

Hardwick Parish Council
Meeting held on Tuesday 26 March 2013 in the School at 7.45 pm

Present: Councillors: I Storr (Chairman), G Chamberlain, J Stewart, R Worland, P Joslin, A Gill, J Humphries and T Bhachu.

In attendance: 10 members of the public, County Cllr F Whelan, and Mrs A Griffiths (Minutes Secretary, LGS Services).

Open public session including reports from the County and District Councillors

A number of residents from Hall Drive expressed concerns about proposals by a group of landowners to develop land behind St Neots Road, and to have the development added to the Local Plan. The proposals involved up to 125 houses, a neighbourhood centre including a doctors' and dentists' surgery, day centre and warden controlled housing, as well as public open space and a community woodland.

The residents' concerns included the proximity of the development to their homes and the potential threat of flooding. It was explained that the Environment Agency would have to be satisfied regarding the flooding issue before any permission was granted. The residents also expressed concerns about increased access to Hall Drive, which they maintained and wished to keep as an unadopted road. They highlighted issues about the safety of children walking through Hall Drive to catch a bus from St Neots Road, and in having only one access point from the development into St Neots Road. It was explained that this would be an issue for Highways to follow up. The view was also expressed that there could be several benefits to the community from the facilities proposed.

It was observed that the proposals were still at the very early stages, and a statutory period of formal consultation would be necessary. As yet no formal planning applications had been submitted. As the proposal was too late for the current Local Plan, any consultation would have to be initiated by the applicants. The residents indicated their intentions to raise their concerns and record their objections as a body with South Cambridgeshire District Council at this stage.

Several members of the public left the meeting.

Representatives from the Football Club and Cricket Club highlighted the worsening problem of the drainage on the Recreation Ground and expressed concerns that the pitch would be out of action for too long during re-seeding of the pitch. The Clubs offered to buy sufficient turf to repair the affected area, as a less expensive solution, and maintain and water the turf thereafter.

Concerns were also expressed about a possible collapsed drain on another part of the larger pitch. The Clubs suggested that this was due to herringbone land drains running in the wrong direction and offered to resolve the problem by moving top soil to prevent the water draining onto the pitch.

The problem of dog fouling on the recreation ground was raised. It was explained that this persisted despite the efforts of the Parish Council in providing signage and placing articles in Hardwick Happenings. The Football and Cricket Clubs will write to Hardwick Happenings asking for an item highlighting the health hazards of dog fouling, especially to children, and they will also write to the Sports Editor of the Cambridge News highlighting this issue.

The remaining members of the public left the meeting.

1. To approve apologies for absence and declarations of interest

Apologies were received from Cllr Freeman (prior engagement).

- 1.1 To receive declarations of interests from councillors on items on the agenda
Cllr Chamberlain declared an interest as his son was a member of the Football Club.
- 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 29 January and 26 February 2013

The minutes of the meeting on 29 January were approved ^(Prop GC, 2nd RW) and signed by the Chairman following an amendment to item 5, the amount of precept, to read £51,749. The minutes of 26 February were approved ^(Prop GC, 2nd RW) and signed by the Chairman after the following amendments: under Item 8, second paragraph, to add Cllr Stewart's name and to amend "Hall Close" to "Hall Drive"; and under Item 6.2, paragraph 2, to read "repair one of the culverts".

Cllr Whelan reported on the proposals for 4 bungalows on the St Neots Road site and the Touring Caravan application. It was emphasised that there was a need to ensure the touring caravan site, if it proceeded, was properly licensed. Cllrs Storr and Stewart will seek a meeting with the Chief Executive to discuss the matter. Cllr Whelan reported that the secondary school in Cambourne would open in September 2013, and the fourth primary school would open in September 2015 and would be run by Hardwick School. She also explained her decision not to seek re-election as County Councillor in May for family reasons. The Parish Council expressed its heartfelt thanks to Cllr Whelan for her dedication and all the excellent work she had done for the village.

Cllr Whelan left the meeting.

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

- 3.1 (3.1) To consider quotations for cleaning and repainting the tennis courts, and to consider references

The quotations and references received were considered and compared. It was agreed ^(Prop GC, 2nd JS) to accept Quotations 1-4 from HC Courts, for the total sum of £3400, subject to satisfactory references. It was delegated to the Chairman and the Clerk together to consider the references and approve them between meetings before accepting the quotation.

- 3.2 (3.9) Tree survey – to consider quotations

It was unanimously agreed to accept the quote of £1570 from Acacia Tree Surgery to carry out the survey of trees on Parish Council land in the village. ^(Prop GC, 2nd IS)

On a proposition by the Chairman, it was agreed to vary the order of business to take Item 6.1 at this point.

- 6.1 Trees including, Pippin Walk – Parish Council trees cut back by person or persons unknown and fallen tree at the Spinney.

Cllr Gill reported that he had looked at the trees reported to have been cut down and had spoken to a resident. He had suggested that the resident could cut back the branches to the boundary and if he could prove that the tree had caused any damage to the garden wall it could be cut back. No further action to be taken at present.

A fallen tree at the Spinney had been moved.

- 3.3 (3.5) HSSC Lease renewal

No further information had been received. Carried forward.

