

HARDWICK PARISH COUNCIL

I hereby give notice that as previously arranged, the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council will be held on
Tuesday 28 May 2019 in the School at 7.00 pm

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.



Gail Stoehr, Clerk 21/05/19

AGENDA

1. **Election of Chairman and to receive the Chairman's declaration of acceptance of office, or, if not then received, to decide when it shall be received**
2. **To elect a Vice-Chairman**
3. **Annual Business**
 - 3.1 To appoint committees, working groups or any other officers which the Council deems necessary
 - 3.2 To appoint representatives on any other organisation or authority, which the Council deems necessary
 - 3.3 Annual Review Standing Orders, Financial Regulations, Risk Assessment and other policies review

Open Public Session including reports from the County & District Councillors

4. **To approve apologies for absence**
5. **Declaration of interests**
 - 5.1 To receive declarations of interests from Cllrs on items on the agenda and details of dispensations held
 - 5.2 To receive written requests for dispensation and grant any as appropriate for items on this agenda
6. **To approve the minutes of the last meeting**
7. **To consider resolutions from the Annual Parish Meeting, any applications for funding and the APM's recommendation**
8. **Matters arising and carried forward from the last or previous meetings for discussion/decision**
 - 8.1 (4.1) CCTV – to consider reply from Police if received
 - 8.2 (4.3) Emergency plan update ^(IG)
 - 8.3 (4.4) Village pond – to consider advice from CCC and Wildlife Trust and any quotes received
 - 8.4 (4.6) Maintenance of benches at Egremont Road ^(IG)
 - 8.5 (4.7) Volunteering under Duke of Edinburgh scheme – to consider what to take forward ^(PA)
 - 8.6 (4.8) Village notice board – to consider quotation for refurbishment if received
 - 8.7 (4.10) Surplus sports equipment on the Recreation Ground ^(IG)
 - 8.8 (5.4) To consider SCDC response on Mobile Warden Scheme
 - 8.9 (8.2) To consider report and recommendation on Worcester Avenue play area wall repairs ^(DW)
 - 8.10 (9) Comberton Greenways ^(SR)
9. **To consider any correspondence / communications received**
 - 9.1 To consider correspondence on outstanding invoice from Herts & Cambs Ground Maintenance
 - 9.2 Break in at the Hardwick Sports and Social Club
 - 9.3 Resident - Children's den building in open space by Sudeley Grove
10. **To consider any planning applications and decision notices and tree works applications ***
 - 10.1 Planning applications
 - 10.1.1 S/1331/19/FL – Land to rear of 18 Hall Drive – Approval of matters reserved for access, appearance, landscaping, layout and scale following outline planning permission S/1549/15/OL for construction of detached dwelling and detached garage
 - 10.1.2 S/1482/19/FL – 17 Lambourn Road – Proposed single storey front and rear extensions linked by a section of raised roof
 - 10.1.3 S/1498/19/OL – 31 Cambridge Road – Outline planning permission with some matters reserved except for scale for a proposed erection of single storey bungalow
 - 10.1.4 S/1644/19/NM – Agricultural field west of Grace Crescent – Non-material amendment of planning permission S/4551/17/RM
 - 10.1.5 S/1645/19/VC – Agricultural field west of Grace Crescent – Variation of condition 2 (Materials) of planning permission S/4551/17/RM

* 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/swiftlg/apas/run/wchvarylogin.display>

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.

- 10.2 SCDC decision notices – to note
- 10.3 Tree works applications
 - 10.3.1 S/1647/19/TP – 51 Cambridge Road
 - 10.3.2 S/1684/19/TC – Blue Lion, Main Street (whitebeam, tree of heaven)
- 11. Members reports and items for information only unless otherwise stated**
- 12. Finance, risk assessment and procedural matters**
 - 12.1 To consider any quotes for urgent work required because of risk and Clerk’s use of delegated powers
 - 12.2 To receive play areas and skate park inspection reports
 - 12.3 To consider the RoSPA report
 - 12.4 To receive the financial report and approve the payment of bills
 - 12.5 To consider the Internal Auditor’s report if received
- 13. Closure of meeting and items for the next agenda**

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Mrs Gail Stoehr, Clerk to Hardwick Parish Council, 30 West Drive, Highfields Caldecote, Cambridge, CB23 7NY
Tel: 01954 210241 Email: hardwickpc@lgs-services.co.uk

CLERK REPORT TO HARDWICK PARISH COUNCIL MEETING ON 28 MAY 2019

Annual business

The process and procedure is laid down in standing orders

1. **Election of Chairman**

- 1.1 To receive the Chairman's declaration of acceptance of office, or, if not then received, to decide when it shall be received.

The Chairman to invite nominations, which need to be proposed and seconded and voted on. The elected Chairman to sign the declaration of acceptance of office before the meeting continues.

2. **To elect a Vice-Chairman**

Again, please propose and second and vote on the nomination

3. **Annual Business**

- 3.1 To appoint committees, working groups or any other officers which the Council deems necessary and

- 3.2 To appoint representatives on any other organisation or authority, which the Council deems necessary

An extract from last year's minutes is below, updated to reflect changes during the year:

The Clerk advised that working groups should not consist of a majority of members.

