

**Minutes of the Hardwick Annual Parish Meeting held on
9 May 2017 at 7.00 pm in the School**

Present: 34 parishioners including Parish Council members and District Cllr Grenville Chamberlain; County Cllr Lina Joseph; Glyn Motton (Development Manager, Hill).

In attendance: Mrs A Griffiths (Minutes Secretary, LGS Services)

Cllr Stephen Rose presided.

1. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Tejinder Bhachu, PCSO A Giltinane, Robert Cassey, and Fiona Coulson (Clarion Housing Group).

2. Minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting on 17 May 2016

The minutes were approved as a true record and signed by Cllr Rose as Chairman. (Prop GC, 2nd PJ)

3. Matters arising

None.

4. Presentations and Updates from the developers of proposed developments off Grace Crescent (98 dwellings) and off St Neots Road (155 dwellings)

Fiona Coulson of Clarion Housing Group had sent her apologies but had invited questions by email.

Glyn Mutton of Hills Residential provided an update on the Grace Crescent Development. Planning permission had been granted for the outline application for 98 dwellings and negotiation of the S106 agreement was under way, but it was not yet signed. Hills have been working on reserved matters such as roads and design, and there will be a public consultation later in the summer. It was hoped to submit the application before Christmas 2017. Mr Mutton clarified that building materials recently delivered in the vicinity were not connected to the development. A resident commented that there would be serious parking problems in the area, but Mr Mutton replied that parking would be within the site. It was expected that if the reserved matters were approved by Christmas, building work would start in Summer 2018, with first occupation twelve months later, and completion in 2 to 2¹/₂ years.

40% of the site, a total of 39 dwellings, will be affordable homes. Mr Mutton outlined the facilities which would benefit the village. Following extensive consultation, significant amounts of money would be put towards a new community facility, a pre-school, NHS provision, and transport infrastructure, which are detailed in the S106 agreement together with trigger points.

In response to a query whether there would be a cycle route for children going to school, Mr Mutton replied that the route had been assessed and would follow the footpath. A resident commented that this was not very safe. There will be upgraded lighting between Grace Crescent and the Church.

Cllr Rose explained that the application for 155 dwellings off St Neots Road was due to go to the Planning Committee tomorrow. A resident outlined the impact the development would have on his property, which would be bounded on two sides by the access road. He anticipated there could be over 500 vehicle movements a day passing one metre away from his house.

County Cllr Lina Joseph arrived at 7.35 pm.

A resident of Hall Drive objected to Hall Drive being used as an access, emphasising that it was a private road owned by the residents, with blind driveways, and asked that Hall Drive be gated and locked and an alternative access used. Residents feared that it would become a pedestrian and cycle route. Cllr Rose stated that the application made no change to the legal status of the road, and if the residents currently had the right to erect gates that would be unaffected.

Another resident commented that the plans showed a road from the development leading onto Hall Drive as an important route for pedestrians and cyclists, and objected to this as Hall Drive was very narrow and unsuitable for use by a large number of pedestrians.

A resident asked whether there had been a discussion about the use of the S106 money.

Residents were reminded that they could make their views known at the Planning Committee meeting. Cllr Rose undertook to pass on Fiona Coulson's email address.

5. Reports:

5.1 The Parish Council (Cllr Stephen Rose, Chairman)¹

Cllr Rose's report is appended in full to these minutes.

Cllr Rose highlighted the increase in involvement in the village and thanked councillors, individuals and organisations for their contributions over the year. He paid tribute to the work of volunteers and thanked them for their efforts.

The report covered:

- The proposed A428 developments, including an update on the status of the Local Plan, currently under review by the Planning Inspector, and the position of the Coalition of Local Councils, of which Hardwick was a member.
- The City Deal and improved bus services from Cambourne to Cambridge, the route options under consideration and the recent public meeting in the village.
- Housing developments in Hardwick, including 98 houses off Grace Crescent and proposals for 155 dwellings off St Neots Road; the benefits negotiated by the Parish Council for the village, subject to confirmation; efforts to secure a doctors' surgery; and the possibility of a further development on land to the east of Cambridge Road, with a new exit road and small village centre, although this would involve building on Green Belt land.
- Hardwick Play Parks, the plans for a new play park off Egremont Road, and the Council's purchase of a new fence for the area.
- The Village Plan and the recent survey conducted by the Steering Committee.
- The village website and Facebook page.
- Hardwick Happenings and its move to independence in September 2016, with continuing financial support from the Parish Council if needed.
- The burnt out building at the corner of St Neots Road and Cambridge Road.
- Beautifying Hardwick. This included: the employment of a new litter picker; the work of the litter picking group; installation of new litter bins; cutting back vegetation at the Recreation Ground; a tree survey and the removal of dead trees; a new grass cutting contractor; planned wild flower areas; replacement of notice boards and refurbishment of benches.
- Other activities such as considering planning applications, training for Speedwatch volunteers and monthly play area inspections.
- The reduced precept of £42,453, largely spent on maintenance and repairs.
- Congratulations on the sporting success of Hardwick Football Club and HSSC winning the Cambridge Cribbage League.

