

Hardwick Parish Council
Meeting held on Tuesday 25 September 2012 in the School at 7.45 pm

Present: Councillors: I Storr (Chairman), P Joslin, A Gill, J Humphries and R Worland.
 In attendance: Mrs A Griffiths (Minutes Secretary – LGS Services).

Open public session including reports from the County and District Councillors

County Councillor Whelan's written report was read in her absence. This covered: the SCDC Issues and Options consultation; Broadband and Connecting Cambridgeshire; free cycle stands for cycle parking; metal thefts; local roads; salt bins; the Community Payback scheme; neighbourhood panel meetings (Cllr Humphries will ask a resident who had attended to provide a report); M11 works and junction improvements; Relate family services; the CCC family website; census findings, including the 11% increase in Cambridgeshire's population; the Carer's survey, and the register of members' interests. Cllr Whelan had also informed the Chairman that the Transport consultation meeting had been very poorly attended.

The report of PCSO Karen Mahoney, regarding burglaries and anti-social behaviour in the area, was read and noted. Thefts of car keys were also noted.

1. To approve apologies for absence and declarations of interest

Apologies were received from Cllrs Chamberlain, Freeman and Stewart, and County Councillor Fiona Whelan.

1.1 To receive declarations of interests from councillors on items on the agenda

None.

1.2 To receive written requests for dispensations for disclosable pecuniary interests (if any)

None.

1.3 To grant any requests for dispensation as appropriate

None.

2. To approve the minutes of the previous meeting on 28 August 2012

The minutes of the meeting on 28 August were approved ^(Prop AG, 2nd JH) and signed by the Chairman, following amendments on page 262 to remove Cllr Worland's name from those present, under Item 3.4, amend "Proposed CG" to "Proposed GC" and under Item 4.2, to correct the spelling of "Rason".

The Chairman welcomed Cllr Worland to the meeting.

3. Matters arising and carried forward from the last or pervious meetings

3.0 The Clerk's report was noted.

It was noted that Cllr Chamberlain was preparing the Council's response to the SCDC LDF consultation and that he would be submitting it to SCDC. There were no further comments on the consultation.

3.1 (3.2) Recreation ground drains – to consider quotes if received

No further quotes had been received. It was agreed to ask Jim Rogers to provide a quotation.

3.2 (3.5) Tennis Courts electrical work – to consider report if received

The report had not yet been received – carried forward. The paint colour for the woodwork is to be Rustic Brown.

3.3 (3.10) Resident about hedges and trees near skate park - update

Cllr Gill reported that he had taken a look and recommended that the trees could be cut down to a height of two feet above the level of the fence at the rear of the resident's property, and just around the corner. Quotations are to be obtained for the next meeting.

3.4 (4.2) Community Access Point Co-ordinator and request for reimbursement of expenses

It was agreed gratefully to accept Mr Fred Rason's offer to take on this voluntary position. It was noted that he had already been reimbursed by the HSSC for the computer "mice".

3.5 (7.2) Grenadier Walk fence panel – to consider quote if received

It was unanimously agreed ^(Prop IS, 2nd PJ) to accept the quotation from Mr Jim Rogers in the sum of £80.

3.6 (6.1) Hardwick Pond, Main Street

A reply is awaited from the Highways Supervisor.

3.7 (3.1) HSSC lease

The correspondence from the Solicitor that she could not negotiate on the Council's behalf and the quotation from the Valuation Office Agency (VAO) for this service was noted. The answers were provided to the VOA's queries.

4. Correspondence/communications received

4.1 Resident – request that the Parish Council take on responsibility for area of her land

The request from the resident was considered. It was agreed to respond that regrettably, there exist a number of little plots of land of this type in the village, and whilst the Parish Council sympathises with the situation, it cannot make an exception for one property and take on ownership of the plot. It was agreed to suggest to the resident that she explore obtaining a sign reading "Private property". Contact details are to be provided.

4.2 Hardwick Harriers request to use Recreation Ground for football tournament in June 2013

The request to hold a mini-tournament on the Recreation Ground on 15 or 22 June 2013 was considered. The Parish Council had no objections subject to the Club checking that there would be no clash with the Cricket Club, and to the appropriate insurance being in place.

