


HARDWICK PARISH COUNCIL

I hereby give notice that the Meeting of the Parish Council will be held remotely due to the current pandemic on
Tuesday 28 July 2020 at 7.00 pm

To join the Zoom Meeting
<https://zoom.us/j/96942545959>
Meeting ID: 969 4254 5959
Or dial (charges apply)
0330 088 5830
0131 460 1196

The Public and Press are cordially invited to be present. The order of business may be varied.

All members of the Council are hereby summoned to attend for the purpose of considering and resolving upon the business to be transacted at the meeting as set out below.


Mrs Gail Stoehr, Clerk
21/07/20

AGENDA

Open Public Session including reports from the County & District Councillors

- 1 **To approve apologies for absence and to note the resignation of Cllr Peter Ashton**
- 2 **Declarations of interest**
 - 2.1 To receive declarations of interests from Cllrs on items on the agenda and details of dispensations held
 - 2.2 To receive written requests for dispensation and grant any as appropriate for items on this agenda
- 3 **To approve the minutes of the last meeting**
- 4 **Matters arising or deferred from the last or previous meetings for discussion/decision**
 - 4.1 (4.4) Resident – offer to fundraise for CCTV cameras
 - 4.2 (4.5) Millers Way – to consider update on land transfer and quotations for scrub clearance and lighting if received
 - 4.3 (4.7) Transfer of allotments – report on discussions with Allotment Society ^(IG)
 - 4.4 (5.5) To carry out a review of the effectiveness of the system of internal control that has been in place during the year under review (between 1 April 2019 and 31 March 2020) and consider the Internal Auditor's report
 - 4.4.1 Proposal that the Council close the Lloyds Deposit account ^(SR)
 - 4.4.2 Proposal that the Council reviews its reserves policy and considers changing it to between 1 to 2 times annual future expenditure ^(SR).
 - 4.4.3 Appointment of internal auditor for FYE 2021
 - 4.5 (5.6) To prepare the Annual Governance Statement (Section 1 of the Annual Return)
 - 4.6 (5.7) To approve the Annual Governance Statement by resolution
 - 4.7 (5.8) To consider the Accounting Statements (Section 2 of the Annual Return)
 - 4.8 (5.9) To approve the Accounting Statements by resolution
 - 4.9 (5.10) To ensure that the Accounting Statements are signed and dated by the person presiding at the meeting
 - 4.10 (6.3) Sudeley Grove unauthorised tree removal – resident's request for payment by instalments
 - 4.11 (9) Communication and engagement – proposal that the Council considers setting up a working group to review and consider improvements ^(AJ)
 - 4.12 To consider quotation and two specifications for installation of bollards at Recreation Ground
- 5 **Finance, risk assessment and procedural matters**
 - 5.1 To consider any quotes for urgent work required because of risk and the Clerk's use of delegated powers
 - 5.2 To receive play areas and skate park inspection reports and consider if any work is required
 - 5.2.1 Play area Coronavirus risk assessment – to review and consider Resident's request that the restriction on number of users is removed
 - 5.3 To receive the financial report and approve the payment of bills

* NB Some planning and tree works applications may not be specifically listed on this agenda but may still be considered by the Parish Council due to the time constraints of making a recommendation to the District Council. For more information see the current planning application consultations on <http://plan.scambs.gov.uk/>

Hardwick Parish Council meets on the fourth Tuesday in each month except December when the meeting is on the third Tuesday. Meetings are held in the School but occasionally, when the School is closed they are held in the Pavilion. Please check the notice board for the venue which is shown on the agenda for each meeting.

