

Hardwick Parish Council
Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday 28 January 2020
in the School at 7.00 pm

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

In attendance: 7 members of the public, District Cllr Grenville Chamberlain and Mrs A Griffiths (Minutes Secretary, LGS Services).

Open public session including reports from the County and District Councillors

District Cllr Grenville Chamberlain reported on the LLF meeting held at Cambourne. The meeting had concluded that the busway proposals should be postponed for the time being, in the light of the forthcoming East-West Rail announcement and the possibility of a station at Cambourne. He would attend the Joint Assembly meeting on Thursday and the Executive Board meeting on 19 February. Cllr Chamberlain considered that the busway capacity for 600-700 passengers per hour would be completely insufficient to serve the demand from the approved and proposed developments in the area. The Chairman confirmed that the Parish Council's submission had been made in November and outlined its position that the Council was not in favour of any of the options in terms of disruption to the village; however the Council had felt that Option 1 was the least unpopular and that Scotland Farm was the best option for the Park and Ride site.

Ashley Shepherd outlined the request from the Neighbourhood Watch meeting that a speed limit of 20 mph be imposed on the Limes Estate, especially in Limes Road and Egremont Road, as cars parked on corners and near building works were making it dangerous for children going to school, and asked whether he should start a petition. The Chairman suggested that he should contact Highways initially to find out the best way to progress the matter, and Cllr Joslin also offered to make enquiries.

Anne Jones outlined the suggestion that the village should trial a booking system currently used across the University and now to be extended to villages, with Hardwick a "guinea pig" for the new scheme. This would involve an online booking system for the Church Community Hall, HSSC, the School and the new Community Centre, with one representative from each organisation administering the system. The Parish Council was asked to fund the cost of £20 per month. An open meeting will be held in the Community Room on Monday 9 March at 8 pm and representatives from all the organisations had been invited to see how a central booking system would benefit the village. The Parish Council will send a representative.

An update on time banking was provided by Mia Cassey who reported the group had been successful in obtaining grant funding from CCC. When the formal offer is received the organisation will be set up formally and public meetings will be held in each of the three villages, probably in late March/April. New volunteers had come forward. It was intended to run the time bank alongside the car scheme. Thanks were expressed to all who had supported the initiative. The Clerk's advice, that the group would be eligible to apply for grant funding from the Parish Council provided that this was proportional to the benefit to Hardwick, was noted.

A resident expanded on the request for a dropped kerb on Limes Road near the Recreation Ground. The Parish Council explained that CCC were unwilling to pay for this and given that obtaining a quotation from them would involve an upfront fee of £500, suggested that the resident try using existing alternatives and return to the Parish Council if these were not suitable.

1. To approve apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllrs Croft (work commitments) and Wellbelove (out of parish) and from Chris Fuller and Pat Portlock.

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

Cllr Rose declared a personal interest in item 4.4 as a friend of the resident and indicated his intention to leave the meeting during this item.

Cllr Joslin declared an interest in item 5.7 as a member of the village 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 meetings on 26 November 2019 and 21 January

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting on 26 November be approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record, after an amendment under item 8.3 to correct \$414 to £414. (Prop SR, 2nd PJ, unanimous)

Approval of the minutes of the meeting on 21 January was deferred to the next meeting.

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

On a proposition by the Chairman it was agreed to vary the order of business to take items 4.1 and 5.8 together.

4.1 (4.2) 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**5.8 Greater Cambridge Partnership Local Plan Issues and Options consultation**

RESOLVED that members should send their views to the Chairman to be collated and that approval of the Council's response should be an agenda item for the next meeting; also to seek a time extension for the response as the deadline is the day before the meeting. (Prop AG, 2nd PJ, unanimous)

Cllr Ashton reported that Hills had agreed to the reallocation of funds on the basis that the diverted funds would be used for traffic islands on St Neots Road, to make it easier to cross the road, and expressed a wish that they be installed without delay, but concerns were expressed that any islands would be taken out before long during the realignment of St Neots Road for the new busway.

On a proposition by the Chairman, items 4.2 and 5.3 were taken together.

