

Hardwick Parish Council
Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday 28 February 2017
in the School at 7.00 pm

Present: Councillors: S Rose (Chairman), C Cracknell, T Bhachu, B Skingle, P Joslin, A Gill and D Wellbelove.

In attendance: 10 members of the public including District Cllr Grenville Chamberlain, Ian Giddings and Mrs G Stoehr (Clerk).

Open public session including reports from the County and District Councillors

District Cllr Grenville Chamberlain reported on:

- the City Deal and transport for homes to the west of Hardwick. The Conservatives are campaigning for the route north of St Neots Road with a stop by the blue bridge and a Park and Ride at Scotland Farm.
- The Grace Crescent application will go to the Planning Committee tomorrow. Cllr Chamberlain is supporting the application as the resulting provision of affordable homes is long overdue.
- The SCDC budget has been agreed and information on rates is on the SCDC website

Martin Cassey provided an update on the Village Plan. They are now discussing uploading and validating and wish to ensure momentum and manage expectations. The preliminary analysis on public transport is to be presented at a village meeting on 7 March. Over 50% of responses indicated support for the Parish Council's Neighbourhood Plan.

Alison Myers provided an update on the Church Hall. The sum of £35,000 has been raised. The conditions of the planning permission are being looked at. Coulsons have provided itemised costs of £300,000 with a £50,000 contingency, mainly for draining the site and access. Grant applications will be made but there is still a shortfall of approximately £90,000.

Ian Giddings reported on: large items of rubbish dumped behind the Scout Hut and difficulties removing them; a wall falling over; residents fly tipping grass and a Christmas tree; the western side of the recreation ground being used as a public toilet, alcohol by the skate park, cigarette butts dropped and money picked up. He asked that the Parish Council allow him permission to clear brambles in the hedge behind the skate park so he could reach the litter.

A resident raised the spate of break-ins in the village and asked whether the Parish Council could discuss these. This will be an agenda item for the next meeting.

Anne Jones spoke about the annual litter pick on Saturday afternoon from 2-4 pm. Parish Council members were asked to help. The Council was thanked for providing refreshments.

1. To approve apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Humphries (unwell).

2. To consider any applications to fill the two casual vacancies

None.

3. Declaration of interests

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

Cllr Cracknell declared an interest in item 5.5 as a committee member of Hardwick Sports and Social Club, and the existence of his dispensation enabling him to speak and vote.

- 3.2 To receive written and grant any requests for dispensation as appropriate for items on this agenda
None.
4. **To approve the minutes of the previous meetings on 24 January and 31 January 2017**
RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting on 24 January be approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record, after an amendment to delete the first resolution “RESOLVED to note the differing views within the Coalition whether there should be an on-road or off-road route” under item 8.3.1. (Prop AG, 2nd PJ, unanimous)
RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting on 31 January be approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record, after an amendment to delete the words “and as the Parish Council had increased this by £3,000 over the last two years, to make a nil provision in the FY ending 2018 budget” in the last bullet point. (Prop DW, 2nd CC, unanimous)
5. **Matters arising and carried forward from the last or previous meetings for discussion/decisions**
- 5.1 (Open and 5.3) Grace Crescent and St Neots Road developments – to consider if any Parish Council action is required
On a proposition by the Chairman it was agreed to vary the order of business to take item 5.1.2 first.
- 5.1.2 New community centre – to consider Trustees’ response to proposals
The Chairman referred to correspondence between the Trustees and Carter Jonas which was considered by the by the Trustees on 9 February. The Trustees were agreeable to releasing the community rooms for funds for the community centre to be built on the skate park site. While the Trustees would receive £608,000 if the community rooms are released David Thompson of SCDC had indicated that the amount would be £409,000 if the community room is not released. The amount was now thought to be £349,000. The Trustees will now revisit the matter.
The Chairman is to provide a copy of the correspondence with the Trustees.
- 5.1.1 Carter Jonas letter of 19 January 2017 to Hardwick Parish Council’s objections along with SCDC planning report for committee
Letters from Carter Jonas dated 19 January and 23 February, in which they summarised all they had done to meet the Parish Council’s objections, were considered.
The financial benefits had reduced since November 2016 as the bus service was not supported by CCC and now a community bus was being considered. The Planning Officer’s report to the Planning Committee (Page 41) indicated a lesser amount but did not include all the provision, for example highway items, as it listed statutory items not mitigating measures.
RESOLVED that the Planners and the Parish Council had done all they could and therefore the Parish Council should now support the planning application. (Prop AG, 2nd PJ, unanimous)
- 5.1.2 (Continued) New community centre – to consider Trustees’ response to proposals
On a proposition by the Chairman, the meeting was adjourned at 8.05 pm. Anne Jones urged the Parish Council to consider where the community building would go if not on the skate park. The meeting was re-opened at 8.08 pm.
RESOLVED that the Chairman should notify the Planning Committee of the Parish Council’s decision on the planning application and answer any questions the Planning Committee might have.