Mrs Gail Stoehr, Clerk to Hardwick Parish Council, 30 West Drive, Highfields Caldecote, Cambridge, CB23 7NY
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- 6. To consider any correspondence/communications received requiring a decision of the Council**
 - 6.1 Resident – complaint about trees in Blenheim Way and offer to undertake works at their own cost
 - 6.2 Resident – request that the pump be refurbished
 - 6.3 NALC – New model Code of Conduct consultation
 - 6.4 Greater Cambridge Planning - Green Infrastructure Opportunity Mapping Project survey
 - 6.5 SCDC – update on SCDC’s Planning Committee Scheme of Delegation
- 7. To consider any planning applications and decision notices and tree works applications ***
 - 7.1 Planning applications and appeals
 - 7.1.1 20/02822/HFUL – 35 Egremont Road – Single storey front extension
 - 7.1.2 20/02728/REM – Land South of 279 St Neots Road – Approval of matters reserved for appearance, landscaping, layout and scale following outline planning permission S/3064/16/OL for 155 dwellings following demolition of 2 existing dwellings
 - 7.1.3 20/02643/CL2PD – 85 Ellison Lane – Certificate of lawfulness for a rear roof dormer and front facing velux – for information only
 - 7.1.4 20/02573/HFUL – 2 Sudeley Grove – Two storey, part single storey extension
 - 7.1.5 20/02323/HFUL – 98 Main Street – Proposed new single storey extension to the rear of the property
 - 7.2 SCDC and appeal decision notices - to note
 - 7.3 Tree works applications
 - 7.3.1 20/1578/TTCA – 16 Main Street (considered between meetings) and consider procedure for approval of tree works applications
- 8. Members reports and items for information only unless otherwise stated**
 - 8.1 New Housing Developments and Planning Obligations ^(SR)
 - 8.2 Village Plan report and to consider any actions
 - 8.3 Proposed cycle scheme for Hardwick and to consider correspondence from residents ^(SR)
- 9. Closure of meeting and items for the next agenda**

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Open Public Session including reports from the County & District Councillors

1. Apologies for absence
2. Declarations of interests – members should declare their interests state why they have an interest, the type of interest held and if they have a dispensation state this and the extent of their dispensation i.e. to either speak or speak and vote. If members have a pecuniary interest, having declared an interest they must not take part in the agenda item unless they have been granted a dispensation to do so.
3. To approve the minutes of the last meeting on 23 June 2020 (attached)
4. Matters arising or deferred from the last or a previous meeting for discussion/decision
 - 4.1 (4.4) Resident – offer to fundraise for CCTV cameras

Raised at the last meeting. Nothing further has been received at the time of writing. Does the Council wish to accept the Resident’s verbal offer?
 - 4.2 (4.5) Millers Way – to consider update on land transfer and quotations for scrub clearance and lighting if received

Persimmon have indicated that they wish to transfer the land to the Parish Council before the Council undertakes any work. However Persimmon is amenable to giving the Council funds so it can arrange the road works itself.

Further to a site meeting with K&M Lighting a quote for 2 full size streetlights has been received. A quote from UKPN and contractors for scrub clearance is awaited and will be brought to the meeting if received.

Is the Parish Council agreeable to

 - 1) the change in the specification for street lighting?
 - 2) appointing K&M Lighting to supply and install the 2 street lights?
 - 3) Paying UKPN’s reasonable costs for the electricity connection?
 - 4) Receiving funds to cover the cost of installing the roadway following transfer rather than clearing the scrub and Persimmon laying the roadway?
 - 4.3 (4.7) Transfer of Allotments – report on discussions with Allotment Society

Cllr Giddings to report. He writes:

“I spoke to the chair of the allotment society, not interested in the new allotment site but as this was quite some time ago there might be a change of mind. I will speak to him again.

Before lock-down I called in to the sales office and was told that the site for the allotments was not yet marked out and would be ready towards the end of the build. I don't know how far the development has reached.
 - 4.4 (5.5) To carry out a review of the effectiveness of the system of internal control that has been in place during the year under review (between 1 April 2019 and 31 March 2020) and consider the Internal Auditor’s report

The Internal Auditor’s report has already been circulated and can be found with last month’s papers or on the website.

 - 4.4.1 Proposal that the Council close the Lloyds Deposit account^(SR)
 - 4.4.2 Proposal that the Council reviews its reserves policy and considers changing it to between 1 to 2 times annual future expenditure^(SR).

Clr Rose has written “Based on the Internal Audit report please may we discuss the following at our next meeting?

A proposal from me that we close the Lloyds Deposit account.

Discussion of the general reserves policy. The PC expenditure can vary each year both planned and unplanned and so there can be large swings on the multiple e.g. when there is a year when PC expenditure is low. In reality what we really want is a fund available for **future** general expenditure and past expenditure is only a guide to future expenditure.

