

Hardwick Parish Council
Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday 22 August 2017
in the School at 7.00 pm

Present: Councillors: A Gill (Chairman), P Joslin, S Rose, T Bhachu, B Skingle and J Humphries.

In attendance: 21 members of the public including District Cllr G Chamberlain, and Mrs A Griffiths (Minutes Secretary, LGS Services).

Open public session including reports from the County and District Councillors

Residents made the following points on the options for the proposed bus route and Park and Ride sites:

- A resident spoke in favour of an on-road bus route along St Neots Road, which would minimise disruption to the village and St Neots Road residents; any route north of the A428 would involve access and safety issues, deter users and increase car traffic along St Neots Road.
- With regard to the route between St Neots Road and the A428, concerns were expressed at a lack of consultation and disappointment that the Parish Council had supported this route.
- Concerns were also expressed that there was not enough space for a designated bus route along St Neots Road, with insufficient room at the eastern end of St Neots Road in particular, and nowhere for pedestrians to go. As it was, St Neots Road was not wide enough for buses to pass cycles. An increase in traffic and incidents was predicted. The resident advocated a dedicated cycle route or upgrade to the existing pavement, and that any on-road solution should include a designated cycle route.
- Concerns were expressed about the environmental impact.
- Disappointment was expressed that the Parish Council did not appear to be supporting the St Neots Road residents.
- It was felt that a Park and Ride site near Hardwick would encourage people to use their cars to come through Hardwick, and a bottleneck would be caused at the top of Madingley Hill. It was suggested that commuters from Cambourne and to the west could access buses at Cambourne, and Hardwick residents could continue to use the Citi 4 service.

The Chairman reiterated that the Parish Council had reached a decision in December based on the information available at that time, but the situation had subsequently changed, with other proposals coming forward. The Parish Council had based its then decision on the maximum benefit for Hardwick.

Residents also expressed concerns at:

- the possibility of the trees being removed to make way for a concrete busway;
- the frequency of buses, possibly 9 per hour each way;
- the possibility of the fast bus option not stopping in Hardwick;
- the undesirability of waiting for buses beyond the blue bridge in the dark.
- the lack of speed awareness and speed deterrent signage; action was urged to implement speed reduction strategies.

The Chairman conveyed the apologies of District Cllr Chamberlain who was attending a workshop on the Park and Ride options. The District Councillor's written report was read out by the Chairman. This covered a meeting attended by Cllrs Chamberlain and Joslin on the proposed bus routes and Park and Ride sites. There had been much opposition to both the on and off road bus routes, and no agreement on the best option. It was understood that the Citi 4 service would continue to run but probably at longer intervals.

Cllr Chamberlain stated that the choice of Park and Ride location was critical due to the potential impact on Hardwick. The four proposed Park and Ride site options were at Crome Lea, the water tower, Scotland Farm and Bourn Airfield/Cambourne. The main issues relating to each site were outlined, including the following:

- the need for at least 9 buses per hour to take people from the area to centres of employment, resulting in a bus passing every three to four minutes, but which might not provide sufficient capacity for the anticipated 8000 plus new homes.
- Environmental and ecological issues such as the loss of the tree and hedge barrier
- Visible for miles around
- Long traffic queues around the site, causing congestion in Hardwick
- Distances from centres of employment

Cllr Chamberlain advocated an alternative solution of a Park and Ride site located adjacent to the Girton interchange, and outlined the benefits of this route, which would provide the necessary links, minimise environmental damage, and should not cause disruption to communities. Cllr Chamberlain intends to promote this option with the Director of Transport.

A decision on which Park and Ride sites are to be considered will be made in September and a report on each produced and submitted to the Greater Cambridge Partnership next summer. A full public consultation will then take place.

Cllr Chamberlain urged the Parish Council to reconsider its previous decision.

The previously circulated written report of County Cllr Joseph, who was not present, was taken as read.

1. To approve apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Wellbelove (out of parish) and District Cllr Chamberlain.

2. To consider any applications to fill the casual vacancy

None.

3. Declaration of interests

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

Cllr Joslin declared an interest in the bus route as a resident of St Neots Road.

