

Hardwick Parish Council
Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday 24 November 2020 at 7.00 pm
Held remotely via Zoom due to the current pandemic

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

In attendance: 8 members of the public including Ruth Edge (Co-ordinator, Hardwick Network) John O'Donnell (Project Engineer, Highway Projects, CCC), District Cllr Grenville Chamberlain and Mrs C Newton (Minutes Secretary, LGS Services).

Open public session including reports from the County and District Councillors

District Cllr Chamberlain reported on:

- The Cambourne to Cambridge busway. The Mayor had been unable to get support for a route to the north of the A428. The possibility of a route along St Neots Road would almost certainly proceed. An environmental assessment would take place followed by a consultation. This was a worry for the village. Discussions were taking place behind the scenes and residents were urged to make their views known and heard.
- The Call for Sites. Sufficient land for 215,000 potential new homes had been put forward for the Local Plan to 2031. The requirement was for between 4000 - 35,000 over the life of the plan. The list had not yet received consideration but had caused concern everywhere. The consultation would be in summer 2021.
- The Chief Constable's announcement to cut PCSOs by 50%. There was concern about anti-social behaviour around the villages, a view shared by the prospective candidate for Police and Crime Commissioner.

A resident spoke to her correspondence and asked what the Parish Council would be doing to gauge reaction on the Call for Sites and the Local Plan. It would be necessary to prepare well in advance so as not to rush community engagement. The Council was asked if it intended to support and address residents' concerns.

Another resident spoke to her correspondence and commented that following a straw poll on Facebook 200 residents did not support further development in the village. The Parish Council was asked to give residents assurance and represent the views of the village.

In response to a query about tree works applications, it was explained that these were now often agreed by SCDC before the Parish Council could meet, and had probably already been given permission.

The Co-ordinator of Hardwick Network expressed an interest in being involved with the Age UK initiative for Community Warden Schemes.

1. To receive apologies for absence

None.

2. Declarations of interest

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

Cllr Rose declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 6.1 as a life member of the Football Club.

Cllr Joslin declared an interest as a resident of St Neots Road and in any LHI schemes that would be near her house.

Cllrs Rose, Wellbelove, Everitt and Giddings declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 4.1.3 as members of Hardwick Sports and Social Club.

- 2.2 To receive written requests for dispensation and grant any as appropriate for items on this agenda
None.
3. **To approve the minutes of the last meeting on 27 October**
RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting on 27 October be approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record. (Prop PJ, 2nd AE, unanimous)
4. **Matters arising or deferred from the last or previous meetings for discussion/decision**
On a proposition by the Chairman, the order of business was varied.
- 4.9 LHI 2020/2021 Give Way features – to consider updated scheme from CCC
John O'Donnell of CCC outlined the options for the revised scheme for give way features in Cambridge Road and answered questions from the Council. Mr O'Donnell hoped that the work could be programmed to coincide with the footway work.
RESOLVED to accept option 2 for a give way feature on the southbound side opposite 33-35 Cambridge Road, and a give way feature on the northbound side outside 23 Cambridge Road, and to ask CCC to proceed to the next stage. (Prop AG, 2nd PJ, unanimous)
- 8.1 New Housing Developments and Planning Obligations
Cllr Everitt spoke to the previously circulated Highways and Road Safety Working Group report of 16 November and questions were asked of John O'Donnell about: Condition 28 for the new St Neots Road development, the upgrade to the north-south footpath and lighting; and traffic calming.
Cllr Rose's previously circulated report was noted.
RESOLVED to seek clarification from Mia Cassey as to the funding for the community bus as she is leading this project.

There will be another meeting of the Hardwick Community Centre Working Group on Thursday to discuss the architects' amendments.
- 4.1 (4.2) Hardwick Happenings – Proposal that each Councillor/Working Group provides timely content to the Communications Working Group, say at least two days before the closing date for the HH editorial closing date usually 15th of the month
RESOLVED that the Communications Working Group should place two pages of information on each Parish Council meeting in Hardwick Happenings, along with a short report on Facebook. The reports are to be written by Cllrs Everitt and Joslin with input from other members. (Prop AE, 2nd PJ, unanimous)
The Chairman stressed that any input should be confined to items resolved at the meeting and checked by the Chairman before publication to ensure accuracy.
- 4.2 (4.4) To consider a policy on requests for tree works
RESOLVED having considered policies from other parish councils as examples, to seek permission from Huntingdon Town Council to use their policy as a basis and that Cllr Rose should check and draft an amendment to take into account trees around street lights the adopted policy will then be published on the website. (Prop SR, 2nd PJ, unanimous)
- 4.3 (4.8) Village website – to receive report and recommendation
- 4.3.1 Proposal that the Parish Council approve the next phase of this work, which would involve the webmaster appointing a service provider, about redesign of the website
RESOLVED that the proposal be approved. (Prop AJ, 2nd AG, unanimous)
- 4.3.2 Proposal that the Parish Council approve a budget of £400, which would cover the redesign and some content migration

RESOLVED that the proposal be approved. (Prop AJ, 2nd AG, unanimous)

4.3.3 Proposal the Parish Council appoint the webmaster to lead this development, in collaboration with the Comms WG

RESOLVED that the proposal be approved with the addition of “and residents.” (Prop AJ, 2nd AG, unanimous)

4.4 (8.3) Proposal that the Parish Council considers the installation of a defibrillator

RESOLVED to obtain further information and defer this item to a future meeting.