Each year we budget for the following year expenditure. So why not base our policy on that – say between 1.0 and 2.0 times annual future expenditure.”
 - 4.4.3 Appointment of internal auditor for FYE 2021

- 4.5 To prepare the Annual Governance Statement (Section 1 of the Annual Return)
Section 1 has not changed from the papers circulated last month. The two items raised by Cllr Rose have been corrected and the supporting papers updated to reflect this.
- 4.6 To approve the Annual Governance Statement by resolution
- 4.7 To consider the Accounting Statements (Section 2 of the Annual Return)
- 4.8 To approve the Accounting Statements by resolution
- 4.9 To ensure that the Accounting Statements are signed and dated by the person presiding at the meeting
The AGAR and supporting papers have been sent to the Chairman to sign and return to the Clerk so they can be sent to the External Auditors and available for public inspection.

- 4.10 (6.3) Unauthorised tree removal – resident’s request for payment by instalments
The RFO advises that the Parish Council has no power to benefit a resident or to loan money to a resident. Therefore the only way forward is for the resident to either pay in full or ensure his payment account is in credit before an invoice is received and paid. The Resident has asked if he may pay the £1356 via the following installment plan:
1st payment £726 then 18 monthly payments of £35.

If the Council is agreeable to this then the Council would have received enough contributions from the resident by the time Oakes and Watson complete and invoice for their work.

Oakes and Watson have said they suggest the planting is done between October and March @ £636 gross [for October planting and invoicing received) = £761
2021 maintenance = £240 [if invoiced in September 2021 received
2022 maintenance = £240 [if invoiced Sept 2022 received 8x£35 = £280
2023 maintenance £240

Payment account

At October 2020 = £726 (August) + £35 (Sept) = £761 - £636 (1st invoice) = £125 c/f
At Sept 2021 = b/f £125 + (11x£35) = £510 - £240 (2nd invoice) = £270 c/f
At Sept 2022 = b/f £270 + (6x£35) = £480 - £240 (3rd invoice) = £240 c/f
At Sept 2023 = b/f £240 - £240 (last invoice) = 0.

Is the requested payment plan acceptable to the Council?

- 4.11 (9) Communication and engagement – proposal that the Council considers setting up a working group to review and consider improvements
Proposed at the last meeting. Cllr Joolia to report. He writes:
“I would like to propose an item for the next meeting, about: Communication and engagement: review and look into ways of making it better
I want to propose that we have a thematic group around that theme, which can then look more deeply into this. I cannot come up with a recommendation without researching and getting information. I would propose to lead that group, if all councillors agree.”

Other to note:

(8.5) Hill street lighting and CCC pavement widening

In response to the Council’s letter to Hill the following reply was received on 25 June:

“Further to your email on the 24th June to Glyn regarding the above.

We were due to start the footpath widening works this week. Unfortunately our contractors were unable to start because Cambridge Street Works advised us that Fulcrum had overrun and extended their works in Main Street and as a consequence we are unable to get our road space until the 2nd of July.

We envisage that the works will take in the region of 8 to 10 weeks, however we will do our utmost to improve on this.”

However on 6 July Cllr Rose was able to report:

“Work has started today on the footpath improvement between the Blue Lion and the Church as requested by the Parish Council of the Meridian Field developers.”

Transfer of land to the Parish Council

The outstanding parcels of land at Blenheim Way, Pippin Walk, Worcester Avenue and between Worcester Avenue and Ellison Lane have been transferred to the Parish Council by Persimmon and have finally been registered at the Land Registry.

4.12 To consider quotation and two specifications for installation of bollards at Recreation Ground

James Wakelin has provided 2 specifications for approx 50 3”x3” wooden bollards approximately 3 feet above ground. The first quote is for bollards with metal ground spike fitting the second is for concreting the posts.

The Council is reminded that its Financial Regulations requires 3 quotations if the cost is above £500. If the second specification is preferred additional quotes will be required or Financial Regulations suspended with the reason why recorded in the minutes.