4.3 SCDC Grants Funding review consultation

It was agreed to respond as follows:

Question 1

To provide benefits and other welfare advice (eg to those facing homelessness, on a low income or with a disability) – Priority 5

To support parish councils to serve their communities – Priority 5

To support and provide advocacy for children and young people – Priority 5

To develop and deliver community transport solutions – Priority 5

To support independent living (eg helping people to stay in their own homes for longer) – Priority 5

To support local, community-derived amenities and activities – Priority 5

To sustain and support the local environment (eg community orchards, tree planting schemes) – Priority 2

To support and develop local business and tourism – Priority 4

Question 2 – No comment

Question 3 – No comment.

- 4.4 Resident – concerns regarding high speed of tractors on track by Church play area
A letter from a resident had been received, expressing safety concerns at the high speed of tractors along the track past the Church play area while children were playing nearby. It was agreed to send a copy of the letter to the landowner and to obtain a quotation for a sign reading “Slow – Children’s Play Area” for the next meeting.

5. Planning applications and decision notices

5.1 Planning applications received since the last meeting

- 5.1.1 S/1770/12/FL – 9 Limes Road – Extensions to existing property for new porch etc
The Parish Council made no recommendation.

- 5.1.2 S/1713/12/LB – Blue Lion Public House, 74 Main Street – Internal alterations
It was unanimously agreed ^(Prop IS, 2nd PJ) to recommend approval.

- 5.1.3 S/1720/12/FL – Blue Lion Public House, 74 Main Street – External alterations/landscaping to the Blue Lion beer garden which include: demolition of existing timber decking at side, relandscaping area, new paving and landscaping to front beer garden, retaining wall (partial retrospective)
It was unanimously agreed ^(Prop PJ, 2nd JH) to recommend approval.

5.2 SCDC Decision Notices

- 5.2.1 S/1420/12/FL – 33 Meridian Court – Single storey rear extension – Permission granted.
Noted.

5.3 Tree works applications

None. It was noted that a willow outside the School had had to be removed for safety reasons as the trunk had split.

6 Members reports and items

6.1 Bungalows on Limes Road

The Chairman reported. Concerns were expressed at the change in housing policy by the District Council, allowing the bungalows to be let to young people and families, rather than exclusively to Over 60s in need of ground floor accommodation. It was agreed unanimously to write to the District Councillor expressing the Council’s concerns and asking him to bring all possible pressure to bear on the District Council to change the policy so that these bungalows were only let to Over 60s in future.

7. Finance, procedure and risk assessment

7.1 To receive the financial report and approve the payment of bills

The financial report was received and considered and invoices and bank statements were checked before the cheques were signed at the end of the meeting. The payments as listed in the finance report were unanimously approved for payment ^(Prop PJ, 2nd AG) plus Ian Lawson (tree work at Egremont Road) £250.

Grounds by Rounds (grass cutting)	£303.01
LGS Services (admin support)	£1290.10
LG Stoehr (Salary)	£220.45
J Dyer (Salary)	£110.36

Credits including advertising income and bank interest received since the last meeting were noted. An adjustment to cheque 1705 for £54.45 was noted.

7.2 Play areas and skate park inspection reports

No problems were reported at the Recreation Ground, and Church play area. Cllrs Stewart and Bhachu are to be asked to send in their reports. The reply from Digley Associates regarding the advisability of warning signs about the playing of ball games

was considered. It was agreed ^(Prop IS, 2nd PJ) to accept the quotation from Digley Associates for £50 for a risk assessment.

7.3 To consider any quotes for urgent work required because of health and safety or risk
None.

8. **Members items for the next agenda and for the Clerk’s information and Closure of meeting**

Dead trees were noted on the A428 Enterprise roundabout nearest to Dry Drayton and on the embankments. This is to be drawn to the attention of the Highways department. It was observed that the 20 mph Wigwags were out of phase, flashing on some days but not on others. This is also to be reported to Highways.

There was no further business and the meeting closed at 9.42 pm.

SignedChairmandate.