4.2 (4.3) Tree planting update and correspondence received

RESOLVED to note the Chairman's report that 30 saplings would be delivered in February/March, and that these would be used to fill in the gaps on the Recreation Ground and thereafter in the spinney between Ashmead Drive and Sudeley Grove, in Limes Road and in Ellison Lane.

Consideration was given to where in the village more trees could be planted. RESOLVED to note Cllr Giddings' report that he had looked at trees on Parish Council land and identified areas where more trees could be included. Caution was expressed that some of the areas contained play equipment and trees should not be planted where they could overhang residents' properties in years to come. Suggestions for future consideration were made, such as bringing the trees in closer to the centre of the area, potting some saplings and reallocating them in summer, obtaining sycamore saplings for the future, and planting a Christmas tree near the School,

although it was noted that this was not Parish Council land. Shaun Hughes was asked whether he would be willing to arrange for a small group to help to put the saplings in.

5.3 SCDC – offer of 3 free trees

RESOLVED to apply for three free trees from SCDC and consider the types of trees, and who should collect them, at the next meeting. Shaun Hughes offered to make enquiries as to what types of trees would be most suitable. ^(Prop PA, 2nd PJ, unanimous)

4.3 (4.5) LHI Traffic calming – to consider responses to consultation and any action required

RESOLVED to note the outcome of the consultation which showed that 73% of respondents were against the installation of speed cushions on Cambridge Road.

A proposal ^(PA) that this item be deferred until all members were present, was not seconded.

RESOLVED that this item be deferred until the outcome of the LHI application is received. ^(Prop AG, 2nd IG, unanimous)

RESOLVED to thank the School for the letter received in support of traffic calming and to respond that traffic calming is being considered. ^(Prop PJ, 2nd AG, unanimous)

4.4 (5.1) Resident request for a dropped kerb – to consider further correspondence from CCC and the resident

Cllr Rose, having previously declared an interest in this item, left the meeting at 8.40 pm.

RESOLVED that the Parish Council is sympathetic to the resident, but given the existence of an alternative route, and the potential costs of installation, that the Parish Council awaits the response of the resident to the suggestion that they try the alternative before taking this matter forward. The brambles alongside the footpath are to be cut back. The Chairman expressed his willingness to accompany the resident when trying the alternative crossing point.

Cllr Rose re-joined the meeting at 8.50 pm.

4.5 (5.3) Operation London Bridge – update on Working Group

The Chairman reported that he had spoken to the Vicar and the WI President and had agreed to form a working group. He would also be speaking to Chris Cracknell from HSSC.

RESOLVED that the papers received from CCC are to remain confidential.

4.6 (7.3) Parish Paths maintenance – to consider quotations if received and update on site visit with CCC

RESOLVED to await the quotation from the contractor.

4.7 (8.2) Egremont Road play repairs – to consider recommendations and quotations

A proposal ^(PA) that it be delegated to Cllr Giddings to repair the equipment with tape was not seconded, noting that Cllr Giddings did not wish to take this on.

RESOLVED to accept the quotation from RPM to tape the equipment with playground rope tape at a cost of £150.00 and reassess if later found necessary. ^(Prop AG, 2nd PJ, unanimous)

4.8 (July meeting) Request for Speedwatch signage – to consider quote and how this is to be funded

RESOLVED to accept the quotation from CCC to supply and install three Speedwatch signs up to a maximum cost of £350.93. ^(Prop PJ, 2nd PA, unanimous)

Cllr Ashton left the meeting at 9.04 pm.