5. Finance and risk assessment and procedural matters

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

The Clerk used delegated powers to:

- RoSPA play inspection repairs – Having reviewed the two quotations received the Clerk accepted the quotation from ARD playgrounds at a cost of £1509.10 as it was almost £300.00 cheaper.
- Accepted a quotation of £80.00 for the removal of piles of garden waste left at Bramley Way grass area (November meeting)
- Put work in hand for Oakes & Watson to remove tree branch from St Mary’s Play area which was overhanging an adjacent property’s garage in Main Street.

5.2 To receive play areas and skate park inspection reports and to consider if any work is required

5.2.1 Play area Coronavirus risk assessment – to review and consider Resident’s request that the restriction on number of users is removed

Following consideration of Government Guidelines for the reopening of play areas on 6th July the Clerk and Cllrs Gill and Wellbelove assessed the maximum number of users for each of the play areas and signage was installed before the play area were reopened. A Resident has contacted the Chairman to ask if the Parish Council could re-consider the regulations for opening the Egremont Rd play area.

She said that Cambourne and Histon playgrounds had no restrictions on numbers and felt that Hardwick could have the same regulations, particularly with the school holidays imminent.

It has been noted that many more than the advised number are regularly using the play area.

5.3 To receive the financial report and approve the payment of bills – attached.

6. To consider any correspondence/communications received

6.1 Resident – complaint about trees in Blenheim Way and offer to undertake works at their own cost

A resident has written:

“Our property is adjacent to Blenheim Way and the Parish Council has previously carried out some work to thin out the trees at the bottom the cul-de-sac.

These trees are now very tall and thick and block out most natural light in our lounge. They also cast a shadow on our garden until early afternoon. Please could we ask that they are reduced in height and thinned out. We have tried our best to keep them at a reasonable height but they are now beyond our control. We have also had to relocate our satellite receiver as the trees were interfering with the signal.”

The resident has been informed that “The Parish Council has recently received an arboricultural report on all its trees. The Council has now placed an order for all works including low priority works to be undertaken at the tree surgeon’s earliest convenience. The Council’s current policy is that where branches overhang a resident’s boundary that resident may cut back at their own cost to the boundary. So you may go ahead and arrange for that to be done.”

The residents have replied:

“Over the years we have used tree surgeons to keep the overhanging branches in check but when they visited last year they said the trees were getting too tall to manage. We have researched the right to light legislation and it advises to try to resolve issues at a local level first.

We would be willing to contribute to costs if that is a prohibitive factor for the Council.

We hope you will reconsider cooperating with us as we would prefer to get this sorted without resorting to legal options.”

And they have added:

“We have over the years cut the branches that overhang our fence and have twice employed tree surgeons to cut the higher branches that we could not reach. However, the trees are now so high that the tree surgeon has advised they need more extensive work, particularly with regard to their height.

I appreciate they probably haven't been identified as a problem when a survey has been carried out as they are at the end of the cul-de-sac and do not cause any obstruction to any properties in Blenheim Way. However, they are now completely blocking the light in our lounge.

Yes please to adding this item to the Council agenda if this is what needs to be done to get our request considered.

Please could you let me know when the meeting will be held and when we can expect a response. We would really like to work with the Parish Council and not have to resort to seeking legal representation under the Right to Light legislation.”

6.2 Resident - Request that the pump be refurbished

“The wood around the concrete at the base of the pump is coming away leaving some very nasty nails sticking out. Perhaps this could be mended?”

I understand that there are tree contractors around the estate. The branches of the tree next to the pump are overhanging the pump. They also overhang the pavement and the hedge of the opposite property making a dark tunnel which, when it rains, makes the pavement incredibly muddy and slippery. I did report this a few years ago but at that stage it was decided it wasn't a hazard but could that please be looked at again.”

Cllr Gill has removed the screws that were sticking out, but reported that the wood has warped and the 2 pieces don't align to re-screw together. The 2 pieces need removing and then screwing together again. The tree does overhang the path and pump but is not causing any problem to access the pathway.

The resident also complained about leaves on the path and on the pump and their garden, and has been told that they could cut back any branches overhanging their property to the boundary. The resident was referred to CCC if there is any problem with the pathway.



