

**Minutes of the Hardwick Annual Parish Meeting held on  
17 April 2018 at 7.00 pm in the School**

Present: 21 parishioners including Parish Council members and District Cllr Grenville Chamberlain.  
In attendance: Mrs A Griffiths (Minutes Secretary, LGS Services)

Cllr Tony Gill presided.

**1. Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received from Peter McKeown (Carter Jonas), Lucy Gardner (Hardwick Brownies), Chris Fuller (Hardwick and Caldecote Cricket Club), Tim Tack (Hardwick Scouts) and Pat Portlock (Litter Picking group).

**2. Minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting on 9 May 2017**

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

**3. Matters arising**

None.

**4. Presentations and Updates from the developers of proposed developments off Grace Crescent (98 dwellings)<sup>1</sup>**

An update provided by Peter McKeown of Carter Jonas on behalf of Hill, the developers for Grace Crescent, was read by the Chairman in Mr McKeown's absence. The Reserved Matters application had been submitted in December 2017 and was due to be determined by SCDC before 4 May 2018. Applications to discharge the pre-commencement conditions had also been made and were due to be determined in the coming months. The works are due to commence on site at the end of July 2018 and are expected to last up to 27 months. A non-material amendment application to improve the access arrangements into the site from the Pastures/Grace Crescent by extending the existing footway and increasing the width to 2 metres, had recently been approved. The pedestrian/cycle access route to the north was still under consideration and it was Hill's intention to remove this. The report is appended in full to these minutes.

**5. Reports:**

**5.1 The Parish Council (Cllr Tony Gill, Chairman)<sup>2</sup>**

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

Cllr Gill thanked the Parish Council members for all their hard work during a busy year. Thanks were also extended to the Litter Picking Group whose efforts had made the village look much tidier, and to the permanent Litter Pickers (first Ian Giddings and then Sean Turner) for clearing the Recreation areas.

The report highlighted four major areas:

- **Housing Developments at Grace Crescent and to the south of St Neots Road**  
The outline planning permissions had been approved and the Grace Crescent developers were now discharging the reserved matters with the SCDC planners. It was expected that the application would be discussed by the SCDC Planning Committee in July. The S106 document had been signed by the landowners and SCDC.  
A planning application for the St Neots Road development had not yet been submitted.  
Thanks were extended to Cllr Steve Rose for liaising with the planners and the developers during the process.
- **Cambourne to Cambridge Busway and Park and Ride sites**  
Cllrs Gill and Joslin had attended a number of meetings and workshops, representing the Parish Council's views. The Greater Cambridge Partnership had carried out a public consultation, the outcome of which was on their website. The GCP executive board was due to make a decision in July. The Phase 2 discussion would begin shortly to decide on the route from Cambourne to the Park and Ride site, and a further consultation on this would take place at the end of the year. Residents were urged to respond to the consultations.

- General Data Protection Regulations Bill 2017

The Parish Council has to comply with this and thanks were expressed to Cllr Barry Skingle and the Clerk for the production of a Hardwick Parish Council privacy notice for residents and members of the public.

- Community Hall

The timetable for the S106 money from the Grace Crescent development (£608,000) will be triggered when the application is approved, and the amounts will be received in instalments. The Parish Council has made provision of £20,000 in the budget for expenses due before the first instalment is received, so that the project can commence. £10,000 has been taken from reserves and £10,000 will come from this year's precept. The Community Hall Group are looking at the site for the new Hall.

Other successes have included:

- The completion of the first phase of the Egremont Road play area improvements. Thanks and appreciation were extended to Clare McGowan and her team, and to SCDC for grant funding provided.
- The continued maintenance of the Recreation Ground and the improvements due to the three year programme. Extra cuts had been necessary because the mild weather kept the grass growing late in the year.

Thanks were extended to the Clerk and her team.

Exhibitions had been held for the Bourn Airfield development. An application was likely within the next 12 months. Residents were urged to respond to the consultation when it takes place.

## 5.2 Presentation of the last audited accounts<sup>3</sup>

Inspection of the last audited accounts (year ending 31 March 2017) was invited. A copy was available at the meeting and on the website. The accounts for the year ended 31 March 2018 would be considered by the Council next week and after internal audit in May, would be available for public inspection between 4 June and 13 July by arrangement with the Clerk.

