

Hardwick Parish Council
Meeting held on Tuesday 25 March 2014 in the School at 7.45 pm

Present: Councillors: I Storr (Chairman), P Joslin, C Oakes, A Gill, R Worland, J Stewart, and J Humphries.

In attendance: 7 members of the public, including Mel Pooley, Sue Burnham (Hardwick Harriers), and Chris Fuller (Cricket Club) and Mrs A Griffiths (Minutes Secretary, LGS Services).

1. To approve apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Freeman (prior commitment).

2. Declaration of interests

2.1 To receive declarations of interests from councillors on items on the agenda

Cllr Stewart declared an interest in Item 4.5 as his son is a member of the Football Club committee.

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

None.

2.3 To grant any requests for dispensations as appropriate

None.

Open public session including reports from the County and District Councillors

Mel Pooley, an expert on sports surfaces, explained the limitations of sand banding as a form of drainage and outlined the need for a rotating programme of aeration/decompaction and overseeding which would be more effective for dealing with surface water and therefore more appropriate for sports surfacing. The importance of carrying out the procedures at the right time of year was emphasised. It was recommended that over-seeding of the pitches with special rye grass be carried out within the next 3-4 weeks and decompaction with shock wave treatment should take place in October. Mr Pooley outlined his role with Sport England in promoting improvements to community pitches and explained that substantial savings could be made by using the machinery subsidised by Sport England.

The Parish Council explained that its resources had to cover the whole community but regarded the encouragement of physical recreation as positive for youth and health promoting for anyone wishing to use the recreation ground.

On a proposition by the Chairman, it was agreed to vary the order of business to take item 4.5 at this point.

4.5 (5.1) Hardwick Harriers Football Club – discussion regarding the condition of the sports pitches and to consider what work might be required

RESOLVED unanimously to accept the quotation of £350 from Mel Pooley to carry out decompaction with shock wave treatment in October for both pitches. ^(Prop JS, 2nd PJ)

RESOLVED unanimously to accept the quotation from Mel Pooley for £250 to carry out the overseeding. Three quotes for the supply of 24 x 20 kg bags of Lolium perennium grass seed are to be obtained for the next meeting and Mr Pooley is to be informed when the seed arrives. Mr Pooley offered his guidance with setting up a rotating programme. It was also recommended that the grass on the recreation ground should ideally be cut to a length of 30 mm in winter and 20 mm in summer. The Chairman will raise this with the contractor.

A representative of the senior football club expressed the club's gratitude to the Parish Council for its efforts to improve the pitch.

Mr Chris Fuller thanked the Council for nominating him for a SCDC Village Hero Award and was congratulated for being a runner up.

Six members of the public left the meeting.

3. To approve the minutes of the previous meeting on 25 February 2014

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting on 25 February 2014 be unanimously approved ^(Prop PJ 2nd JS), and signed by the Chairman, after the following amendments:

On Page 338, delete the first paragraph and replace with the following paragraph: "Cllr Jim Stewart reported that he had attended the recent Planning Portfolio Holder's meeting at which the draft Local Plan had been considered. The site to the rear of the bungalows on St Neots Road, Hardwick, had been put forward late in the consultation period and had been dismissed by the planning officers as in their view the promoters had not put forward compelling evidence of need. Cllr Stewart had informed the PPF meeting that the recent Housing Needs Survey by Cambridgeshire ACRE had indicated an immediate need for 44 affordable homes in the village. The PPF had suggested that the Parish Council might consider bringing the scheme forward as an Exception Site."

Under Item 8.1, to read "Cllr Storr" and "a quote of £158.60 had been received."

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

4.1 (4.1) SCDC Housing Needs Survey to consider what if any action is required

It was noted that the District Council might support development of the Hall Drive/St Neots Road site if the affordable housing requirement of 44 homes were to form part of the application. Although the earlier application had been refused by the planners, and the site was outside the village framework, it was felt that with the inclusion of affordable housing, the site might be regarded as an exception site, and that it might be of interest to the developer while meeting the need for affordable housing in the village. It was noted that the newly agreed City Deal would include a requirement for 1000 affordable homes in South Cambridgeshire within the first year, and the District Council were seeking exception sites.

On a proposition by the Chairman, at 8.45 pm the meeting was briefly suspended to allow public comment. A resident commented that there was opposition to large scale development in the village. It was stated that full consultation by the District Council would take place before any development could take place.

The remaining member of the public left the meeting.

RESOLVED unanimously to ask the District Council to reconsider the proposal from the Hardwick Housing Consortium with a view to linking this with the ACRE Housing Needs Survey showing evidence of a need for affordable housing in the village. ^(Prop JS, 2nd PJ) A letter is to be sent with a copy to Andrew Campbell and ACRE.

Cllr Stewart was invited to report in his capacity as District Councillor. He reported on:

- the background to the District Council's approval for the Local Plan to be submitted to the Secretary of State, who would in due course appoint an Inspector. Members of the public would then have the opportunity to submit their views to the Inspector.
- The Greater Cambridge City deal whereby Government grant funding of £500M had been secured to enable continued growth of the economy. This will be received in three tranches and would entail improvements to transport (the A428 corridor and A10), as well as the requirement to find sites for 1000 homes between 2015 and 2019.