RESOLVED that consideration of where the new community building should be sited will be an agenda item for the next meeting.

The Planning Officer's view on the preferred site is to be circulated again to members by the Chairman. Its ownership and operation is also to be considered at the next meeting.

5.1.3 Hardwick Community Bus – operation and use

RESOLVED, given that the sum of £45,000 was on offer, to research the requirements around the size of the vehicle, and the driving licence required. Its use, noting the information from Histon, was considered.

RESOLVED that the Parish Council accept a community bus for use by the community and that Cllr Cracknell should look into the matter further. (Prop SR, 2nd AG, unanimous)

The meeting was briefly adjourned at 8.18 pm. A resident asked whether the St Neots Road development was being discussed. The Chairman indicated that there was nothing new to discuss. The meeting re-opened at 8.19 pm.

5.2 (5.5) Removal of trees from woodland – to consider quotations

RESOLVED to accept the quotation of £800 plus VAT from Town & Country Tree Surgery to remove the additional dead trees in the woodland to the rear of Sudeley Grove. (Prop AG, 2nd CC, unanimous)

5.3 (8.2) Refurbishment of benches – to consider report and recommendation

RESOLVED to ask Mr Callus when the work on the benches will commence.

RESOLVED that Mr Giddings should look at the benches and provide the Council with the cost of materials if he repairs them. Deferred to the next meeting so that Cllr Humphries can identify the benches that require attention.

5.4 (8.3) Coalition of Parish Councils – preferred busway solution and to appoint a councillor to attend the public meeting

RESOLVED that the Chairman be appointed to attend the village meeting on 7 March. (Prop AG, 2nd CC, unanimous) Cllr Joslin will attend as a resident of St Neots Road.

The Clerk advised that if the Parish Council's decision was being revisited an order signed by three members would be required.

5.5 (9.2) Litter picker's report and queries including money found, the extent of his responsibility by the pavilion, goal posts, broken gate between the skate park and adjacent property and hedging by the skate park

Money found - A proposal that the money should be donated to the Village Plan was not carried. (Prop SR, 2nd BS, 2 in favour and 5 against)

A proposal ^(CC) that in the event that Mr Giddings finds anything, he should fulfil the legal obligations and take steps to find the legal owner, was not seconded.

Mr Giddings placed the money on the table in front of the Chairman.

Responsibilities by the Pavilion – RESOLVED to defer this matter to the next meeting and that members are to review the lease.

5 a side goals by the equipment shed adjacent to the Pavilion – RESOLVED, given that the matter was not deemed to be urgent, that Cllr Gill should take a look and make a recommendation to the next meeting.

Broken gate – this was not the Parish Council's responsibility.

Hedging by the skate park – Rubbish could not be reached in the undergrowth. RESOLVED that if the litter picker uses protective gloves, covers his arms and uses

protective eye wear, that the litter picker be authorised to remove brambles and that arisings may be placed in the hedge. ^(Prop SR 2nd CC unanimous)

Wall in Ellison Lane – this was not Mr Giddings’s responsibility.

The Clerk advised that some of the work that Mr Giddings was doing was beyond the current scope of the litter picker’s role. The Parish Council is to consider further at the next meeting whether the scope of the role should be extended or not.

- 5.6 (6.6) NALC advice that S8 of the Local Government Act 1894 specifically prohibits parish councils funding churches

RESOLVED to note NALC’s advice in response to the queries below:

“1) Does S8 of the LGA 1894 prevent the Parish Council giving funds to the Church towards either its insurance premium or electricity bill?

2) Does S8 of the LGA 1894 prevent the Parish Council giving funds to the Church towards a new church hall which it is fundraising for if it is open to the community to use or hire?”

To which NALC has replied:

“Parish councils have very limited powers to grant monies to the church.

In response to both queries the council does not have the power to make such payments.

A recent legal query sent to NALC confirmed that community space within a church is the responsibility of the church to fund not the parish council.”

6. Correspondence/communications received

6.1 Resident – Public Right of Way Hardwick to Caldecote

RESOLVED, having considered Peter Gaskin’s response that CCC has no funds and cannot put in a walkway, that Cllr Joslin should ask him to attend a site meeting to draw up a specification so that a quotation can be obtained and the Parish Council can consider what, if anything, it wishes to do. Peter Gaskin’s report is to be sent to the resident with a note that the P3 officer is following up to see whether anything can be done. ^(Prop SR, 2nd BS, unanimous)

6.2 Comberton Parish Council – request for support on MOD permissive path

RESOLVED, given that the Parish Council is in favour of this route which would be used by Hardwick residents, to write to the MOD and ask Heidi Allen MP also to support the request.

