

Hardwick Parish Council
Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday 26 November 2019
in the School at 7.00 pm

Present: Councillors: A Gill (Chairman), P Joslin, P Ashton, S Rose, I Giddings, and D Wellbelove.

In attendance: 9 members of the public, District Cllr Tumi Hawkins and Mrs A Griffiths (Minutes Secretary, LGS Services).

Open public session including reports from the County and District Councillors

The Chairman explained that due to the forthcoming General Election there was currently a period of “purdah” which signified that certain issues with political connotations could not be discussed. These included items on the results of the traffic consultation, the development east of Cambridge Road, the Local Plan and the busway.

District Cllr Tumi Hawkins drew the Council’s attention to recent reports on Facebook and in the village magazine suggesting that SCDC were encouraging applications for the Green Belt. Cllr Hawkins stressed that these reports were completely false and emphasised that it was not SCDC’s planning policy to encourage applications in the Green Belt; any residents with concerns or queries regarding planning issues were urged to contact her.

Representatives from St Mary’s Church provided an update regarding the Community Hall project. This has now been fully funded and it was hoped that building would commence soon after Christmas. The building would take approximately six months to complete. The representatives expressed gratitude to all the individuals who had contributed, as well as the major grant funders. The Parish Council congratulated the Church on the progress of the project.

Pat Portlock on behalf of the Hardwick Climate Emergency Group enquired whether trees would be available from the Woodland Trust and asked about tree canopy cover which is currently 6.5% for Hardwick against a recommended 20%. The Parish Council confirmed that trees were being delivered in February or March for planting around the recreation ground, and also in the woodland between Sudeley Grove and Ashmead Drive. The Council would be considering further tree requirements and the cost at its budget meeting in January. The Climate Group is willing to plant trees and it was suggested that the Parish Council’s volunteer could accompany the group to identify potential tree locations on Parish Council land. Cllr Giddings offered his assistance with this and Cllr Joslin declared that she was also a member of the group. The Parish Council is commissioning a tree survey.

Mrs Portlock also confirmed that SCDC had allocated 20 packs of litter picks, gloves and sacks to the Litter Picking Group. The Council expressed thanks to Mrs Portlock for arranging the litter picks.

1. To approve apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Croft (unwell) and from District Cllr Chamberlain (meeting at SCDC).

2. Declaration of interests

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

Cllr Joslin declared an interest in tree items as a member of the Climate Group.

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 October 2019

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting on 22 October be approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record. (Prop IG, 2nd PJ, carried with 1 abstention)

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

4.1 (Open) Time banking – resident request for support

Thanks were expressed to Martin Cassey for his extensive explanation of the aims of the scheme. The Parish Council sought further clarification on the operation of the scheme and queried whether barter transactions were involved, as these were taxable. Mr Cassey explained that a member of the scheme could donate credits to others if they did not wish to use the time credits they had built up. The Council also asked about insurance and who was responsible in the event of accident or damage. Mr Cassey replied that risk could be mitigated, as participants signed a disclaimer on the standard of service, insurance was in place, and risk assessments were required. Cllr Joslin declared at this point that she had volunteered at the Care Network. Clarification is to be sought whether the Parish Council may contribute financially to a scheme shared with two other parishes. Mr Cassey explained that they would need to decide how to allocate costs across other communities.

RESOLVED that the Parish Council supports the initiative including future consideration of financial support. (Prop AG, 2nd PJ, carried with 4 in favour and 2 abstentions)

4.2 (7.4) To consider in the light of the Village Plan, what views the Council might wish to put forward as important for the village in the next Local Plan

Deferred to the January meeting.

4.3 (9) To consider proposal for a Climate meeting

Taken earlier. Cllr Giddings is to liaise with Cllr Joslin and the Climate Group on considering opportunities for tree planting. Cllr Joslin declared that she had been invited to attend meetings of the UK Citizens Assembly in Birmingham.

4.4 (9) To consider a request for brambles clearance

RESOLVED to accept Cllr Giddings's kind offer to cut back the brambles encroaching on the path from HSSC to Limes Road.

4.5 (September meeting) LHI Traffic Calming – to consider responses to consultation

RESOLVED, given that the consultation had been temporarily removed from the website due to purdah, and noting that the LHI application had already been submitted, to ask the Webmaster to reinstate the consultation from 13 December until 24 December.