Cllr Skingle declared an interest in item 7.1.2 as he lives within 400 metres of the proposed site.

Cllr Gill declared an interest in item 8.1 as a member of the trustees of the Community Hall and the existence of his dispensation.

3.2 To receive written and grant any requests for dispensation as appropriate for items on this agenda

None.

4. To approve the minutes of the previous meeting on 25 July 2017

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting on 25 July be approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record, after deleting the words "with regards to" under item 7.3, line 2. (Prop SR, 2nd PJ, unanimous)

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

5.1 (10) Review of busway route and Park and Ride location

RESOLVED that the agenda item be carried forward to next month and subsequent agenda if necessary in order to obtain as much information as possible before making a decision, as insufficient information was available about the routes and how traffic would approach and access the different sites; to await the detailed plans when produced by the Greater Cambridge Partnership and comment on them within the public consultation.

RESOLVED that Cllr Humphries should place a report and links on the website to enable residents to familiarise themselves with the current position.

RESOLVED to write to Cllr Francis Burkitt, Chair of the Greater Cambridge Partnership assembly, stating that the Parish Council supports the current technical evaluations currently taking place on the route options and Park and Ride locations, and looks forward to receiving the results, dependent on which the Parish Council will respond to the subsequent consultation. (Prop SR, 2nd PJ, unanimous)

5.2 (5.1) Community Transport initiative – to consider correspondence and advice received and consider the next steps

RESOLVED having considered advice from SCDC, CAPALC and Cambridgeshire ACRE, given that a response was still awaited from HMRC, to await their advice before proceeding.

RESOLVED that Cllr Humphries as trustee should ask Martin Cassey if the Village Plan survey response data relating to the community bus could be provided to the Parish Council as underpinning evidence for a decision. (Prop AG, 2nd PJ, unanimous)

5.3 (5.6) Hardwick Church – query whether Hardwick Parish Council is an eligible Parish Council with regard to the Localism Act S8 and whether it can give money to the Church

RESOLVED to note the advice from NALC that the Parish Council is not permitted to give money to the Church and must comply with the 1894 Local Government Act. Cllr Humphries will place a note in Hardwick Happenings.

5.4 (June) To consider quotations for Internal Auditor for FY ending 31 March 2018

RESOLVED having considered four quotations, to accept the quotation from LCPAS for £200.00 plus VAT. (Prop PJ, 2nd JH, unanimous)

6. Correspondence/communications received

6.1 Herts and Cambs Ground Maintenance – problems with low hanging trees

RESOLVED to ask Herts and Cambs Ground Maintenance to specify the areas involved, how many trees are involved, and where they are, whereupon the Parish Council will proceed to obtain quotations for a clearance of 2 metres under every tree within the designated areas. (Prop BS, 2nd PJ, unanimous)

6.2 Resident request for barrier in the Ellison Lane/Pershore Road passage to prevent anti-social behaviour by youths on mopeds and make the area safer for local residents

RESOLVED that Cllr Gill should contact County Cllr Lina Joseph to seek advice as to what measures should be put in place, and to update the resident accordingly. (Prop SR, 2nd PJ, unanimous)

On a proposition by the Chairman, it was agreed to vary the order of business to take item 8.3 at this point.

8.3 Proposal that the Parish Council adopts a policy that any resident requesting tree branches are cleared back from their boundary may do so themselves

RESOLVED to adopt the policy that any resident requesting tree branches to be cleared back from their boundary may cut them back themselves to the boundary, and either remove the branches or leave them in situ by the tree. (Prop AG, 2nd JH, unanimous)

- 6.3 18A Ellison Lane – request that large tree on Parish Council land on the verge/grassed area next to the fence of the property is cut back

RESOLVED to respond to the resident that they may cut back the overhanging branches to their boundary themselves.

7. Planning Applications and Decision notices and tree works applications

- 7.1 Planning applications received since the last meeting

- 7.1.1 S/2665/17/FL – 339 St Neots Road – Erection of two family dwellings

RESOLVED that the Parish Council has no recommendation. (Prop SR, 2nd PJ, unanimous)

- 7.1.2 S/2455/17/PN – Land at Red Brick Farm, Main Street – Application for prior notification of proposed development by telecommunications code system operators for a communications tower, antennas, ground based apparatus and ancillary development

Noted for information only.