- 3.4 (4.1) Comberton Parish Council – re Transport and Highways
The email from Comberton Parish Council was noted. It was agreed to ask Comberton Parish Council to keep the Council informed and let it know if it needed any support.
- 3.5 (4.3) CCC Community Transport Fund
It was agreed to forward the information on to the organisers of the Doctors' Run in case they were interested.
- 3.6 (8) Minor Highways Improvement Scheme
Correspondence from two residents was considered. It was agreed to ask CCC when they would be making a decision. This will be on the agenda for the next meeting.
- 4. Correspondence/communications received**
- 4.1 Andrew S Campbell Associates Ltd – Planning proposals, land south of St Neots Road
It was noted that the submission was too late to be included in the Local Plan and a consultation period had not taken place. It was now up to the applicants to take this forward.
- 4.2 St Mary's Church – request for S137 donation
The request for a donation to reimburse the costs of insurance of £1491.81 and 50% of the costs of grass cutting, amounting to £348.48 was considered. A total donation of £1840.29 was unanimously agreed. ^(Prop AG, 2nd RW)
- 4.3 Hardwick Football Club – dog fouling on the Recreation Ground
Taken earlier.
- 5. Planning applications and decision notices**
- 5.1 Planning applications received since the last meeting
- 5.1.1 S/0255/13/VC – Land next to Casa di Foseta – Residential development, 4 chalet bungalows with double garages
The blue form was not signed as Cllrs Storr and Stewart are to try to arrange a meeting with Jean Hunter CEO at SCDC to discuss the way forward.
- 5.1.2 S/0517/13/FL – 114 Limes Road – Renewal of planning permission
The Parish Council had no objections.
- 5.1.3 S/2327/12/FL – Blue Lion Public House, 74 Main Street – External alterations/landscaping to beer garden which includes – demolition of existing timber decking at side, landscaping area, new paving and landscaping to front beer garden, retaining wall (part retrospective).
The Parish Council unanimously agreed ^(Prop JS, 2nd PJ) to recommend approval.
- 5.1.4 Land off Lark Rise
Cllr Stewart reported that this application which had previously been approved and then withdrawn, was being re-submitted after amendment. It was agreed ^(Prop GC, 2nd IS) that Cllr Stewart should write to the planning officer in support of the application, stating that the new application had the approval of the Parish Council and the District Councillor, and to request that the application be referred to the Planning Committee if the Planning Officer was minded to refuse.
- 5.2 SCDC Decision Notices
- 5.2.1 S/0310/13/DC – Land off Lark Rise – discharge of conditions 3 (materials), 4 (landscaping), and 6 (recreational/community services infrastructure) for planning permission S/1101/12/FL.
Noted.

- 5.2.2. S/1981/12/DC – 3 Cambridge Road – discharge of condition 3 (materials) of planning permission S/1020/12/FL.
Noted.
- 5.3 Tree works applications
None.
- 6. Members reports and items**
- 6.1 Trees including Pippin Walk- Parish Council trees cut back by person or persons unknown and fallen tree at the Spinney
Taken earlier. It will also be checked whether a tree cut down at the cul-de-sac in Egremont Road is on Parish Council land.
- 6.2 Report on Parish Forum Meeting held on 7 March
Cllr Joslin spoke to her written report which covered changes to welfare benefits; renewable energy; the Community Infrastructure Levy, the precept, retrospective planning permission and the boundary review.
- 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 GC) plus Local Councils Advisory Service (Subscription) £495.00, and C Lyon (Hardwick Happenings Editor honorarium) £100.00. It was noted that in 2009 the Parish Council had agreed an honorarium of £40 per issue for Hardwick Happenings, and payment of a cheque for £100 to the new editor Clare Lyon, representing the three issues published by her, less the cheque for £20 already issued, was accordingly approved.
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| Grounds by Rounds (Grass cutting) | £303.01 |
| LGS Services (Admin support) | £1280.22 |
| LG Stoehr (Salary) | £220.45 |
| J Dyer (Salary) | £109.04 |
| HMRC (PAYE/NIC) | £337.20 |
| Town & Country (tree works) | £156.00 |
- Credits including advertising income and bank interest were noted.
- 7.2 Play areas and skate park inspection reports
Reports were received from Cllr Humphries. Cllrs Stewart, and Freeman. Cllr Bhachu undertook to send in his reports as soon as possible. Repairs are to be put in hand at the main fuse box at the all weather pitch, where the cover for the wire entering the ground has broken off. The caps missing from the bottom of the funbox which are missing are also to be repaired. The ground under the gate facing the pavilion at the Egremont Road play area has been eroded away and is full of water. It was agreed to obtain quotes to fill the hole and pave it over.
- 7.3 To consider any quotes for urgent work required because of risk
None.
- 7.4 Assets valuations and data transparency
Noted.
- 7.5 Offer of community project work by Mears PLC
An offer to carry community projects free of charge had been made by Mears PLC, who carry out repairs for SCDC. It was agreed to ask whether they would be willing to paint the play equipment at Egremont Road play area free of charge, and provide fence preservative.

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

It was noted that the path at the Church from the lych gate to the layby where hearses park, was in need of resurfacing. It was agreed to ask CCC whether this could be carried out when the pavement was being resurfaced.

Cllr Joslin reported that CCC had agreed to pay £1680 to repair the hole at the Wimpole Way, and they had also been asked to include the entrance.

The tennis courts electrics and the highway improvements at Cahill’s Corner are to be agenda items for the next meeting.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 30 April as several members will be out of parish on 23 April.

There was no further business and the meeting closed at 10.07 pm.

SignedChairmandate.

DRAFT