## 5.3 The District Councillor (Cllr Grenville Chamberlain)<sup>4</sup>

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

- Savings resulting from combined services for refuse and recycling with Cambridge City, and other combined services arrangements with other authorities.
- The Health and Wellbeing programme including the Active and Healthy for Life programme, the opportunity to try out new sports, provision of funding for 12 mobile warden schemes and securing funding for green space play equipment.
- Support for litter picks and the renewable energy grant scheme for green initiatives.
- Council houses, affordable homes and Right to Build homes, and funding secured for affordable housing and community and sports facilities.
- Neighbourhood Plans and affordable housing grant schemes.
- New communities and the quarterly Community Forums.
- Ermine Street Housing, which generates income to invest in market housing for rent.
- Business networking events and new council apprenticeship places.
- The plans of the Combined Authority and Greater Cambridge Partnership for improved transport links.
- Support for rural businesses.
- The A428 development and the challenges from 7000-8000 new homes to be built to the west of Hardwick; the type and location of transport services including an East-West rail link from Oxford to Cambridge; the anticipated increase in traffic; the need for a direct link from the A428 to the southbound M11 at the Girton interchange; discussions between Heidi Allen MP and the Greater Cambridge Partnership to develop this project; and the location for a new Park and Ride site, to be decided this summer.
- The burnt out building at the corner of Cambridge Road and St Neots Road.
- Thanks to the Parish Council and volunteer groups for their hard work.

- The availability of Community Chest Grants.

5.4 The County Councillor<sup>5</sup>

County Cllr Lina Joseph's written report was read by the Chairman in her absence and is appended in full to these minutes. This covered: Adult Social Care; Public Transport and Stagecoach; the removal of the £1.00 Park and Ride parking charge; the Good Help Awards; digital and mobile connectivity; the Combined Authority; recruitment of Reablement Support Officers; and the proposed Oxford to Cambridge rail link.

5.5 Heidi Allen MP

No report available.

5.6 Police

No report available.

5.7 Hardwick Sports and Social Club<sup>6</sup>

The report from the Hardwick Sports and Social Club, (appended in full), was read in the Secretary's absence by Chris Cracknell. The Club has now been running for 17 years on a not for profit basis. The report covered: the background and legal status of the Club, including the lease, licences held, and management committee and sub-committee; the membership, fees, activities, recent improvements including the new computerised till system, and staff changes. The staff aimed to provide a warm and welcoming facility for the Club's members.

Mr Cracknell added that the Club had made donations to organisations including the Sports Clubs, Hardwick Play Parks, the Doctors' Run, Scouts and Guides, the Youth Club and Neighbourhood Watch, and other charities. Refreshments had been provided to the Litter Picking Group free of charge.

Details of the teams and clubs meeting at HSSC were outlined. Events included a monthly Quiz Night, and Bingo nights. Wifi is available and recent refurbishments included TV screens and benches. A "Big Tidy" event had taken place with the Scouts to improve the appearance of the outside area. Permission had been received from the Parish Council to erect a table tennis table outside.

Mr Cracknell reiterated that the Club had funds available to support local groups, as well as providing a venue for use by local groups and for fundraising events.

5.8 Hardwick Community Association<sup>7</sup>

Thanks were expressed to HSSC for funding provided to various community groups, which was very much appreciated. The report of the Community Association (appended in full) covered the affiliated groups, the meeting times and venue, and the Officers. The Trustees have been involved in discussions regarding the new developments and the new Community Centre to replace the Community facilities at the School, aiming to obtain the best provision possible for Hardwick. The next meeting is on 20 September at 7.00 pm.

5.9 Hardwick Happenings

No representative present and no report available.

5.10 Webmaster

Following the resignation of the previous webmaster during the year, Cllr Rose had kindly volunteered to assist when no-one had come forward to take on this role.

5.11 Village Plan Committee

Martin Cassey reported on the preparation of the survey report, which was still in progress. Many of the suggestions made were already under way, such as litter picking and play parks improvements. It was intended to continue with editing the report and preparing a plan, and to get people involved.

5.12 Neighbourhood Plan report

Cllr Gill explained that this had been on hold during the year because the Village Plan had been going forward, and more Parish Council members were needed to share the workload.