Questions were invited.

It was observed that the notice board in St Neots Road did not display any notices.

A resident asked whether there would be a report about the Community Hall at the Church. Cllr Rose replied that this would be covered under item 5.14. It had been raised as a potential project and it had been suggested that the Community Hall group should take the matter up directly with SCDC and see what they could do.

A complaint was made about the poor lighting on the St Neots Road. The lighting in Quince Road was also very poor. Cllr Rose stated that two areas had been identified for lighting improvements, namely St Neots Road and the stretch from Cahills Corner to the Blue Lion. Residents also commented that the corner of Limes Road and the Recreation Ground off Ellison Lane was also very dark. Cllr Rose replied that this had been taken up with Balfour Beatty who considered that the lighting was sufficient. A resident asked that this be protested.

5.2 Presentation of the last audited accounts²

Inspection of the last audited accounts (year ending 31 March 2016) was invited.

5.3 The District Councillor (Cllr Grenville Chamberlain)³

Cllr Chamberlain's report (appended in full) included:

- his efforts to have the burnt out building removed and forthcoming discussions to have a Certificate of Lawful Demolition issued
- housing applications in Hardwick. The Council Officers' support and recommendation for the St Neots Road application; his wish that this should have the minimum impact on the existing residents of Hall Drive; the developers' plan for a foot and cycle path into Laxton Avenue and their intention to speak to residents regarding replacing part of Hall Drive with a tarmac surface.
- the mix of homes including affordable houses, both rented and part owned, for people with links to the village
- the benefits to the village as a result of the developments and the hope that healthcare facilities could be provided. Cllr Chamberlain will continue to press for funding provision from NHS England.
- The proposed new community centre which is to be planned soon, including facilitating the Scouts and Guides moving to a new building; thanks to the Trustees of the Community Association for their co-operation regarding the community rooms to enable the new building to be built.
- The City Deal which will bring up to 40,000 new jobs and approximately 33,000 new homes over the next 15-20 years; much of the growth will be along the A428 corridor, with 2500 homes in Cambourne West, 2300 at Loves Farm, St Neots, and up to 3500 new homes on Bourn Airfield.
- The implications for traffic congestion, which will worsen unless there is good public transport provision; the need for a direct link from the eastbound A428 to the southbound M11 and the support of Heidi Allen MP who is taking this issue up.
- The forthcoming decision by the City Deal Board on the transport improvements and the route, and the views of some residents that they would prefer a route north of the A428 to a route between the A428 and St Neots Road.
- Thanks to voluntary groups and congratulations to the Play Parks group and the Football Club.
- The election of new County Cllr Lina Joseph and of James Palmer as Mayor of the Greater Cambridge and Peterborough combined authority.
- Cllr Chamberlain's work and membership of District Council committees
- Thanks to the Chairman and members, the Clerk and the Village Plan team which Cllr Chamberlain hoped would eventually lead to a formal binding Neighbourhood Plan.

5.4 The County Councillor

Newly elected County Cllr Lina Joseph introduced herself and undertook to work hard for the twelve villages. She asked residents to let her know their concerns and she would endeavour to progress matters. In response to a question as to how the new Mayor would interact with the County and District Councils, she replied that a positive approach was required to get things done.

5.5 Heidi Allen MP

No report available. There is currently no MP pending the forthcoming election.

5.6 Police

No report available.

5.7 Hardwick Sports and Social Club⁴

The report from the Hardwick Sports and Social Club, (appended in full), was read in the Secretary's absence by Cllr Cracknell. 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, recent improvements and staff changes. The staff aim to provide a warm and welcoming facility for the Club's members.

Cllr Cracknell added that the Club was a not for profit organisation but had made donations to the Pre-school, the Doctors' Run, and Scouts and Guides, and was willing to support village organisations.

Thanks were conveyed from the Hardwick Friendship Club were conveyed for the hospitality received from HSSC which meant a great deal. Thanks were also expressed by the WI for allowing them to hold the Strawberry Teas free of charge.

5.8 Hardwick Community Association⁵

The report of the Community Association (appended in full) covered the affiliated groups, the meeting times and venue, and the Officers. The next meeting is on 21 September at 7.00 pm.