6.3 NALC – New model Code of Conduct consultation

“The Local Government Association (LGA) has launched a consultation on a new model member code of conduct.

High standards of conduct and behaviour are of huge importance to the local (parish and town) council sector as they are needed to protect the integrity of decision making, maintain public confidence, and safeguard local democracy.

NALC therefore strongly encourages local councils and county associations of local councils to consider the proposed new model member code of conduct and respond to the LGA consultation before the deadline of 17 August 2020.

We all know the impact that poor behaviour, bullying and harassment can have on individuals and on local councils as organisations, so it is vital we continue to work as a sector to improve standards and push for further reform, at both local and national level.

Therefore, while NALC will be responding to the consultation and engaging further with the LGA, we are also calling for further action by the government to introduce a new power for local authorities to suspend councillors for a period of up to six months, and for the Committee on Standards in Public Life to review progress on the implementation of the reports wider recommendations.”

https://www.local.gov.uk/local-government-association-model-member-code-conduct-consultation?mc_cid=53d4c29919&mc_eid=d74d311930&utm_campaign=53d4c29919-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2018_06_08_03_15_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_source=Members&utm_term=0_206970988f-53d4c29919-323654529

6.4 Greater Cambridge Planning - Green Infrastructure Opportunity Mapping Project survey

“As important stakeholders for the Greater Cambridge Green Infrastructure Opportunity Mapping Project, we would like South Cambridgeshire parishes, Cambridge Residents Associations, and

Friends of Groups to continue to help us identify opportunities to improve green infrastructure in the area. This will inform the emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan which is being developed by Cambridge City Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council.

To do this, please answer our survey [here](#) - it will be open until 27th July. If you will have a problem responding by this date please let us know. Most questions are optional, so please fill in as many as are appropriate.

The survey has two parts:

- Part 1 where we will ask you to tell us about assets, weaknesses and gaps in the green infrastructure network in Greater Cambridge, and to share your priorities.
- Part 2 where we will ask you to let us know about ongoing green infrastructure projects that your organisation is involved in or aware of. This will inform the Greater Cambridge Infrastructure Delivery Plan (the "IDP"), which will list all the infrastructure projects needed to support the local plan.

As well as the survey itself, you can view our Introductory Guide to the Green Infrastructure Opportunity Mapping Project through our [Consultation Hub](#). This explains the project's purposes, what green infrastructure is and, importantly, where you fit into the process.

At this stage we are seeking views from a focused group of stakeholders with specific knowledge and expertise in local green infrastructure. There will be many opportunities for wider feedback from residents and other people not involved at this stage of the process, so please don't feel the need to share this survey with your residents at this stage. If you are aware of other groups or organisations that you think should have been contacted as part of this survey of key stakeholders, please contact the LUC team so that the mailing list can be updated to include them.

Planning and environmental consultancy, Land Use Consultants, (LUC), is responsible for this process, working for Cambridge City Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council. If you have any questions on this study or require assistance in responding, please contact LUC at GreaterCambridgeGI@landuse.co.uk."

Greater Cambridge Planning Policy, Strategy & Economy Team
The survey can be accessed via the following link:

<https://greater-cambridge-consultation-hub-luc.hub.arcgis.com/>

6.5 SCDC – update on SCDC's Planning Committee Scheme of Delegation

"I am writing to update you on the Planning Scheme of Delegation which was debated at today's Full Council meeting. You will recall that back in February our Planning Committee agreed a constitutional change to the existing scheme and the reason for this letter is to inform you that this change has been formally accepted at today's Full Council meeting.

Before I explain what difference this change will make, I would just like to remind you that the current scheme of delegation was instigated by the previous administration at South Cambridgeshire District Council back in 2016. The reason for this was that, primarily due to there being no 5-year housing land supply at that time, the Planning Committee was overwhelmed with requests from Members and Parish Councils for planning applications to be heard by committee.

This was hardly surprising as the Council was inundated with planning applications for development outside of the existing local plan. These regrettably resulted in some thousands of houses gaining permission that had not been planned for. Since then I am glad to say we now have a 5-year housing land supply and the new shared planning service is making great strides.