4.5 (8.3) Proposal that the Parish Council considers future use of the former telephone kiosk in Main Street

RESOLVED noting that the refurbishment of the kiosk was still unfinished, that the Communications Group should seek the views of the village and to defer this item to a future meeting.

4.6 (8.4) Temporary cycle scheme and mixed use path

RESOLVED to note the information received.

4.7 (9) Proposal that the Council seek quotations for the admin support contract

RESOLVED on a proposition by the Chairman to take this item at the end of the meeting.

4.8 To consider quotation for pond maintenance

RESOLVED to accept the quotation from RH Landscapes for £468.00 plus VAT. (Prop AG, 2nd PJ, unanimous)

4.9 LHI 2020/2021 Give Way features – to consider updated scheme from CCC

Taken earlier.

4.10 Operation London Bridge – final recommendation on the procedure from the Working Group and whether the Council should purchase a photo frame to go with the condolence book and will follow the other recommended procedure detailed in Operation London Bridge

RESOLVED to purchase a photo frame and two books of condolence. (Prop AG, 2nd PJ, unanimous)

4.11 (4.5) CCC – Community Gritting Scheme invitation to apply – update

RESOLVED to send details of the scheme to a resident who is on the list of gritting volunteers.

4.12 Deed of variation – Grace Crescent, Hardwick – to consider the Parish Council paying Hills £600 legal costs

RESOLVED to seek clarification on the request before responding. At 8.45 pm Cllr Rose left the meeting and returned a few seconds later.

4.13 To consider the results of the Pavilion survey if received and quotations for the pavilion doors

RESOLVED to seek detailed itemised quotations for all the work specified in the survey report and to defer this item to the next meeting.

RESOLVED to check the tenancy agreement to clarify the respective responsibilities of landlord and tenant. (Prop SR, 2nd AG, unanimous)

RESOLVED, having considered two quotations for the Pavilion doors, to seek one additional quotation and to clarify whether both quotations are for fire doors and seek a breakdown of the works from one of the contractors.

5. **Finance, procedure and risk assessment**

- 5.1 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 delegated powers as follows:
- to accept a quotation from RH Landscapes to prune back trees at the recreation ground and crown lift overhanging trees at £395.00 plus VAT, in response to the Parish Council overlooking agenda item 4.6 at its last meeting and Simeon Carroll (Highway Supervisor) reporting a complaint from one of the bus drivers and requesting remedial works be carried out urgently to prune any low branches and vegetation being cut back sufficiently to allow pedestrians to use the full width of the footway.
- 5.2 To receive play areas and skate park inspection reports and consider if any work is required
RESOLVED that whilst a ramp installed by youths at the skate park is up against the bank, no action is necessary at this time as it does not move.
RESOLVED noting that the recent rivet repairs are failing due to the frequency of replacement and vibrations from the equipment, to enquire whether spot welds would be feasible.
RESOLVED to check whether a disclaimer notice is required, as safety is paramount.
- 5.3 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 Searle Building Surveyors (survey) £750.00, Command Pest Control (wasp nest visit) £66.00 and Town and Country Tree Surgery (tree survey work priority A,B and C and additional works) £7,014.00. (Prop PJ, 2nd AG, unanimous)
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| Salaries and pensions | £620.04 |
| RPM (Playground repair) | £156.00 |
| RH Landscapes (Branches overhanging highway) | £474.00 |
| LGS Services (Admin support Oct 20) | £1332.26 |
| PKF Littlejohn (External audit) | £960.00 |
| Mel Pooley (Rec vertidrain) | £275.00 |
| SSE (Street light electricity) (DD) | £85.12 |
- RESOLVED to note the following payments made between meetings:
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| Scouts (Grant) | £500.00 |
| Hardwick Happenings (Grant) | £1000.00 |
- Credits, including a resident's contribution towards trees, were noted.
- 6. Correspondence/communications received**
- 6.1 Hardwick FC – Suggestions for a memorial to Ann Lofty
RESOLVED to ask the Football Club for clarification on what they would like to do in the light of the money collected before considering this further at a future meeting.
- 6.2 Resident – Luton Airport changes affecting Hardwick
RESOLVED that the Communications Working Group should inform residents that the Parish Council is not in favour of the changes and objects to the current proposals. (Prop AE, 2nd IG, unanimous)
- 6.3 CamBed RailRoad – Proposal for alternative route for Oxford-Cambridge railway
RESOLVED to respond that they need not attend a meeting.
- 6.4 Resident – Questions on the Local Plan proposed sites for Hardwick
RESOLVED to note a workshop on 1 December and a meeting of Greater Cambridge Planning on 2 December, after which more information will be available and will be reported to the next meeting.

The meeting was briefly suspended to enable a resident to speak. The resident referred to the Facebook signatures gathered within 24 hours and urged the Parish Council to listen to residents. The resident was assured that the Parish Council would listen and take residents’ views into account when more information was to hand, but until then it was not possible to argue a case where there was nothing to argue against.

District Cllr Chamberlain explained that the criteria for selection had not yet been finalised and reiterated that villagers’ views would be listened to. He recommended that a neighbourhood plan should be put in place.

RESOLVED to defer this item to the next meeting.

At 9.45pm, on a proposition by the Chairman, RESOLVED that the remaining items plus item 4.7 be adjourned to a meeting be held on Tuesday 8 December at 7.00 pm when any new business may also be discussed.

9. Closure of meeting and items for the next agenda

There was no further business and the meeting closed at 9.46 pm.

SignedChairmandate