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

Jane Muncey reported. Fundraising for a new building has been ongoing for several years but has ceased as there would be no need for a Hardwick Scout and Guide Community Building if

a new Community Hall was to be built, possibly on the Recreation Ground. A meeting had taken place to consider the future of the Scout and Guide Hut, and the options open. Any decision would have to be made jointly by the Scout Group and Guides unit, both of which are charitable bodies run by Trustees, and the hut is vested in the Scout Trust Corporation with whom any changes would need to be discussed. Discussions are taking place about whether the appropriate facilities for Scouting and Guiding can be included in the new Community Building. Hardwick has all three sections of Scouts and Guides, and it is hoped that they can continue to offer opportunities to the children,

- 5.14 St Mary's Church – update on proposed new Community Hall at the Church  
No representative present and no report available.
- 5.15 Hardwick Evangelical Church including Hardwick Youth club  
Steve Gaze reported on the activities of Hardwick Youth Club. The Club meets in the hall on Sundays and also runs events such as the Easter Egg Hunt. There are 30 members. Thanks were expressed to HSSC for funding the hire of the hall. A youth worker who has been employed to run the sessions is moving on and interested residents were invited to consider taking on the role.
- 5.16 Hardwick WI<sup>8</sup>  
Anne Jones presented the report of the WI (appended in full). This covered the monthly meetings, including the activities of the Dining Out Club and Crafty Natter Club; the membership, trips and special events enjoyed during the year. Fundraising has been undertaken and charity events have also taken place such as the Strawberry Tea. Sixteen new members have been welcomed during the year.
- 5.17 Hardwick Play Parks<sup>9</sup>  
Clare McGowan thanked the Parish Council for last year's grant which was used for medals for the Fun Run event and raffle prizes at the family disco. The third run will take place on 16 September. Details of fundraising events, including forthcoming events, and other donations received, were outlined. Special thanks were extended to Chris Cracknell for generously donating his 60<sup>th</sup> birthday money. The response to the first toddler stage has been very positive. The next stage will be a climbing feature and big tower unit with slides. Grants are being applied for and the group was interviewed by Radio Cambridgeshire to highlight grants given to community groups. The group wishes to apply for a grant of £250.00 from the Parish Council this year to assist with the costs of online entry for the Fun Run. The report is appended in full to these minutes.
- 5.18 3<sup>rd</sup> Hardwick Brownies  
The report from Lucy Gardner was read by Cllr Gill in her absence. The Parish Council was thanked for the grant received last year which enabled the Brownies to have a very successful pack holiday in February, enjoyed by 22 girls. Thanks were expressed to all who provided support, including the Toft Brownies leaders. Mrs Gardner's pack holiday licence has been awarded and new ventures can now be planned.
- 5.19 Hardwick Pre-School  
Hardwick Pre-School thanked the Parish Council for last year's grant of £250.00 for decking. There had been a large fundraising effort including a resident funding page and a grant had also been received from SCDC. An article appears on the SCDC website.
- 5.20 Hardwick Mothers and Toddlers Group  
The group meets on Fridays in term time in the Community Room. The Parish Council was thanked for the grant of £250.00 received last year to buy new toys and encourage more members. The membership per session had increased and the sessions made more attractive. Thanks were also expressed for a donation of £50.00 from Pippins.
- 5.21 Hardwick Litter Picking Volunteers<sup>10</sup>  
Pat Portlock's report was read by Cllr Gill in her absence. Two litter picking events had been held during the year, in October 2017 and March 2018. 20 bags of litter were collected in October and in March, 26 bags of litter had been collected, in comparison with 60 bags in March 2017. Thanks were expressed to: HSSC for providing refreshments, SCDC for

providing litter picking equipment and bags, and the Parish Council for buying hi-vis jackets and rubbish bag hoops.

The Chairman commented that the village had looked very much better as a result of the group's hard work.

It was noted that some discarded number plates and disposable gloves had been reported to the Police.

5.22 Hardwick Recreation Ground – maintenance update

Chris Fuller's report was read in his absence by Cllr Gill. The grass surface was improving each year. The effects of heavy rainfall this spring were noted but water levels would reduce when the weather improved. It was important to continue the maintenance programme. Thanks were extended to Chris Fuller for giving freely of his time to looking after the Recreation Ground, liaising with the grass cutters and reporting back to the Parish Council.

5.23 Other

None.

6. Neighbourhood Watch update

Anne Jones provided an update. Ashley Shepherd is the village co-ordinator. Signs have been erected, paid for by HSSC. There were lots of street co-ordinators and the number of members was increasing.

On a proposition by the Chairman, at 8.24 pm a short break was proposed to enable residents to ask any questions.

A resident expressed disappointment at the level of participation and asked what the Parish Council intended to do to engage more people in village affairs.

Cllr Gill replied that the Parish Council had been continually trying over the years to increase the number of Council members, which was slowly increasing, and outlined the various ways by which the Council communicated with the residents, including through personal contact, Hardwick Happenings, and the website. It was observed that Hardwick was not unique and that very few had responded to the consultations.

