

Hardwick Parish Council
Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday 21 January 2020
in the School at 7.00 pm

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

In attendance: Mrs Gail Stoehr (Clerk).

Open public session including reports from the County and District Councillors

None present.

1. To approve apologies for absence and declarations of interest

Apologies were received from Cllr Croft (out of parish) and Cllr Ashton.

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

All members present declared an interest in the setting of the precept as council tax payers, and also the existence of their dispensations allowing them to speak and vote.

1.2 To receive written requests for dispensations for disclosable pecuniary interests (if any)

None.

1.3 To grant any requests for dispensation as appropriate

None.

2. To consider Recreation Ground programme costs 2020-2022

RESOLVED to suspend Financial Regulations and to accept the recommendation from Chris Fuller, and that the works as identified in the quotation be put in place, including decompaction in 2020.

RESOLVED to delegate to the Chairman and Clerk together to check the costs for 2021 and place the orders for the three years, including the sand.

RESOLVED to thank Chris Fuller for his assistance.

On a proposition by the Chairman it was agreed unopposed to take items 3 and 4 together.

3. To review the budget for financial year ending 31 March 2020 against receipts and payments and to consider any outstanding projects or spending and to make arrangements for these

4. To consider and approve budget for financial year ending 31 March 2021

The Clerk declared an interest during this item and left the meeting at 7.18 pm whilst her contract and LGS Services contract was discussed. The Clerk rejoined the meeting at 7.32 pm.

RESOLVED:

- To note that Hardwick Happenings is now self-funding and does not require support at present from the Parish Council.
- To earmark funds for advertising, grounds maintenance, Community Centre, Speedwatch and the CCC survey/LHI.
- To insure the MVAS equipment and new play equipment when installed.
- To increase the Clerk's hours by 1.5 hours per week and to reconsider during the year if additional hours are required and review LGS Services when the contract is due for renewal.
- The pond costs are to be covered under the Grounds Maintenance budget.

- The Community Centre heading is to be changed to Community Centre operating and fitting out costs.
The Special Projects heading was increased to £15,000.00 which would also cover Operation London Bridge. RESOLVED that the Chairman will publicise the special projects budget and Climate Change initiatives and also place an article in the Hardwick Happenings.
- To ask Toft Parish Council if it would be willing to pay £300 to purchase and own the Speedwatch camera.

Consideration was given to the email from Cllr Ashton and Hill regarding varying the S106 agreement for bus displays and whether these funds should be put towards traffic islands in St Neots Road. The variation will enable a contribution of £50,000. The cost of traffic islands in St Neots Road had been costed as a Privately Funding Highway Initiative as £72,450 plus there would be legal costs of £2,000 to pay. RESOLVED to pay the legal fees for reallocation of the S106 money for the bus displays into a fund for “traffic calming measures in Hardwick”, to be used at a suitable time.

The Parish Council considered whether there should a budget included for the requested dropped kerb in the budget given that CCC had indicated the Parish Council would have to pay £500 for a survey to obtain a quotation. The Clerk advised that this was an agenda item at the meeting next week and the £500 could be met by the Council’s general reserves.

Consideration was given to the costs of the proposed Millennium Way works including posts and siding up. The Clerk advised that this could be taken from the grounds maintenance budget if the Parish Council so decides.

The Millers Way, Footpath 6 resurfacing works will be an agenda item for the February meeting.

RESOLVED to note that the anticipated level of General Reserves would be high at the financial year end and to review this again in due course.

RESOLVED, having considered the request from HSSC regarding relocating the CCTV equipment and safe, that Cllr Rose should follow this up and assess anything else required, given that the lease states the premises must be kept available for use by the landlord for monthly meetings and that unrestricted use of the office area be allowed for the Parish Clerk’s office, so the Parish Council wish it to remain.

RESOLVED that the budget be approved. (Prop PJ, 2nd AG, unanimous)

5. To set and demand the precept required for the Parish Council to balance its budget

RESOLVED that there be no increase in the precept from the current year, noting that a number of new dwellings were expected during the year and to set and demand from South Cambridgeshire District Council the sum of £60,366.00, being the amount required by the Parish Council to balance its budget. (Prop PJ, 2nd AG, unanimous)

6. Closure of meeting

Cllr Wellbelove gave his apologies for the next meeting.

There was no further business and the meeting closed at 9.07 pm.

DRAFT