7. Planning Applications and Decision notices and tree works applications

7.1 Planning applications received since the last meeting

7.1.1 S/3234/16/FL – 3 Laxton Avenue – Change of use from residential to a mixed use of residential and childminding business

RESOLVED having considered residents’ correspondence on this application to support the application as the business had run successfully for 7 years and the benefits to the village outweigh any problems. ^(Prop AG, 2nd PJ, unanimous)

7.1.2 S/0369/17/FL – 7 Merton Walk – Single storey front extension to house

RESOLVED to support the application. ^(Prop AG, 2nd PJ, unanimous)

7.1.3 S/0410/17/FL – 321 St Neots Road – Loft conversion and replacement roof increasing in ridge height by 1.7m

RESOLVED to make no comments. ^(Prop AG, 2nd PJ, carried with 1 abstention)

7.1.4 S/0629/17/FL – 303 St Neots Road – New 3 bed dwelling to the rear of 303 St Neots Road to replace previously approved new dwelling

RESOLVED to make no comments. ^(Prop DW, 2nd AG, unanimous)

- 7.1.5 S/3064/16/OL – Land at 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 with all matters reserved except for access

This had not been received by Cllr Gill.

7.2 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/>.

- 7.2.1 S/2943/16/OL – Land at 41 St Neots Road – Outline planning permission for one dwelling with all matters reserved except access – Permission refused.
- 7.2.2 S/3816/16/FL – 89 Limes Road – Single storey front and rear extensions and garage conversion – Permission granted.

7.3 Tree Works

- 7.3.1 S/0399/17/TC – 54 Main Street

RESOLVED that the Parish Council had no comments.

8. Members reports and items for information only

- 8.1 Neighbourhood Plan update report

Nothing to report. In the light of the village plan preliminary results on support for the Neighbourhood Plan, a report will be made to the next meeting.

RESOLVED that Cllr Bhachu be appointed to the Neighbourhood Planning Working Group. (Prop SR, 2nd PJ, unanimous)

9. Finance, procedure and risk assessment

- 9.1 To consider any quotes for urgent work required because of risk and Clerk's use of delegated powers

RESOLVED to note a resident had slipped from their bike on leaves from a Parish Council tree in Pippin Walk and also the resident's allegations of damage to her neighbour's walkway by roots.

RESOLVED to delegate to the Clerk to arrange Town & Country Tree Surgery to deal with the following:

- A tree from the woodland to the rear of Sudeley Grove which had fallen into a resident's garden.
- A tree from St Mary's play area which had fallen into 46 High Street.
- Removal of a fallen tree behind the recycling bank.

- 9.2 To receive play areas and skate park inspection reports

RESOLVED to await the Rospa report with regards to an uneven surface at the Grenadier Walk play area.

RESOLVED to note that Uniplumb had visited the Pavilion and solved the drain problem by replacing the non-return valve. They had also cleared mud from the drain but had invoiced HSSC, for an amount thought to be approximately £40.00.

- 9.3 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 Grounds by Rounds (grounds maintenance) £309.07, CGM (litter bin supply and installation) £474.00 and Pippins Café Hardwick (refreshments and room hire) £43.00. (Prop PJ, 2nd TB, unanimous)

Dyno Rod (Pavilion drains)	£96.00
Grounds by Rounds (Grass cutting)	£309.07
R Cassey (Webmaster)	£78.00
CCC (Street light electricity)	£1583.20
Salary	£22.38

Salary	£100.00	
NEST (Pension) (DD)	£160.64	
LGS Services (Admin support)	£3586.60	
CGM (Millennium Footpath)	£667.18	The

payment to CGM for the Millennium Footpath was agreed subject to first checking the invoice against the order.

RESOLVED to ask CGM to check their invoice for installing the bins is correct.

RESOLVED to note that the Football Club had thanked the Parish Council for the condition of the recreation ground.

Credits, including bank interest and advertising income, were noted.

In response to the Council’s enquiry whether the S106 money it has received for indoor community facilities could be given to the School towards its stage or parquet floor projects, or for repair works to the Parish Council’s pavilion drains, the following reply from Teresa Roberts of SCDC was noted:

“Community Facilities contributions can be used towards the stage and/or parquet floor projects at Hardwick School as long as it is within the areas covered by the Community Access Agreement dated 1978.

With regards to the pavilion drains, as the building is not used for any kind of meeting space (sports use) it would be more appropriate to use Open Space Contributions.”

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

Membership of the Coalition of Parish Councils is to be an agenda item for the next meeting.

There was no further business and the meeting closed at 9.58 pm.

SignedChairmandate.