Cllr Gill asked for ideas on what the Parish Council should do to attract and engage residents. One suggestion was increased information and presence on the Facebook page, or a link to the website. It was explained that social media could sometimes lead to problems. The existing links on the website and reports in Hardwick Happenings were highlighted, together with other efforts to raise residents' interest in the elections. The Parish Council was asked to issue more updates or reminders.

A resident asked the Scouts and Guides how much they had raised. It was explained that there had been approximately £60,000 over the years, but some had been spent on planning applications.

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

The Chairman introduced the item, now in its third year, 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.

A request for a grant of £250.00 had already been received from Hardwick Rainbows for the replacement of unit equipment.

Clare McGowan on behalf of Hardwick Play Parks requested a grant of £250.00 to introduce online entry for the fundraising fun run, to encourage more people to take part.

Sue Cowen on behalf of Hardwick Mothers and Toddlers Group requested a grant of £250.00 to purchase materials for craft activities.

Sue Cowen also requested a grant for Hardwick Pre-School for a replacement car.

The following was RESOLVED:

By a show of hands, the majority of those present supported a grant of £250 for the Rainbows.  
(Prop AG, 2nd JH)

By a show of hands, the majority of those present supported a grant of £250 for Hardwick Play Parks. <sup>(Prop AG, 2nd JH)</sup>

By a show of hands, the majority of those present supported a grant of £250 for the Mothers and Toddlers Group. <sup>(Prop AG, 2nd JH)</sup>

By a show of hands, the majority of those present supported a grant of £250 for the Pre-school. <sup>(Prop AG, 2nd JH)</sup>

The grant applications would need to be formally approved by the Parish Council at a forthcoming meeting.

#### 8. **Any other Parish Matters including any resolutions**

Cllr Gill provided an update on the proposed footpath at Grace Crescent and the improvements and lighting of the whole stretch of the footpath from the Pastures to Cahills Corner. The developers had previously indicated that they would improve the footpath from the Blue Lion to the Old School House/Rectory. The Parish Council had sought the County Councillor's support with having the whole length of the footpath improved under the developers' planning obligations. The CCC officer had responded that it was the responsibility of the Highways department to maintain the footpath to a suitable standard. The officer had also stated that a pedestrian/cycle route should run from the north of the development to Sadler's Close, to enable new and existing residents to access Main Street. The Chairman had asked him who should be contacted to get the footpath upgraded along its whole length and a reply was awaited.

In response to a request for the correspondence to be published, it was explained that this would be an agenda item for the next Parish Council meeting. It was observed that the response of the Officer was inconsistent with the comments from Hills that they intended to remove the proposed footpath to the north of the development onto Main Street from the plans. This was still under discussion and further information was awaited.

A resident read a proposed resolution and asked for a decent footway through the village. It was reiterated that the Parish Council had asked Highways, if this was not a material planning consideration, to make sure that stretch of the footpath was brought up to standard.

A vote was taken on the resolution (Proposed by Alan Everitt, seconded by Martin Cassey).

RESOLVED, by a show of hands with none against, that:

“This meeting calls for the elected representatives of the village to press the authorities to deliver Main Street, Hardwick with a fit for purpose footway/cycleway between the north and south of the village such that two users – walkers/ pram pushers/ toddlers/ cyclists/ wheelchair users – can safely travel side by side or pass each other without being threatened by traffic on their shoulder or having to go onto mud and grass for their journey, and that such footway shall be in place within the next 12 months.”

#### 9. **Closure of meeting**

Residents were thanked for attending. Thanks were extended to Cllr Joslin for kindly organising the refreshments. There was no further business and the meeting was declared closed at 8.57 pm.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_(Chairman) \_\_\_\_\_(Date)

<sup>1</sup> Update from Peter McKeown, Carter Jonas, on Grace Crescent Development

<sup>2</sup> Parish Council Chairman's report from Cllr Tony Gill

<sup>3</sup> Audited accounts FY 2017

<sup>4</sup> Report of the District Councillor – Cllr Grenville Chamberlain

<sup>5</sup> Report of the County Councillor – Cllr Lina Joseph

<sup>6</sup> Report from Hardwick Sports and Social Club – Lisa Montique, Secretary

<sup>7</sup> Report of the Community Association – Anne Jones

<sup>8</sup> Report of the WI – Anne Jones

<sup>9</sup> Report of Hardwick Play Parks – Clare McGowan

<sup>10</sup> Report of Hardwick Litter Picking Volunteers – Pat Portlock