

Hardwick Parish Council
Meeting held on Tuesday 14 December 2010 in the School at 7.45 pm

Present: Cllrs I Storr (Chairman), G Chamberlain, P Joslin, A Gill, N Atkinson, J Stewart and T Bhachu.

In attendance: Cllr F Whelan (County Councillor) and Mrs A Griffiths (Minutes Secretary, LGS Services).

Open public session including reports from the County and District Councillors

Cllr Stewart reported as District Councillor that the District Council had been advised of its financial allocation on 13 December, but it would be some time before the implications were known.

Another letter is to be sent to the owner of the derelict site at the corner of St Neots Road and Cambridge Road requesting an update on developments.

1. Apologies for absence and declarations of interest

Apologies were received from Cllrs Freeman and Bowen, and County Cllr Fiona Whelan apologised for anticipated lateness. There were no declarations of interest.

2. To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 23 November 2010

The minutes of the meeting on 23 November 2010 were unanimously approved^(Prop AG, 2nd JS) and signed by the Chairman, after an amendment to item 3.0.4 to read “A428” rather than “A14”, and the addition of “Hardwick Sports and Social Club” after “Cricket Club” under item 3.1.

3. Matters arising and carried forward from the last or previous meeting

The Clerk’s report was noted.

3.0.1 (3.0.1) Shrub area near playing field and club car park weed killer

3.0.2 (3.0.2) Egremont Rd play area fencing repairs

The car park had been sprayed and clearance work and fencing repairs will be carried out shortly, subject to weather conditions.

3.0.3 (3.1) The Chairman reported that Hardwick FC, Hardwick Colts, the Cricket Club, and Hardwick Sports and Social Club had agreed to cover their shares of the 50% Stage 1 planning and design payment for the Pavilion changing room alterations.

3.0.4 (7.1) Invoice from Briar Securities – this was intended for Hardwick Sports and Social Club and a credit note has been obtained.

3.0.5 (7.3) Church play area mound removal – RPM have already seeded the area but will return and reseed the area because of the weather conditions. The seeds may not start to grow until the spring time.

3.0.6 The salt bin in Egremont Road near the path to the school has been installed and salt ordered.

3.0.7 Cambridgeshire County Council had included the road between Hardwick and Toft in its gritting schedule.

3.0.8 The potholes in Egremont Road had still not been filled despite being reported and this is to be followed up again.

3.1 (7.2) Grass cutting contract the Limes Estate and Church play area

It was unanimously agreed^(Prop GC, 2nd NA) to accept the three year fixed price quote from J M Rogers for the Limes Estate £236.25 per cut and the Church Play area £62.95 per cut thus maintaining the price at current levels, and appreciation was

expressed for an excellent job.

4. Correspondence/communications received

4.1 ACRE Trailblazer communities

It was agreed not to become involved with this scheme.

4.2 ACRE Digital TV Switchover project

It was agreed to reply that the Wednesday afternoon club which meets at the Hardwick Sports and Social Club may be interested in a visit.

4.3 SCDC Arts Awards 2011

No nominations were proposed.

5. Planning applications and decision notices

5.1 Planning applications received

5.1.1 S/2062/10 – 136 Limes Road - Extension.

The Parish Council recommended approval ^(Prop GC, 2nd AG).

5.2 SCDC Decision and appeal notices

5.2.1 S/2026/10 – 136 Limes Road – Extension

SCDC approved.

5.2.2 S/0609/10 – 345 St Neots Rd

It is noted that an appeal has been lodged with the Secretary of State in response to the refusal of this application.

5.3 Tree works applications

None.

6. Members reports and items for decision

6.1 CCC P3 meeting on 2 December

Cllr Joslin reported on the meeting she had attended. The work of the Rights of Way and Access Team was outlined. Future funding was uncertain and the possibility of using volunteers and other local solutions had been discussed at the meeting. It was agreed to await information from Cambridgeshire County Council about the future of the scheme before reaching any decisions. Cllr Joslin undertook to place an article in Hardwick Happenings providing a map of the public paths in the village and informing residents how to view the electronic Definitive Map. A letter of thanks and appreciation is to be sent to Caroline Chivers for the spectacular new hedge alongside the path from Starve Goose Plantation to Hardwick Main Street, making this a very pleasant walk.

Cllr Whelan arrived during this item and was invited to give her report. This covered:

- Widespread budget cuts are expected and details are to be announced in the New Year. Cllr Whelan suggested that Parish Councils should bear this in mind when setting the precept.
- The Guided busway
- Civil contingency and sharing data and services with other counties.

Cllr Whelan was thanked for her report and left the meeting.

6.2 Speedwatch

Cllr Gill reported on the Speedwatch meeting attended with Cllr Storr at Police Headquarters which had covered the operation of speed cameras and mobile speed vans, and differing perceptions of the scheme.

7. Finance, risk assessment and procedural matters

7.1 To receive the financial report and approve the payment of bills

The financial report was received and considered and invoices and bank statements

were checked. The payments as listed in the report, plus C Edgley £42.27 (Hardwick Happenings stationery), were approved for payment^(Prop PJ, 2nd GC). Credits received since the last meeting were noted.

Town and Country (tree works)	£246.75
Town and Country (tree works)	£152.75
Grounds by Rounds (grounds maintenance)	£274.17
JM Rogers (weed clearance)	£35.25
JM Rogers (grass cutting)	£5273.40
LGS Services (admin support)	£1196.32
LG Stoehr (salary)	£176.80
J Dyer (salary)	£110.24
Harrington Property Design (changing rooms)	£1750.00
Victoire Press (printing)	£560.00

7.2 Winter gritting – guide from insurers

The guidance from the insurers was noted. It was agreed to write to the School confirming that the salt bin had now been installed at the path between Egremont Road and the School by the play area as requested, and stating that the Parish Council expects the School to provide a shovel and keep the path gritted when it is icy.

The letter from Cambridgeshire County Council outlining the possible extension of the winter service was considered. It was decided not to become involved with this process.

7.3 Play area inspection reports and skate park inspection report

Cllrs Stewart, Bhachu and Freeman's reports were received. No action was required at this time, although a missing slat at the Egremont Road play area was noted. Cllr Bowen is to be asked to send his report for the skate park. Cllr Stewart reported that the area where the mound had been removed at the Church Play area will receive further attention in the Spring. Cllr Storr will look into reports of paint graffiti at the skate park.

8. Members items for the next agenda and for the Clerk's information and Closure of meeting

8.0.1 Cllr Atkinson raised the issue of the Localism Bill and the Big Society initiative. It was agreed to await further information from the Government. It was noted that it might be useful to talk to Andrew Lansley MP to clarify the impact on Parish Councils in due course.

8.0.2 Cllr Bhachu reported that residents had enquired about progress regarding Millers Way and it was agreed to chase this matter again.

8.0.3 It was agreed that the budget meeting to set the precept would take place on Tuesday 1 February 2011 at 7.45 pm.

There was no further business and the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.18pm.

Signed _____ (Chairman) _____ (Date)