

Hardwick Parish Council
Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday 13 December 2016
in the School at 7.45 pm

Present: Councillors: S Rose (Chairman), B Skingle, A Gill, P Joslin, J Humphries and C Cracknell

In attendance: 4 members of the public, District Cllr Grenville Chamberlain, Clare McGowan (Hardwick Play Parks) and Mrs A Griffiths (Minutes Secretary, LGS Services).

Open public session including reports from the County and District Councillors

District Cllr Chamberlain's report covered:

- The burned out building on the corner of St Neots Road and Cambridge Road. There will be a further delay as the site cannot be cleared until the services are disconnected.
- Buses and the proposed new busway. Cllr Chamberlain outlined the present route favoured by the City Deal technical team, running along the tree line between the A428 and St Neots Road, which would increase noise for residents and destroy the hedgerow. He expressed a preference for a route north of the A428 and regarded the route south of Hardwick as unviable because of proximity to SSSIs. He also felt the Park and Ride site should be on Bourn Airfield rather than at Scotland Farm and urged the Parish Council to support this.
- Cllr Chamberlain expressed the hope that the Parish Council would take up the opportunity to enhance public transport provision to the south of the village.

Residents of Hall Drive expressed concerns about traffic from the new development potentially using Hall Drive, which was a private road.

A resident asked whether the Parish Council was supporting the Grace Crescent application and commented that several issues were relevant to both applications. It was explained that the Council had objected on sustainability issues, but the developers' response was on the agenda for discussion.

The Chairman circulated an update from the Village Plan Committee and conveyed Martin Cassey's apologies. Residents will be asked to complete a survey. The report also highlighted future expenditure requirements. This will be an agenda item for the next meeting.

1. To approve apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Roger Worland and Jim Stewart, who had resigned from the Parish Council.

2. Declaration of interests

2.1 To receive declarations of interests from councillors on items on the agenda and details of dispensations held

None.

2.2 To receive written and grant any requests for dispensation as appropriate for items on this agenda

None.

3. To approve the minutes of the previous meeting on 22 November 2016

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting on 22 November 2016 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record ^(Prop AG, 2nd PJ, unanimous), after changing "would" to "could" under the open session, paragraph 4. ^(Prop CC, 2nd AG, unanimous)

4. Matters arising and carried forward from the last or previous meetings for discussion/decisions

- 4.1 (5.2) Hardwick Play Parks – play equipment project update and proposals including
 4.1.1 (5.2.1) Request for approval of the play park design including the expanded footprint, and staging programme for the project

RESOLVED that the Parish Council approves in principle the Hardwick Play Parks group's favoured design and the additional area required. (Prop JH, 2nd PJ, unanimous)

- 4.1.2 (5.2.2) Request that the Parish Council supply and erect a new fence after removal of the old fence by the group and to consider costings and how this should be funded

On a proposition by the Chairman, the meeting was briefly suspended to allow Clare McGowan to clarify the costs involved and what each quote covered.

RESOLVED to defer a decision on this matter to the next meeting and to ask the Hardwick Play Parks group to provide like for like figures from both suppliers for the fencing so that equivalent quotations can be considered at the next meeting.

RESOLVED that Cllr Cracknell be appointed to liaise with the Play Parks Group to assist with progressing the project.

RESOLVED that the Parish Council is in principle in favour of funding the fencing, and to seek the Clerk's advice as to whether funding should come from the special projects budget or from S106 unspent funds. (Prop JH, 2nd PJ, unanimous)

- 4.2 (5.7) Carter Jonas – Grace Crescent development Heads of Terms for the application, that will be used to inform the S106 Agreement – to consider if the Parish Council's concerns have been addressed

The response received from the developers was discussed.

The following points were noted:

- Whilst the developers had gone a long way to mitigating some of the Parish Council's objections, the Council still had concerns about transport issues, including road and traffic safety around the site, the duration of construction work, and the implications for traffic congestion through the village; no reassurances had been given on these aspects.
- The provision of four parking spaces would not solve the problem of parking in a small road.
- It was incorrect to say, as stated in the application, that the preferred route for the new busway ran south of Hardwick.
- There were concerns that the play areas were concentrated in close proximity to the site entrance, next to the road.
- The benefits being offered to the village, including £275,000 for play areas/allotments, £200,000 towards public transport, and £600,000 contribution towards a community building and changing rooms, were acknowledged. However the developers had not yet responded to the Trustees.

On a proposition by the Chairman the meeting was briefly suspended at 8.58 pm to enable District Cllr Chamberlain to comment. He referred to the respective responsibilities of the Health and Safety Executive and CCC Highways, and the need for affordable housing. The meeting reopened at 9.02 pm.

RESOLVED to appoint Cllrs Rose and Skingle to draft a response to Carter Jonas acknowledging the benefits being offered but reiterating the Parish Council's concerns as detailed above, with particular reference to the road safety issues and congestion problems in the village. (Prop AG, 2nd PJ, unanimous)

On a proposition by the Chairman, the meeting was adjourned at 9.08 pm for refreshments. The meeting resumed at 9.23 pm.

- 4.0.1 Installation of litter bins

An update on progress with the installation of the litter bins was requested for the next meeting. It was understood that work was taking place earlier in the day.

4.0.2 Refurbishment of benches

An update on progress with the refurbishment of the benches outside the Church, the hairdressers and two on the recreation ground, was also requested.