Two years ago, the new administration undertook a review of the whole of the Council's constitution. The new constitution was also adopted today. There were two outcomes of the part of this review that encompassed the planning scheme of delegation.

The first was that in order to avoid any further challenges to the legality of the scheme, the Council had committed to make a small change. This change, which is the only one made today, means that the decision to take an application to the Planning Committee for determination has to be made by the Joint Director of Planning or his delegated officers in consultation with the Chair of the Planning

Committee, rather than by the Chair in consultation with officers. In practice, consideration of requests will continue to be made through a joint meeting of both the Director and Chair.

All other aspects of the scheme remain the same, including the process for requesting that applications be considered by Planning Committee, the need to provide material planning reasons for the request and the requirement for officers to provide an explanation when a request is refused. The guidance also now emphasises that, in cases which raise issues which are sensitive or controversial, the Planning Committee would normally expect the planning officer to refer the matter to the Committee.

Planning Advisory Service Review

The second outcome of the constitutional review was that a separate piece of work on the Planning Scheme of Delegation is needed before more substantive improvements could be considered. We have now commissioned the review of our Planning Committees that I informed you of earlier this year. This will be carried out by the Planning Advisory Service (PAS) and will include consideration of the customer experience, Planning Committee format and process, roles and responsibilities and the scheme of delegation, as well as a review of our call-in procedures. It will draw on best practice from other councils. It will also include consultation with Parish Councils as key participants in the process of getting good planning decisions.

We are ready to proceed with this review as soon as the PAS can facilitate it. However, they are currently experiencing delays due to the Coronavirus outbreak which is understandable.

Next steps

I am the first to acknowledge that the current process is imperfect and leaves many parish councils and district councillors dissatisfied. While we await the outcome of the PAS review, I am certain that the functioning of the current process can be optimised, and I know that the Director and his team are working hard to achieve this. I have stressed how responses to parish council requests are as full as possible and I know that a richer engagement between the Planning Service and Parish Councils, including through new area planning teams, is part of our plan for the year ahead.

Parish Councils play a particularly important and valued role in helping the Council to decide upon planning applications in South Cambridgeshire. You are closest to your communities and are able to ensure that all relevant matters are raised. We, as the planning authority, must give you full confidence that all views are fully taken into account. This can only be done by having a transparent and robust system in place.

I look forward very much to continuing to work closely with you in the best interests of our residents.”

Cllr Bridget Smith

Leader, South Cambridgeshire District Council

7.1 Planning applications and appeals

NB Some planning applications may not be specifically listed on this agenda but may still be considered by the Parish Council due to the time constraints of making a recommendation to the District Council. For more information see the current planning application consultations and appeals on <http://plan.scambs.gov.uk/swiftlg/apas/run/wchvarylogin.display>

7.1.1 20/02822/HFUL – 35 Egremont Road – Single storey front extension

7.1.2 20/02728/REM – Land South of 279 St Neots Road – Approval of matters reserved for appearance, landscaping, layout and scale following outline planning permission S/3064/16/OL for 155 dwellings following demolition of 2 existing dwellings

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7.1.4 20/02573/HFUL – 2 Sudeley Grove – Two storey, part single storey extension

7.1.5 20/02323/HFUL – 98 Main Street – Proposed new single storey extension to the rear of the property

7.2 SCDC and appeal decision notices - to note

7.2.1 20/01392/HFUL – 28 Main Street – Demolition of existing garage and the erection of a replacement oak framed timber garage with store in loft space – Permission granted.

7.2.2 20/01726/HFUL – 2A Laxton Avenue – Single storey side extension with lean-to roof – Permission granted.

7.3 Tree works applications

Tree works applications may now be viewed on the SCDC Planning Portal. NB Some tree works applications may not be specifically listed on this agenda but may still be considered by the Parish

Council due to the time constraints of making a recommendation to the District Council. For more information see the current tree works application consultations on <http://plan.scambs.gov.uk/swiftlg/apas/run/wchvarylogin.display>

7.3.1 20/1578/TTCA – 16 Main Street - (considered between meetings) and consider procedure for approval of tree works applications

It has been noticed that SCDC seems to have changed its policy about timescales for consultation on tree applications, as there have been a few instances lately where the Council has been notified of a tree works application only to find it has been approved within a couple of days or even the next day, even when a time extension until the meeting has been requested. Because of the timescales that SCDC are now working to, if the Parish Council wishes to comment on tree works, the Clerk will need to send any responses/comments using delegated powers and report to the next meeting.