- 7.1.3 S/2889/17/LD – 15 Pershore Road – Lawful development certificate for proposed partial garage conversion for bathroom/utility area

Noted for information only.

- 7.1.4 S/2895/17/FL – 3 Worcester Avenue – New detached dwelling

RESOLVED that the Parish Council objects to the application as it is out of character with the other houses in the road. (Prop AG, 2nd SR, carried with 5 in favour and 1 abstention)

- 7.1.5 S/2911/17/FL – 89 Limes Road

RESOLVED to seek a time extension to the next meeting as no information was available.

- 7.2 SCDC Decision Notices

Details of planning permissions granted by SCDC or refusal notices since the last meeting can be viewed on the SCDC Planning Portal at <http://plan.scams.gov.uk/>.

- 7.2.1 S/1692/17/FL – 8 Grace Crescent – Proposed single storey front infill and internal alteration – Permission granted.

- 7.3 Tree Works

None.

8. Members reports and items for information only

- 8.1 New Housing Developments and Planning Obligations

RESOLVED to note Cllr Gill's verbal report that he had attended the SCDC Planning Committee meeting and both the Grace Crescent and St Neots Road applications had been approved.

RESOLVED to receive Cllr Rose's verbal report that he had been talking to the President of the Community Association about what the village would like to see in the Community Centre. Wil Huisman had expressed an interest in becoming involved on behalf of the Hardwick Evangelical Church regarding the use of the Community Room.

- 8.2 Webmaster vacancy – to consider how to fill the vacancy

RESOLVED, given that Robert Cassey had given three months notice of his intention to resign as webmaster at the end of October, to write thanking him for all his hard work and efforts resulting in the increased use and scope of the website, which the Parish Council greatly appreciated. Cllr Humphries will advertise the vacancy in

Hardwick Happenings, Cllr Rose will clarify where the website is maintained and other means of advertising the post are to be considered after requirements are checked with the Clerk.

- 8.3 Proposal that the Parish Council adopts a policy that any resident requesting tree branches are cleared back from their boundary may do so themselves
Taken earlier.

9. Finance, procedure and risk assessment

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

RESOLVED to note the following:

(5.5) Moss clearance at Grenadier Walk – a quotation for £300.00 had been received for the moss removal; however, Cllr Gill had kindly cleared it following a risk assessment.

RESOLVED to purchase a new “No dogs” sign to replace the missing sign on the Egremont Road fence as dogs were getting into the play area. (Prop AG, 2nd PJ, unanimous)

- 9.2 To receive play areas and skate park inspection reports

RESOLVED to receive reports on Worcester Avenue, Grenadier Walk and St Mary’s Church play areas and that no action was considered necessary at this time.

RESOLVED to have removed at the Egremont Road play area, concrete slabs which had been left in the middle of the space where the double gates had been, one of which was broken with sharp edges and was felt to be hazardous.

RESOLVED to email Cllr Wellbelove for an up to date report on the skate park.

On a proposition by the Chairman it was agreed to vary the order of business to take item 9.4 next.

- 9.4 To consider the CCTV report from Alarm Maintenance

RESOLVED to thank Alarm Maintenance for the quotation and to defer any action for the time being but to consider this further at a future meeting including the possibility of upgrading the system.

- 9.3 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 Reid’s Playground Maintenance (RoSPA repairs) £2028.00, and to note that the payment to LGS Services should be for £1292.98, not £1246.54 as shown in the finance report. (Prop JH, 2nd PJ, unanimous)

Salary	£90.36
Salary	£48.00
LGS Services (Admin support)	£1292.98
Herts and Cambs Ground Maintenance (grass cutting)	£720.00
RPM (Egremont Road concrete posts)	£120.00
Peter Oakes (Tree works Sudeley Grove path)	£660.00
NEST (Pension) (DD)	£166.75

Credits, including investment interest and pitch hire fees, were noted.

10. 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 9.25 pm.

SignedChairmandate.