5. Correspondence/communications received

- 5.1 Hardwick School proposal to erect statue on land in front of the School on the corner of Limes Road
RESOLVED, that the Parish Council has no objections as long as the statue does not obstruct visibility for traffic.
- 5.2 Cricket Club request for reduced fees
RESOLVED to waive the invoiced fees of £250 for the 2019 season, given that the Club had not played any games. (Prop AG, 2nd PJ, unanimous)
- 5.2.1 Cambridge City Youth FC – request to use pitch
RESOLVED to respond that in principle the Parish Council has no objections to the use of the pitch by Cambridge City Youth FC subject to their providing their own equipment and marking out the pitch themselves, and negotiating with Hardwick Football Club regarding the use of the changing rooms. (Prop IG, 2nd PA, unanimous)
- 5.3 SCDC – offer of 3 free trees
Taken earlier.
- 5.4 St Mary’s PCC Community Hall Working Party – request to run drainage pipe under Parish Council owned land
RESOLVED given that the District Council’s conditions had not been addressed, namely that: the planning condition relating to drainage should have been satisfied before building work commenced; the proposed drain took a different route to that shown in the plans; and the need highlighted by the Drainage Officer, to demonstrate that the ditch had sufficient capacity to deal with the additional surface water, had not been satisfied, to ask a solicitor to provide guidance on how to respond to the request and to ask the applicant to provide evidence to demonstrate the capacity of the ditch. (Prop SR, 2nd AG, unanimous)
- Cllr Giddings left the meeting at 9.31 pm and returned at 9.32 pm.
- 5.5 Resident – facility booking system for Hardwick
RESOLVED to respond that the Parish Council will take a look at the scheme and consider how it could usefully be involved. (Prop PA, 2nd AG, unanimous)
- 5.6 SCDC items referred to Planning Committee and correspondence received
Noted.
- 5.7 CCC – Draft Climate Change and Environmental Strategy consultation
On a proposition by the Chairman, the meeting was briefly suspended to enable Shaun Hughes to speak.
RESOLVED to delegate to Shaun Hughes of the Climate group to complete the consultation survey and return this to the Clerk for circulation to members. (Prop AG, 2nd PJ, unanimous)
- Cllr Giddings left the meeting at 9.43 pm.
- 5.8 Greater Cambridge Partnership Local Plan Issues and Options consultation
Taken earlier. There will be an exhibition at Morrisons in Cambourne on Saturday.
- 6. Planning Applications and Decision notices and tree works applications**
- 6.1 Planning applications received since the last meeting
- 6.1.1 S/4309/19/FL – 301 St Neots Road – First floor loft conversion including raising of roof level
RESOLVED to make no recommendation. (Prop AG, 2nd PJ, unanimous)
- 6.1.2 S/4388/19/DC – Land east of Highfields Road, Highfields Caldecote – Discharge of conditions 8 (Ecology enhancement) and 10 (Badger sett) pursuant to planning appeal APP/W0530/W/16/3149854 (S/2510/15/OL)

Noted.

- 6.1.3 S/4074/19/DC – Land opposite 97 to 127 Highfields Road, Highfields Caldecote – Discharge of conditions 2 (External materials), 4 (Landscape and ecological management plan (LEMP) and 9 (Scheme to retain and improve the hedgerow) pursuant to planning permission S/4619/18/RM

Noted.

- 6.1.4 S/0119/20/PA – 8 Portway Road – Single storey rear extension

Noted.

RESOLVED to make no recommendation. (Prop AG, 2nd PJ, unanimous)

6.2 SCDC Decision Notices

- 6.2.1 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 – Permission granted.

- 6.2.2 S/3541/19/FL – 45 Meridian Close – Single storey rear, side and front extension – Permission granted.

- 6.2.3 S/3296/19/FL – 121 Limes Road – Single storey rear extension, single storey front and side extension, garage conversion – Permission granted.

- 6.2.4 S/2367/19/VC – Agricultural field west of Grace Crescent – Variation of condition 2 (Hard and soft landscaping) of S/2107/19/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 refused.

6.3 Tree Works Applications

- 6.3.1 S/10017/20/TC – 44 Main Street

RESOLVED that the Parish Council has no objections.

7. Members reports and items for information only

- 7.1 New Housing Developments and Planning Obligations

The Chairman reported that the developers had started clearing scrub from the site at St Neots Road, as the sale of the land to the developers had now gone through.

Cllr Rose reported:

- Grace Crescent is progressing with 7 properties occupied and about 12 for sale. Another payment will be due when 20 properties are occupied.
- St Neots Road – the purchase of the land has now been completed allowing matters to progress.
- Land East of Cambridge Road – Cllrs Rose and Gill and District Cllr Chamberlain had attended a meeting with the proposed developers who were seeking to have the site included in the Local Plan. The proposals were now for 400-500 houses on an area one third larger than previously discussed, and whilst no detailed plans were available, Cllr Rose had conveyed the view that this was a very different proposition and there was a great deal of opposition to this development particularly as it was in the Green Belt.