- 4.2 SCDC response to request for dog bin at St Neots Road – the Parish Council to consider if it will pay for a bin and the emptying itself
RESOLVED to accept the response from SCDC that there were already four dog bins along St Neots Road, and therefore there was no need for a further dog bin.
- 4.3 CCC response regarding yellow lines – to consider if the Council wishes to go ahead with just two areas rather than three
The response from CCC was noted. RESOLVED unanimously that The Parish Council wishes to proceed with yellow lines in all three areas on safety grounds. ^(Prop PJ, 2nd AG)
- 4.4 (4.4) Minor Improvement Scheme bid for improvement work to Cahills Corner – to consider the response from CCC and the next steps
RESOLVED unanimously to contact Skanska and seek a quote for a preliminary design and the cost of a scheme. ^(Prop AG, 2nd RW)
RESOLVED unanimously to write to the Highways Department reporting a large pothole in the pavement between the Church and the pub and the deterioration of the road surface between Cahills Corner and the Church. ^(Prop AG, 2nd RW)
- 4.5 (5.1) Hardwick Harriers Footbll Club – discussion regarding the condition of the sports pitches and to consider what work might be required
Taken earlier.
- 4.6 (5.4.2) St Mary’s Church grass cutting
The requests from St Mary’s Church were considered and, in accordance with its powers under Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972, it was agreed that the Council donate a total sum of £1769.91 to St Mary’s Church, composed of £305 (being approximately half the grass cutting costs of £609.84) plus £1464.91 (being the cost of the insurance), which, in the opinion of the Council is in the interests of the area and its inhabitants. The cheque is to be released at the April meeting ^(Prop RW, 2nd JH).
- 5. Correspondence/communications received**
- 5.1 SCDC – outcome of complaint against four Parish Council members – no further action as the four councillors do not appear to have breached the Code of Conduct or acted improperly in any way
Noted.
- 6. Planning Applications and Decision notices**
- 6.1 Planning applications received since the last meeting
- 6.1.1 S/0421/14/FL – The Annex, 29A Ashmead Drive – Change of use of annexe to a one bedroom dwelling
RESOLVED to recommend refusal with the comments that “This was approved as an annexe, not as a separate dwelling, and should remain as an annexe.” ^(Prop JS, 2nd AG)
- 6.1.2 S/0561/14/FL – Scout and Guide Headquarters, Egremont Road - Erection of a Guide and Scout Building following demolition of existing structure
Cllr Humphries declared an interest as Assistant Scout Leader. RESOLVED to recommend approval. ^(Prop AG, 2nd CO, carried with 1 abstention)
- 6.2 SCDC Decision Notices
- 6.2.1 S/2712/13/AD – 175 St Neots Road – display of double sided totem style sign with external illumination – Permission granted by SCDC with conditions.
Noted. The Parish Council wished to seek clarification whether there was a deadline by which the old signs were to be taken down.

- 6.2.2 S/0036/13/FL – 14 Bramley Way – Two storey front extension and single storey rear extension – Permission granted by SCDC.
Noted.
- 6.3 Tree Works
None.
7. **Members reports and items for information only**
None.
8. **Finance, procedure and risk assessment**
- 8.0 To sign the Pavilion lease
Correspondence from the solicitors and the Clerk’s advice was noted. RESOLVED (Prop IS 2nd AG unanimous) to sign the lease, after adding under Clause 2f after “Service Media” the words “excluding CCTV”. The lease was signed by the Chairman and Vice-Chairman. RESOLVED that a bill for the rent should be sent once the copy of the lease signed by both parties is received.
- 8.1 To consider any quotes for urgent work required because of risk
RESOLVED to arrange for the immediate removal of an almost dead tree leaning against a fence between Sudeley Grove and Ashmead Drive (Prop AG 2nd PJ)
- 8.2 To receive play area and skate park inspection reports
No work was required. Cllr Humphries will forward her report on the skate park.
- 8.3 The Council to consider the implications of the repeal of Section 150(5) of the Local Government Act 1972 and its safe and efficient arrangements for the safeguard of public money
Noted. RESOLVED to continue with the present arrangements.
- 8.4 To receive the financial report and approve the payment of bills
RESOLVED to receive the financial report and the invoices and bank statements being checked before the cheques were signed at the end of the meeting. The payments as listed in the finance report, plus Noel Hart (Remove notice board) £40.00, CGM (Bus shelter repair) £168.00 and Hardwick Christian Fellowship (S137 donation) £650.00 were unanimously approved for payment (Prop PJ, 2nd JS).
- | | |
|---|----------|
| Victoire Press (Hardwick Happenings) | £608.00 |
| Grounds by Rounds (Grounds maintenance) | £303.01 |
| LGS Services (Salt spreaders) | £127.27 |
| LGS Services (Admin Support) | £1439.52 |
| Salaries | £316.61 |
| HMRC (PAYE/NIC) | £133.00 |
| S Marcus (Hardwick Happenings) | £40.00 |
| CCC (Streetlight electricity) | £810.64 |
| SCDC (Trade Waste) Direct Debit | £107.60 |
9. **Members items for the next agenda and for the Clerk’s information and Closure of meeting**
A flashing light in Limes Road is now not working.
Enquiries are to be made as to when a taped-up broken light fixture on the pathway at the Skate Park is to be repaired and put back.
A considerable increase in dog excrement on pavements was noted. This issue is to be included in the Chairman’s Annual Report.

A large crack in the back wall of the bus shelter in St Neots Road was reported. Urgent checks are to be arranged to ascertain whether this is dangerous and quotations for the replacement of the bus shelter are to be obtained for the next meeting.

The Community Association AGM had recently taken place. The School car park is to be re-surfaced and re-marked in the summer holidays. The Community Coffee Shop is to start running in June. A user group committee has been set up. Cllr Humphries will attend meetings. Ruth French has taken over as Chairman of the Community Association from Alan West who has stepped down. The affiliation fee is to rise from £15.00 to £45.00 per annum.

There was no further business and the meeting closed at 10.00 pm.

SignedChairmandate.

APPROVED