was no action to be taken at present.

4.5 (7.6) St Neots Road street lights ownership query – to consider response
RESOLVED to defer this item to the next meeting.

4.6 (8) Invitation to meeting and CCTV – to consider Police response
RESOLVED to ask the Police what incidents had taken place so that the Parish Council can consider CCTV, and to take this item off the agenda until a response has been received.

**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

At the request of the insurers, the Clerk used delegated powers to appoint Eastern Tree to undertake an arboriculture report at a cost of £325.00 plus VAT.

The Clerk had also used delegated powers for the following:

- To approve the order of two seats at Egremont Road play area as the others were removed and disposed of by ARD as they were unsuitable to be replaced.

5.1.1 Removal of post and wire fence at Limes Road – to consider quotation if received

RESOLVED that Cllr Giddings should remove the broken post and wire fence which was no longer required as the trees and bushes had grown up to form a hedge. (Prop SR, 2nd AG, unanimous)

5.1.2 To consider quotes for the removal of trees in the Spinney adj to Ashmead Drive

RESOLVED having considered the quotations received, to accept the quotation from Oakes and Watson for £1,800.00 to remove the trees. (Prop AG, 2nd PJ, unanimous)

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

RESOLVED to receive the play inspection reports. Some vegetation in the skate park needs to be removed.

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, plus The National Allotment Society (Membership) £84.00, ARD (Play repair works) £1,109.28 and William Lewis (Internal audit) £370.00. (Prop PJ, 2nd AG, unanimous)

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|---|---|
| Salaries | £737.05 |
| Oakes and Watson (Tree works Limes Close) | £216.00 |
| RH Landscapes (Grass cutting) | £912.00 |
| RH Landscapes (Grenadier Walk vegetation) | £480.00 |
| RH Landscapes (Egremont Road play area hedge) | £360.00 |
| Cabin at St Mary's (Room hire) | £21.00 |
| Signworks (Lamp post vinyl) | £108.00 |
| ETS Arboricultural (Subsidence report Ashmead Drive) | £390.00 |
| LGS Services (Admin support) | £1629.10 |
| PKF Littlejohn (External audit) | £1008.00 |

RESOLVED, with regard to the query raised at the last meeting, given there was no fault on the part of the contractor who had carried out the works they had been asked to do, that the invoice for £1,109.28 from ARD for the Grenadier Walk repairs should be paid.

RESOLVED that the payment of £529.98 to Defibrillator Machines be placed on hold and to query why a 10% surcharge was included for non-Direct Debit payment.

Credits, including bank interest, a wayleave payment, Pavilion rent payment, pitch hire fees, and receipt of the precept, were noted.

5.4 To appoint two members to authorise payments at the bank

RESOLVED that Cllrs Rose and Joslin should authorise the payments at the bank.

5.5 To set the date of the December meeting

RESOLVED that the December meeting should take place on Wednesday 10 December.

5.6 PKF Littlejohn Conclusion of Annual Audit

The conclusion of the Annual Audit was noted.

5.7 To consider quotes for tree works in the Spinney adjacent to 15 Ashmead Drive

Taken earlier under item 5.1.2.

5.8 Wall at Grenadier Walk
RESOLVED to accept the quote from Oakes and Watson to remove the small tree obdtructing erection of the fencing. (Prop SR, 2nd AG, unanimous)

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

6.1 Planning applications and appeals
None.

6.2 To note any planning responses made between meetings using delegated powers
None.

6.3 SCDC decision and appeal notices and correspondence

6.3.1 25/01953/FUL – Land at the rear of Alexandra House, 345A St Neots Road – Erection of 2 No. two bedroom semi-detached chalet bungalows – Permission granted by SCDC

6.4 Tree works applications

6.4.1 25/0993/TTCA – 8 Main Street
RESOLVED that the Parish Council has no objections.

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

7.1 New Housing Developments and Planning Obligations
Pigeon Developments have distributed leaflets about a public exhibition on 23 October 2025 at the Cabin.

7.2 Community Centre update
Taken earlier.

7.3 Highways Working Group report
The written report was noted.

7.4 Proposal that the Parish Council
1 decides where the Bus Shelter is required to be installed. Mark it on a map. By the existing bus stop I assume!
2 Get Permission to Install Bus Shelter, request agreement from Highways Projects for the PC to have the bus shelter installed in Highways space.
3 get quotes from 3 bus shelter providers to provide and install a unit similar to shelter opposite?
4 Not sure if HPC needs to keep some funds back specifically for maintenance
5 Query solar light inside? Will depend on trees? PC knows the suppliers - allow about £1500 for light.
RESOLVED to write to CCC Highways for permission to install a bus shelter near Capstone Fields opposite the existing shelter, and also what style of bus shelter they would suggest.
RESOLVED to ask whether they think solar lighting would be required as there are street lights.

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

8.1 Cam Valley Cricket Club – Request to use Hardwick Recreation Ground as a home ground
Taken earlier.

8.2 CCC – Request for Winter gritting volunteers
Noted.

8.3 Resident request for a waste bin at the Meridian Fields play area
RESOLVED to let the resident know that the Parish Council believes the existing bin is a litter bin and can already be used for litter.

**9. Closure of meeting and items for the next agenda**
An update on the new website was requested.

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The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 19 November 2025.

There being no other business, the meeting was closed by the Chairman at 9.25 pm.

Signed ……..Chairman ……date

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