4.0.3 Cuts to winter gritting routes

RESOLVED, following a call from BBC Cambridgeshire to the Chairman seeking the Council's opinion on the reductions to the winter gritting routes, that Cllr Gill be appointed to telephone the BBC to express the Parish Council's disappointment at the plans for cuts to the winter gritting schedules and the County Council's response that no account was being taken of school routes. (Prop SR, 2nd BS, unanimous)

5. Correspondence/communications received

5.1 Resident – request for tree adjacent to 9 Pippin Walk to be trimmed at resident's expense and offer of replacement tree

RESOLVED given that the tree survey did not identify the tree as being in need of pruning, to thank the resident for their offer but to decline the request. (Prop JH, 2nd PJ, unanimous)

6. Planning Applications and Decision notices and tree works applications

6.1 Planning applications received since the last meeting

6.1.1 S/3064/16/OL – Land south of 279 St Neots Road – Outline planning permission for a residential development of up to 155 dwellings following demolition of two existing dwellings, with areas of landscaping and public open space, and associated infrastructure works with all matters reserved except for access

The Parish Council expressed the following concerns:

- The entrance to the site appears hazardous.
- There is a need for homes that are suitable for elderly residents of the village, close to a bus stop.
- The availability of school provision
- There was insufficient information on planning obligations
- Traffic issues and the effect on Cambridge Road

At 9.38 pm the meeting was briefly suspended to enable residents to comment. The meeting resumed at 9.39 pm.

- The proposed pedestrian access had been altered in the plan, and would now entail walking along a very narrow road with no footpath, which, as a private road shared by the residents on either side, was not suitable for access.

RESOLVED, given the concerns held, that the Parish Council objects to the application as currently presented. The Council does not have sufficient information in respect of the planning obligations and will respond in detail once the Council has received details of how the developer intends to mitigate the effects, for example traffic, transport, education, health community facilities, etc, of what will be a significant increase in housing and population in the village. (Prop SR, 2nd BS, unanimous)

6.1.2 S/3142/16/FL – 102 Limes Road – New front porch

RESOLVED, noting the amendment to the application, which now included a new front porch, garage conversion and conservatory, to recommend approval. (Prop AG, 2nd JH, unanimous)

6.2 SCDC Decision Notices

- Details of planning permissions granted by SCDC or refusal notices since the last meeting can be viewed on the SCDC Planning Portal at <http://plan.scams.gov.uk/>.
- 6.2.1 S/1884/16/FL – 105 Bramley Way – Garage extension, single storey rear extension and first floor side extension over garage – permission granted.
Noted.

6.3 Tree Works

6.3.1 The Old Rectory

RESOLVED that the Parish Council had no objections. (Prop AG, 2nd JH, unanimous)

6.3.2 28 Main Street

RESOLVED that the Parish Council had no objections. (Prop AG, 2nd JH, unanimous)

7. Members reports and items for information only

7.1 Neighbourhood Plan update report

Cllr Gill reported. In view of the wish expressed at the last meeting that the Village Plan and Neighbourhood Plan should not be mixed up at this stage, the project had not moved forward.

7.2 Parish Liaison Forum 30 November

Cllr Joslin's previously circulated written report was taken as read.

7.3 New Busway Cambourne to Cambridge – Update local residents' views

Cllr Joslin spoke to her previously circulated written report on the public meeting about the new busway and the concerns expressed by residents of St Neots Road, particularly with regard to traffic noise and the removal of trees which acted as a sound and pollution barrier, should the current City Deal preferred option go ahead.

RESOLVED with regard to the route to the north of the A428, the Parish Council felt this would reduce any benefit to the village as it would present access problems, especially for the elderly so the Parish Council would prefer to see a route south of the A428, along the preferred 3A route, provided that there was a stop in Hardwick, and that a solution could be found to address the valid concerns of the residents along St Neots Road, including the route being adequately landscaped, all environmental concerns being adequately met, and the provision of an adequate cycle lane. (Prop SR, 2nd JH, carried with 1 abstention)

RESOLVED that Cllr Rose be authorised to speak to Helen Bradbury, Chair of the Local Liaison Forum, and that the Parish Council's view should also be conveyed to Ashley Heller of CCC. The response is to be circulated to members before it is sent.

8. Finance, procedure and risk assessment

8.1 To consider any quotes for urgent work required because of risk

None.

8.2 To receive play areas and skate park inspection reports

RESOLVED that Cllr Humphries will carry out the play inspection reports for the Church play area until new members are appointed, and that the relevant forms should be sent to her.

RESOLVED to note that no action was required at this time.

At 10.35 pm, on a proposition by the Chairman, the meeting was briefly suspended to allow the litter picker to speak. He reported prunings being dumped over fences and damage to the fencing at Egremont Road play area, which he will secure with stakes. Mr Giddings was thanked for his work.

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

RESOLVED that the payments as listed in the finance report should be paid, plus Peter Oakes (tree work) £900.00, Norfolk County Council (DBS check) £69.00 and Hardwick Primary School (room hire) £105.00. (Prop JH, 2nd PJ, unanimous)

R Cassey (Website)	£10.00
P Oakes (Moderate and low priority tree works)	£3654.00
Grounds by Rounds (Grass cutting)	£309.07
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LGS Services (Admin support)	£1339.91
Salary	£22.38
Salary	£100.00
HMRC (PAYE/NIC)	£136.66
NEST (Pension)	£160.64

Credits including bank interest, advertising income and a loan repayment were noted.

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

The St Neots Road development will be an agenda item for the next meeting.

The next meeting will be on 24 January at 7.00 pm, with the budget meeting being held on 31 January at 7.00 pm.

There was no further business and the meeting closed at 10.40 pm.

SignedChairmandate.