5.9 Hardwick Happenings

Peter Cornwell reported on the activities of Hardwick Happenings and thanked all the distributors and helpers, particularly Jeff Jones, Roger Worland and Howard Baker for their contributions. The magazine has 8 issues a year. Examples of features were given. The Editors are grateful for the regular news articles.

5.10 Webmaster⁶

Martin Cassey spoke to the report from Robert Cassey, who had sent his apologies. Visits to the website had almost doubled during the year and people were staying longer. Feedback and suggestions were invited, along with photographs for use on the website.

5.11 Village Plan Committee⁷

Martin Cassey's report is appended in full. This covered the recent village survey, the results of which are currently being analysed, and the methodology used. The survey ran from 19 November to 15 January and 603 responses were received, representing approximately 40% of householders. Thanks were expressed to all who responded. One of the topics covered was the provision of healthcare facilities, which had led to discussions with local doctors' surgeries. Mr Cassey expressed the hope that some provision could in future be established in the village. It is intended to hold further meetings with stakeholders and residents to present the survey results once the analysis has been completed.

5.12 Neighbourhood Plan report

Tony Gill confirmed the Parish Council's intention to proceed with a Neighbourhood Plan and explained the formal legal status of Neighbourhood Plans, which provide a legally binding development plan for villages. The process and work carried out to date were outlined. Due to the issue of the Village Plan survey, the progress of the Neighbourhood Plan, which also involved a questionnaire covering some of the same ground, had been temporarily halted, but this should resume in the next two or three months. Anyone interested in becoming involved with the process was encouraged to contact Cllr Gill.

Cllr Rose asked that due to time constraints, subsequent items be restricted to 2 minutes each.

5.13 Hardwick Scouts and Guides – update on the proposed new Scout and Guide hut

No representative present and no report available.

5.14 St Mary's Church – update on proposed new Community Hall at the Church⁸

Rev Alison Myers presented the report of St Mary's Church (appended in full). This year she has been joined by Howard Bigg and Beth Cope as assistant ministers. The report covered seasonal celebrations, rites of passage including weddings, baptisms and funerals, details of services, community events including the forthcoming church fete, volunteers who maintain the church yard, and looking after the church. The aim is to help build and sustain a flourishing community.

Details of the proposed Community Hall building behind the church were provided. This is to be a welcoming space for all in the village, including individuals, clubs and societies. The land and planning permission are in hand and Coulsons are providing building expertise. There will be an outdoor space accessed from the hall. To date £40,000 has been raised and it is hoped to double that over the next three years through fundraising events and grant applications. A grant of \$106 money would allow the building to be completed within 1-2 years. It is envisaged that the hall at the church will complement the proposed new Community building near the recreation ground, and serve the southern part of the village. Additional community groups are planned.

5.15 Hardwick Evangelical Church including Hardwick Youth club⁹

Steve Gaze reported on the activities of Hardwick Youth Club (appended in full). He explained that this was a group for children of secondary school age, for the whole village, not exclusively for the Church. The report covered activities, leadership, sessions, outings and membership, safeguarding and finance. The accounts were provided. A small profit has been made this year which will be spent on equipment.

5.16 Hardwick WI¹⁰

Anne Jones presented the report of the WI (appended in full). This covered the meetings, and membership, and highlighted the speakers, trips and special events enjoyed during the year. Fundraising has been undertaken and charity events have also taken place. It is hoped to increase membership numbers. Thanks were expressed to the Parish Council for funding repairs to the village sign.

5.17 Hardwick Play Parks

Clare McGowan thanked the Parish Council for last year's grant which was used for advertising and the costs of the Fun Run event in September. This will be repeated this year. The Parish Council was also thanked for funding the fence at Egremont Road play area which had now been erected.

5.18 3rd Hardwick Brownies

Lucy Gardner thanked the Parish Council for last year's grant which was used for a recruitment evening of fun events, for flyers and to buy materials. This had resulted in a number of new members. Details of outings were described.

5.19 Hardwick Litter Picking Volunteers¹¹

Pauline Joslin presented the group's report (appended in full). The group is now a Community Highways Volunteering group for South Cambs District Council, who provide litter picking equipment. The Parish Council have provided hi-visibility vests and subsidised refreshments. The litter picks take place in March and October and cover areas which are not allocated to the litter picker. St Neots Road, Cambridge Road and Main Street are worst affected by litter. New bins have been installed at the bus stops. Thanks were expressed to Pat Portlock for the initiative.

5.20 Hardwick Recreation Ground – maintenance update

No representative present. Cllr Rose expressed thanks to Chris Fuller for project managing the recreation ground maintenance.

5.21 Other

None.