RESOLVED to consider the results at the January meeting. (Prop AG, 2nd IG, unanimous)

4.6 NHW request that the Council considers unauthorised access on the Recreation Ground

RESOLVED that the Parish Council does not wish to install a fence or posts, but would prefer to plant additional trees around the perimeter of the Recreation Ground as a deterrent to unauthorised access.

5. Correspondence/communications received

5.1 Resident – request for a dropped kerb

RESOLVED, given that CCC had indicated no funds were available, to contact Simeon Carroll to ask whether CCC has any objections in principle to placing a dropped kerb in the location and to request details of the specification that would be

required, as a preliminary to considering whether to submit an application next year.
(Prop SR, 2nd AG, unanimous)

- 5.2 Hardwick Mothers and Toddlers – request for financial support
RESOLVED, given that further information from the group was still awaited, to send a reminder and defer this item to the January meeting.
- 5.3 CCC – Operation London Bridge
The Chairman outlined areas for consideration and proposed that a working group be set up. RESOLVED that the Chairman should speak to the Vicar, the WI and HSSC.
- 5.4 MAGPAS – request for financial support
RESOLVED to decline the request and reply that the Parish Council can only provide financial support for charities that directly benefit the village. (Prop PA, 2nd SR, unanimous)
- 5.5 Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Minerals & Waste Local Plan submission consultation
Noted.
- 5.6 Resident/Climate Emergency Group – suggestion for an increase in tree cover in Hardwick
Taken earlier.
- 6. Planning Applications and Decision notices and tree works applications**
- 6.1 Planning applications received since the last meeting
- 6.1.1 S/3735/19/FL – Land at 181 St Neots Road – Erection of two dwellings and the retention of the existing dwelling together with ancillary works to the site including hard/soft landscaping and the creation of parking spaces and the change of use of part of site from commercial to residential (Resubmission of S/2058/19/FL)
RESOLVED to make no recommendation. (Prop AG, 2nd PJ, unanimous)
On a proposition by the Chairman, the order of business was varied.
- 6.1.4 S/3879/19/LD – 4-6 East Drive, Highfields Caldecote – Certificate of lawful development for an existing use of the land to the rear of 4-6 East Drive as a private amenity area in domestic use
Noted.
- 6.1.3 S/3206/19/VC – 339 St Neots Road – Variation of condition 2 (Approved plans) of planning permission S/0884/19/VC for erection of two family dwellings
RESOLVED to make no recommendation. (Prop AG, 2nd PJ, unanimous)
- 6.1.2 S/3849/19/FL – 147 St Neots Road – Erection of nine self-contained residential flats and associated infrastructure and works
RESOLVED to support the application but because of the proximity of the burnt out building and the possibility of health and safety problems, the Parish Council proposes effective measures be put in place to mitigate against health and safety risks arising from the derelict burnt out building immediately adjacent to the plot. (Prop PA, 2nd AG, carried with 5 in favour and 1 against)
- 6.1.3 S/3541/19/FL – 45 Meridian Close – Single storey rear, side and front extension
RESOLVED to make no recommendation. (Prop AG, 2nd PJ, unanimous)
- 6.2 SCDC Decision Notices
- 6.2.1 S/2107/19/VC – Agricultural field west of Grace Crescent – Variation of condition 2 (approved plans) of S/1645/19/VC (Variation of condition 2 (materials) of planning permission S/4551/17/RM (Application for approval of reserved matters for layout, scale, appearance and landscaping (not EIA) for the erection of up to 98 dwellings

and associated works following outline planning permission S/1694/16/OL - Permission granted.

- 6.2.2 S/2555/19/FL – 27 Bramley Way – Replacement conservatory roof – Permission granted.
- 6.2.3 S/2968/19/FL – 301 St Neots Road – First floor loft conversion including raising of roof level – Permission refused.
- 6.2.4 S/4619/18/RM – Land east of Highfields Road, Highfields Caldecote – Approval of matters reserved for appearance, landscaping, layout and scale following outline planning permission S/2510/15/OL for phase 1 (66 dwellings) of the residential development with associated infrastructure – approved.

- 6.3 Tree Works Applications
None.

7. Members reports and items for information only

7.1 New Housing Developments and Planning Obligations

Cllr Rose reported that further plans for the Community Building had been presented at a public meeting on 6 November. Another meeting of the Working Group will take place on Thursday to consider the comments received.

