

**Minutes of the Hardwick Annual Parish Meeting held on
19 May 2015 at 7.30 pm in the School**

Present: 15 parishioners including Parish Council members, District Cllr Grenville Chamberlain, and ex-District Cllr Jim Stewart.

In attendance: Mrs Gail Stoehr (Clerk).

Cllr Ian Storr presided.

1. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Fred Rason (Hardwick Sport and Social Club), and Cllr Roger Worland.

2. Minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting on 27 May 2014

The minutes were approved as a true record and signed by Cllr Storr as Chairman, after an amendment to Item 4.4 to read: "Cllr Frost was asked whether the Conservative Association Office would be moving. He replied that the Conservatives were selling the property and then leasing back their office." (Prop IS, 2nd JH)

3. Matters arising

None.

4. Reports:

4.1 The Parish Council (Cllr Ian Storr, Chairman)¹

Cllr Storr reported on the administration and work of the Parish Council and the members' roles and responsibilities. The report, which is appended in full to these minutes, recorded thanks to the Parish Councillors, including those who had recently come off the Council; the Clerk; the County and District Councillors, with good wishes extended to the new District Councillor; the recently retired litter picker; the new webmaster; and the editor of Hardwick Happenings and her team. The report covered details of the Council's work with planning applications, tree works and footpaths, and play area inspections; changes in the Council's membership; and the recent elections. Information was provided about the precept; the works to maintain the recreation ground; the renewal of the Hardwick Sports and Social Club lease; SCDC and Police liaison meetings; an update on the building at the corner of St Neots Road and Cambridge Road; the proposed safety scheme at Cahill's Corner; the proposals for development at the back of Hall Drive to Meridian Close, affordable housing and the community contribution – the hopes that a doctors' surgery could be provided were unfortunately not possible so the Council was looking at a parish centre at no cost to the village, and consultation on a wish list had been undertaken. The developer hoped to put in an application in June. Other matters considered during the year included: yellow lines in three locations for safety reasons; the redecoration of the Community Room; street lighting issues; the "Forest School" consultation; the proposed upgrade of the Egremont Road play area; the new bus shelter; the footpath between the Church and the pub; and police visibility in the village. The Chairman reminded residents that information about the work of the Parish Council was available from minutes on the notice board, and articles in Hardwick Happenings, and minutes would also appear again on the website. In addition there was an opportunity for residents to attend Parish Council meetings and raise issues at the beginning of the meeting during the open public session. It was stressed that the Council's work and decisions were carried out for the benefit of all the residents of the village.

The new Parish Council members were asked to introduce themselves which they did.

It was noted that the Hardwick Facebook page was not the Parish Council's.

4.2 Parish Council Responsible Financial Officer & presentation of the last audited accounts²

The Clerk as Responsible Financial Officer reported on the audit process, invited inspection and offered copies of the accounts for both last year and this year.

4.3 The District Councillor (Cllr Jim Stewart)³

Cllr Stewart, as retiring District Councillor, reported that it had been a pleasure and a privilege to be Hardwick's District Councillor for the last 17 years, and had done his best to promote and protect the interests of all the village's residents. His good wishes for the future were extended to the new District Councillor, Grenville Chamberlain.

District Cllr Grenville Chamberlain thanked Jim Stewart for his service on behalf of the village. The meeting responded with applause. Cllr Chamberlain commented that it was early days as a new Councillor, and referred to his membership of the Scrutiny and Overview Committee, and the Community Chest applications for the Scouts marquee, and the Church Volunteers' tools.

4.4 The County Councillor (Cllr Stephen Frost)
No report available.

4.5 Police
No report available.

4.6 Hardwick Sports and Social Club⁴
The report from the Hardwick Sports and Social Club, which is appended in full to these minutes, was read in the Secretary's absence by the Chairman. The report covered: the background and legal status of the Club, including the lease, licences held, and management committee and sub-committee; the membership, activities, the Club's support of groups and organisations, computer and wi-fi access, and proposed improvements. The staff aim to provide a warm and welcoming facility for the Club's members.

4.7 Hardwick Happenings
No report available.

4.8 Other

4.8.1 WI⁵
The WI report from Anne Jones was read in her absence by the Chairman, and is appended in full to these minutes. The report covered details of the WI's activities, speakers, and special events; the Dining Out Club, Darts team and Craft Club; and fundraising events.

4.8.2 Pippins Coffee Shop
A verbal report was given on a good first year, with hard-working helpers of all ages enabling villagers to meet. The venture had been a resounding success.

5. **Any other Parish Matters including any resolutions**
None.

6. **Closure of meeting**
There was no further business and the meeting was declared closed at 8.15 pm.

Signed _____ (Chairman) _____ (Date)

¹ Parish Council Chairman's report from Cllr Ian Storr

² Report of the RFO, Gail Stoehr, and audited accounts FY 2014

³ Report of the District Councillor – from retiring District Cllr Jim Stewart

⁴ Report from Hardwick Sports and Social Club – Mr Fred Rason, Secretary

⁵ Report from the WI