6. Neighbourhood Watch update

Ashley Shepherd outlined the efforts to raise the profile of Neighbourhood Watch and reported on the open meeting held on 2 May, which had resulted in four new street co-ordinators. Membership is approximately 40 and it is hoped to recruit more people through meetings, Hardwick Happenings and by other means. Quarterly meetings will be held in future. He asked for a grant of £238 to purchase and erect 14 Neighbourhood Watch signs in strategic places in the village in order to deter crime. Literature was available at the meeting. The next meeting will be on 11 July at 7 pm at the School.

Mr Shepherd was asked whether there had been a reduction in crime. There had not been many reports on e-cops or comments on Facebook. Thanks were expressed to Mr Shepherd for his efforts.

Mr Shepherd added that the Police will attend the meeting on 27 September at the School as part of Operation Hunter, and give a talk on crime prevention. They will bring examples of equipment such as shed and burglar alarms and will carry out property marking.

7. Applications for awards of small grants to projects for improvements to the village

The Chairman introduced the item for the award of small grants to assist village groups, up to a maximum of £250 per project from a budget of £1000. It was explained that whilst the Parish Council could only approve grants formally at one of its meetings, it would like the

Annual Parish Meeting to indicate its preference for the projects to be funded and the amount of the grants. Bids were invited.

Lucy Gardner on behalf of 3rd Hardwick Brownies requested a grant of £250 to maintain recruitment and to help fund her to do the Pack Holiday Licence qualification which would enable her to take the Brownies on residential trips.

Rev Alison Myers requested a grant of £150 to buy outdoor games equipment for use by the older children attending the summer afternoon activities enjoyed by children and parents/carers during August. This was a personal request for funding for a community event.

Clare McGowan on behalf of Hardwick Play Parks outlined details of the fundraising events being undertaken and requested a grant of £250 for publicising a family disco event in June, and publicity and consumables for the Fun Run in September.

Sue Cowen on behalf of Hardwick Baby and Toddler Group requested a grant of £250 to buy new toys, supplies for craft activities and to cover insurance and Community Association fees next year. She explained that income was insufficient to cover these costs even though the School had waived the costs of room hire for the summer term, and hoped that providing better toys and activities would encourage more people to attend the group.

Cllr Rose reported that Charley Rice for the Hardwick Pre-school wished to apply for £250 towards decking for the Pre-school.

A grant request for £238 had already been made by the Neighbourhood Watch group.

The total amount of funding requested exceeded the limit of £1000. It was suggested, given that HSSC had indicated their willingness to provide support for community groups, that Neighbourhood Watch and Alison Myers should apply to HSSC for the funds they required, and that the remaining applications be referred to the Parish Council. District Cllr Chamberlain added that the SCDC Community Chest funding was open for grants to community groups of up to £1500, and offered his support.

The following was RESOLVED:

By a show of hands, that Alison Myers and Neighbourhood Watch should apply to HSSC for £150 and £238 respectively and

By a show of hands, the majority of those present supported a grant of £250 for the Brownies.

By a show of hands, the majority of those present supported a grant of £250 for the Play Parks Group.

By a show of hands, the majority of those present supported a grant of £250 for the Baby and Toddler Group.

By a show of hands, the majority of those present supported a grant of £250 for the Pre-school.

It was observed that the above groups were also free to apply to HSSC for additional funding as well.

8. Any other Parish Matters including any resolutions

Martin Cassey spoke to his resolution. Following his discussions with GP surgeries, he had learned that it was the policy of NHS England was to reduce the number of GP practices across the country, and new ones were not supported. He urged the meeting and elected representatives to lobby for a change in policy.

RESOLVED, by a show of hands with 1 abstention and none against, that

“This meeting calls for Hardwick residents and their elected representatives to press candidates in the forthcoming general election to articulate their support for, and pledge to promote the delivery of a GP surgery together with supporting primary healthcare services in Hardwick within the lifetime of the next parliament.”

Steve Gaze asked why the gritting volunteers had not received any notifications last winter to go out and grit, and whether the scheme was still in operation. Cllr Rose undertook to ask the Clerk to look into this.

9. Closure of meeting

Residents were thanked for attending. There was no further business and the meeting was declared closed at 9.27 pm.

Signed _____(Chairman) _____(Date)

¹ Parish Council Chairman's report from Cllr Stephen Rose

² Audited accounts FY 2016

³ Report of the District Councillor – Cllr Grenville Chamberlain

⁴ Report from Hardwick Sports and Social Club – Lisa Montique, Secretary

⁵ Report of the Community Association – Anne Jones

⁶ Webmaster report – Robert Cassey

⁷ Village Plan committee – Martin Cassey

⁸ St Mary's Church – Rev Alison Myers

⁹ Report of the Evangelical Church – Steve Gaze

¹⁰ Report of the WI – Anne Jones

¹¹ Hardwick Litter Picking volunteers – Pauline Joslin

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