On this occasion the application was referred to Cllrs Gill and Joslin who had no objections or comments, therefore there was no requirement to respond.

8. Members' reports and items for information only unless otherwise stated

8.1 New Housing Developments and Planning Obligations including St Neots Road development update

8.2 Village Plan report and to consider any actions

8.3 Proposed cycle scheme for Hardwick and to consider correspondence from residents

Cllr Rose wrote on 6 July:

“As this matter seems to be of great concern to some people in the village I am copying you below with a Facebook post today by Lina Nieto, our County Councillor and copying my fellow councillors. I ask that this matter be added to the agenda of the next Parish Council meeting. I am very concerned that such proposals and responses are being disseminated, it appears, entirely on Facebook with no apparent reference to the Parish Council. Or have I missed something? This is about officers looking at options. If the officers do think that physically segregated cycle lanes are a viable alternative how will this tie in with or differ from, the physically segregated cycle lanes proposed as part of the Cambridge to Cambourne busway?”

From Cllr Nieto:

“Good morning everyone,

Quick update on Cycle Lanes proposals:

Bus filters or Bus Gates will not be implemented along St. Neots Road.

Officers are looking to other options, physically segregated cycle lanes as the viable alternative.

Potentially this could include reducing carriageway width to allow for wider cycle lanes where possible and other interventions like tightening side road junction radiuses to provide better crossing points.

Officers still working on the details and I will share more info when I receive it.”

Cllr Joslin has written:

“I attach for your information details of the Economic and Environment Committee review which is a list of all the schemes and whether funded or not.

Please note the ones that apply to Hardwick are:-

St Neots Road Cycling upgrade - TIP no. 123

Hardwick Village footpath upgrade TIP no. 143

If we need any more Highways improvements which go beyond the costs of LHI, and not PFHI, this is the place to get them accepted

Personally I am pleased that Lina is now involved and hope that in time she will clarify exactly what is intended.”

Details of schemes being looked at attached.

Correspondence from residents received in response to the Facebook postings:

1) “We’re you aware of this? Why weren’t we told and what are you going to do about this hair brained idea that will cause maximum congestion and increase through traffic in our village?

****Imminent long-term closure of St Neots Road to all vehicles except buses and bikes****

Not many people may be aware but the County Council is preparing to close St Neots Road to all vehicles except buses and bikes with two bus gates, one located at the East of Hardwick and one located between Caldecote and Bourn.

A wider cycle lane would be introduced along the short stretch of St Neots Road through Hardwick. This will effectively close access to Long Road and Madingley roundabout to all cars via St Neots Road.”

2) “I am writing regarding the proposed changes to the traffic on St Neots Road in Hardwick as a part of the Spaces to Breathe campaign. I would like to say at the outset that I think this is a totally unjustifiable change with no positive benefit for the cyclist that could not be obtained by simpler means and with no substantial negative for the residents. Implementation without consultation would, in my view, be utterly indefensible and a cause for judicial review. The fact that there is money available from the government is not a reason to spend it. Such an approach is simply a breach of trust with tax payers.

1. I am concerned that the proposed plans do not address the barriers to cycling from Cambourne/ Hardwick into Cambridge that could not be achieved by other and cheaper means.

To understand this the first question is ‘what are the barriers to cycling along the current route?’ Well none actually. The current cycle path is quite adequate. I have never seen a traffic jam of bicycles on it and anyway it could be made 3 times wider simply by using the grass verge and part of the road. This road is more than 3 cars wide so there is plenty of space for cars and cycles without stopping either.

2. I also think that the plans will have a negative impact on congestion along Cambridge Road Hardwick and thus, will decrease road safety in the village and dissuade people from cycling in the village.