Cllr Ashton reported on a meeting at CCC, along with Cllr Joslin, to discuss whether £45,000 of the S106 money currently in the agreement could be moved to fund traffic islands in St Neots Road. CCC will speak to Hills and any subsequent amendments to the S106 would be made by letter. It was suggested that if the islands were aligned with the bus stops lighting could be installed at the bus stops to improve visibility. The schemes could be phased so the traffic islands would be installed first and the lighting at a later stage. Cllr Ashton will attend another meeting with CCC next week and a further meeting with Hills.

7.2 Village Plan report and to consider any actions

RESOLVED to defer this item to the January meeting.

7.3 Proposal for parish paths maintenance including CCC responsibilities and Millennium Path maintenance

RESOLVED having considered Cllr Joslin's verbal report, to seek quotations for cutting back the brush from the main bridleway to the badger setts. Cllr Joslin will provide a map of the location.

RESOLVED that Cllr Joslin will arrange for Peter Gaskin of CCC to carry out a site visit to assess the CCC area as to where signage needs replacement and make good any unsafe areas.

7.4 Proposal that the Social Media Policy is reviewed

Cllr Ashton outlined the background and operation of the Facebook page. An unused HPC group page is to be closed down.

RESOLVED that the Social Media Policy should continue without change. (Prop AG, 2nd PJ, carried with 5 in favour and 1 abstention)

7.5 Hardwick Community Centre Working Group – Proposal that the Parish Council approves the terms and conditions of appointment and fees of AMA as architects for the new Community Centre and payment of the first invoice

RESOLVED that the terms and conditions of appointment and fees of AMA be approved and that the agreement be signed by the Clerk.

RESOLVED to approve payment of the first invoice of £4720.00 plus VAT.

RESOLVED to note that this sum is to be taken from the S106 money and the transfer of costs for the Topographical Survey is also to be taken from the S106 funds, rather than from the precept. (Prop AG, 2nd PJ, carried with 5 in favour and 1 abstention)

8. Finance, procedure and risk assessment

8.1 To consider any quotes for urgent work required because of risk and Clerk’s use of delegated powers

RESOLVED to note that the Clerk used her delegated powers for:

- Play repairs - to spend £10 as the cable ties were bigger.
- Emergency purchase of replacement battery and pads for the defibrillator for approximately £375.00
- To approve a resident’s request for her son to continue litter picking as part of the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme be approved on the same basis as before. Cllr Giddings is willing to continue to provide supervision.

8.2 To receive play areas and skate park inspection reports continued

The play inspection reports were received.

RESOLVED to ask Kompan to look at damage to the new multiplay equipment at Egremont Road, and to ask them for a report and recommendation regarding its safety.

RESOLVED that Cllr Wellbelove should try to remove graffiti on the side panels of the skate park, and to approach a contractor if he is unable to do so.

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 LGS Services (Website hosting) £80.00, RPM (Play repairs) \$414.00, RH Landscapes (Tree works) £510.00 and (Pond maintenance) £420.00, CCC (Streetlights) £2337.83 and Hardwick Parish Council (New bank account opening balance) £15,000.00. ^(Prop AG, 2nd PJ, unanimous)

Salaries and Pensions	£404.80
LGS Services (Admin support)	£1340.58
RPM (Bird scarers – Egremont Road)	£90.00
RH Landscapes (Grass cutting)	£726.00
AMA (Pavilion Architect fees)	£5664.00

Credits, including bank and investment interest, a rent payment and receipt of the S106 money for Grace Crescent, were noted. The money received for Grace Crescent also includes the contribution for the community vehicle.

8.4 To set the date of the January budget meeting

RESOLVED that the budget meeting be held on 21st January.

RESOLVED that the meeting on 10 December be cancelled due to the short period between meetings, given also that this date would still be within the election purdah period. ^(Prop AG, 2nd DW, unanimous)

RESOLVED to notify Hardwick Happenings of the cancellation and to place a notice on the notice board, the website and Facebook.

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

Cllr Giddings reported that he was arranging a meeting with the Head Teacher regarding the Emergency Plan.

Cllr Joslin reported that she had reported two lots of dumped waste on St Neots Road to SCDC but only one had been collected and it had been reported again.

RESOLVED that Cllr Wellbelove should ask Chris Fuller to let the Clerk know what the maintenance costs for the Recreation Ground will be next year.

There was no further business and the meeting closed at 9.50 pm.

SignedChairmandate