Cllr Giddings re-joined the meeting at 10.00 pm.

- Community Hall – Nothing to report. The next meeting will be held on 6 February.

- 7.1.1 To consider offer of maintenance funds for Grace Crescent Public Open Space

A proposal ^(AG) to seek a quotation from the Council's grass cutting contractors to confirm the costs was not seconded.

RESOLVED to ask SCDC S106 Officer James Fisher to go back to Hill to ask them to provide clear evidence how they arrived at the figures provided, and ask Mr Fisher to check that they are index-linked over the 10 year period. (Prop SR, 2nd AG, unanimous)

7.2 Village Plan report and to consider any actions

Taken earlier.

On a proposition by the Chairman it was agreed to take items 7.3 and 7.4 together.

7.3 Proposal that the Parish Council pays CCC the costs of attaching the MVAS to street light columns

7.4 Proposal that the Council pays for CCC to supply and install 3 posts at £200 each for MVAS in the village, sites have been agreed/approved by Highways, 2x St Neots Road, 1x Kesters

RESOLVED having considered Cllr Joslin's verbal report, to pay the charge for the installation of three posts at a cost of £200 each at three locations, namely outside 55 St Neots Road, at Kesters Close and at another location on St Neots Road. RESOLVED that the proposal in item 7.3 be withdrawn. (Prop PJ, 2nd AG, unanimous)

Cllr Ashton left the meeting at 10.32 pm.

7.5 Proposal that the Council considers Facebook complaints ref North/South Hardwick village pathway improvements work by CCC confirm planned to commence end February. Neighbouring residents will be informed by letter.

Cllr Ashton re-joined the meeting at 10.34 pm.

Complaints had been made about the condition of Millers Way. The Chairman clarified the position stating that the Parish Council had not taken control of anything but CCC had designated the route as Hardwick Footpath 6. CCC had said they would not maintain it but would be willing to do so at the Parish Council's expense subject to the consent of all landowners. This will be an agenda item for the February meeting.

7.0.6 To consider quotation for trimming round streetlights on Parish Council land

RESOLVED to accept the quotation from RH Landscapes for £375.00 plus VAT to trim vegetation around the streetlights on Parish Council land. (Prop AG, 2nd PJ, unanimous)

7.0.7 To consider request from Hardwick Football Club for two new fixed goals on the Recreation Ground

RESOLVED to respond that the Parish Council has no objections but asks that the Club clear up and remove all their old goal posts. (Prop SR, 2nd AG, unanimous)

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:

- £6 for title of land outside school gates to check if was the Parish Council's (owned by school)
- to place an order with Eastern Tree Surgery for £1250 plus VAT for the arboricultural report, being the cheapest of the three quotes received.

8.2 To receive play areas and skate park inspection reports continued

The play inspection reports were received.

RESOLVED to report to the Police that people with electric scooters were churning up the grass and causing damage on the Worcester Avenue play area, and on Egremont Road in the Sudeley Grove/Ashmead Drive area, and on Lambourn Road.

RESOLVED that that a request to replace a broken swing seat at Grenadier Walk play area with a toddler seat will be an agenda item for the next meeting and to obtain the cost in the meantime.

RESOLVED that if the broken fence at the back of the Grenadier Walk play area is the Parish Council’s fence, to delegate to the Clerk to put repair works in hand; the Chairman first having checked if the fence is the Council’s.

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 Cardiac Science (Defibrillator spares) £330.00, Parish Online (Online mapping) and LGS Services (VAT omitted from website invoice) £16.00. (Prop SR, 2nd IG, unanimous)

Salaries and Pensions	£594.90
Town & Country Tree Surgery (Tree works)	£192.00
Hardwick School (Room hire)	£114.37
LGS Services (Admin support)	£1347.80
LGS Services (Admin support)	£1315.53

Credits, including bank and investment interest, a rent payment, bank compensation and a VAT reclaim were noted.

8.4 To consider quotations for Internal Audit FY2020

RESOLVED having considered three quotations that the Parish Council would like to know more about those quoting and to defer this item to the next meeting. The Chairman will contact the Clerk.

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

There was no further business and the meeting closed at 11.01 pm.

SignedChairmandate