The A428 is dreadfully busy in the mornings with queues to exit at Madingley. The plan for Bourne Airfield development is already to force exiting traffic to join the A428 at the Hardwick junction just to save the developer some money. The likelihood is that much of that traffic would continue on St. Neots Road to get to the Madingley Mulch in order to avoid the queue on the A428. Much of this will turn down the Cambridge Road. Now adding a bus gate near Long Road will force all such traffic down Cambridge Road. We will see more speeding along Cambridge Road during the day and evening plus more congestion at peak times. This will decrease road safety for everyone in Hardwick. Also consider the number of children cycling in to Comberton in the morning and competing for road space with racing traffic where there is no cycle path at all. A fatality is almost certain.

3. In addition, more traffic that would have travelled along St Neots Road from the West will be forced to go to Madingley Roundabout and access Long Road from the East. This will result in an increased number of cars (non-local plus extra local traffic) coming off the Madingley Road and they will have right of way turning into Long Road. More hazards for cyclists to cross Long Road junction.

The main point here is that there are safer, cheaper and simpler solutions including the following:

- i) Traffic calming throughout Hardwick (including St. Neots Road), which the residents have requested would reduce ‘through traffic’.
- ii) Creating a priority lane for cyclists along St. Neots Road to Madingley Mulch roundabout taking around one third of the current road width (including the current green verge and cycle path). There is far more space than is needed to create a safe journey for all.
- iii) A safe cycleway around Madingley Mulch.

I am therefore making my objection to the current plan in the strongest possible terms.

Implementation without consultation is what causes the greatest distrust of elected officials. I trust that you will take this issue up with the appropriate county officials.”

9. Closure of Meeting and items for the next agenda

The developers for Bourn Airfield have requested a meeting with the Parish Council to discuss their proposals. An extra-ordinary meeting has been arranged for Tuesday 4 August at 7.00 pm via Zoom.

To join the Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/92585814685>

Meeting ID: 925 8581 4685

Proposal to create a working group on *Communication and Engagement*, which would include as part of its objectives:

- Review the means of internal and external communication, and see if there are ways these could be improved, or done more efficiently.
- Look at the information being shared out to the public and fill the gaps for anything missing, or which could be added, or could be formulated in better ways.
- Research and investigate other modes of communication which would benefit the community - this might involve:
 - hearing about experiences from others,
 - encouraging potential new ideas.
 - finding out how other Parish councils communicate and engage
- Look into ways to improve engagement from the HPC to the village and vice versa
- Instigate ways to get villagers interested in joining/working closely with the HPC
- Work closely with the “webmaster” to help improve the quality of the information from the HPC.
- Review the data protection/security aspects of communication channels/data sharing and ensure it’s all being done properly

The Working Group (WG) will report back to the HPC regularly, if/when there are recommendations to be made with respect to the above points. The WG would most likely also be liaising closely with the Councillors, and the Parish Clerk, for helping gather more information about matters concerning the above points.

HARDWICK PARISH COUNCIL MONTHLY FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Jul-20

Summary of previous month

Balance brought forward **£376,700.27**

Adjustments and amendments

Expenditure approved at last meeting/between meetings

W LEWIS	INTERNAL AUDIT	-340.00
UNITY TRUST	SERVICE CHARGE	-18.00

Misc credits

UNITY TRUST	INTEREST	0.02
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Total Adjustments -357.98

Balance revised after adjustments £376,342.29

Bank Reconciliation to last statement

Account	Funds	Statement	Outstanding
Unity Trust Current Acc	252,160.76	255,475.15	-3314.39
Lloyds Current Account	0.00	0.00	
Lloyds Business Account	546.44	546.44	
Cambridge Counties Bank	95,635.09	95,635.09	
NS&I Bonds	28,000.00	28,000.00	
Total	376,342.29	379,656.68	-3,314.39

Expenditure for approval

		£
SSE	STREETLIGHT ELECTRICITY - JUNE	82.75
AMA	ARCHITECT FEE	2832.00
SCDC	LITTER AND BIN EMPTYING	156.00
CHRIS FULLER	REIMBURSE WEEDKILLER & MOSS TREATMENT	52.74
SALARIES		395.42
LGS SERVICES	ADMIN SUPPORT	1,366.40

Total expenditure 4885.31

Balance c/f £371,456.98

Notes:

Late invoices will be brought to the meeting