RESOLVED that the following working groups and member responsibilities be agreed: (Prop PJ, 2nd MC, unanimous)

Planning Working Group – Cllrs Gill and Cllr Joslin.

Tree Working Group – Cllrs Gill and Joslin.

Play area inspections – Cllr Wellbelove: St Mary's play area; Worcester Avenue, Grenadier Walk; Skate Park and Egremont Road play area.

Newsletter – Cllr Gill

Notice board – Cllr Wellbelove.

Website liaison and Webmaster – Cllr Rose, now Cllr Croft

Emergency Plan – Cllr Giddings

Village Development Plan – vacancy (previously Martin Cassey).

Fact finding in preparation for meetings – the Chairman.

Neighbourhood Plan Working Group – Cllrs Gill and Joslin.

Bourn Airfield working group – to represent the Parish Council and report back to meetings - Cllrs Gill, Joslin, Wellbelove, Cassey and Ashton

Social Media (Facebook) – Cllr Ashton

Parish Paths Partnership – Cllr Joslin.

Coalition of Parish Councils – to represent the Parish Council and report back to meetings - Cllrs Gill, Joslin and Rose.

Local Liaison Forum – to represent the Parish Council and report back to meetings - Cllrs Gill, Joslin and Rose.

SCDC Planning Forum – to represent the Parish Council and report back to meetings - Cllrs Gill, Joslin and Rose.

New Community Hall (now Hardwick Community Centre Working Group) – Cllr Rose.

The Parish Council will consider the involvement of other Parish Council members as required during the year.

New developments and S106 – Cllr Rose.

Community Bus scheme – vacancy (previously Martin Cassey).

Chivers liaison – The Chairman.

Healthcare campaign for healthcare in Hardwick – vacancy (previously Martin Cassey).

- 3.3 Annual Review Standing Orders, Financial Regulations, Risk Assessment and other policies review

Members should already have a copy of these. If another copy is required let the Clerk know.

Open public session including reports from the County and District Councillors

4. Apologies for absence – any apologies will be reported to the meeting

5. Declaration 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.

6. To approve the minutes of the last meeting (23 April) (attached)
7. To consider resolutions from the Annual Parish Meeting, any applications for funding and the APM's recommendation
8. Matters arising and carried forward from the last or a previous meeting for discussion/decision
- 8.1 (4.1) CCTV – to consider reply from Police if required
A reply is still awaited.
- 8.2 (4.3) Emergency plan update
Cllr Giddings to report.
- 8.3 (4.4) Village Pond – to consider advice from CCC and Wildlife Trust and Buchans quote if received
The Wildlife Trust has responded:
“This email is in reply to your query asking for advice on pond maintenance/restoration. I’ve attached a couple of leaflets with general advice that may be helpful. Generally, major pond clearance work should be done over the autumn/winter, so you have some time to plan what you want to do. If you would like someone from the Wildlife Trust to visit the pond with you sometime this summer, we should be able to arrange that, let me know.”
Leaflets attached.
- CCC have also written:
“Thank you for getting in contact. I have spoken to our ecologist here at the Cambridgeshire County Council and they have suggested a few people/organisations to get in contact with for advice on the maintenance or any improvements to the pond.
- Dan Weaver is the ecologist at South Cambs, he is currently on paternity leave and we are not sure who is covering him while on leave. The teams contact details are here:
<https://www.scambs.gov.uk/planning/natural-historic-and-built-environment/natural-environment/biodiversity/>. We suggest getting in contact with them and they should be able to help out.
 - Froglife have a village pond project, which they may again be able to advice and/or help. We suggest getting in contact with Kathy.Wormald@froglife.org . I have also informed them of Hardwick Pond as a potential site of interest for this project.”
- Froglife had already responded that they would charge for a visit. Does the Parish Council wish to take up the offer of a visit by the Wildlife Trust or does the Council wish to accept Hamill Landscapes quote?
- 8.4 (4.6) Maintenance of benches at Egremont Road
Cllr Giddings to report.
- 8.5 (4.7) Volunteering under Duke of Edinburgh Scheme – to consider what to take forward
Cllr Ashton to provide an update.
- 8.6 (4.8) Village notice board – to consider quotation for refurbishment if received
Quotations will be brought to the meeting if received.
- 8.7 (4.10) Surplus sports equipment on the Recreation Ground
Cllr Giddings to report.
- 8.8 (5.4) To consider SCDC response on Mobile Warden Scheme
SCDC have replied as follows:
“Thank you for your email in response to my enquiry regarding Mobile Warden Schemes. At this initial stage I am purely gathering information as to the status of schemes across the district and areas of where there may be potential interest in the future.

In answer to your enquiry regarding how the schemes operate, they do vary as some are operated by Age UK while others are managed locally by either the Parish Council or a local charity set up specifically for the purpose.

As a general overview, the client will receive a combination of both visits and telephone calls during the course of a week and some schemes also provide a level of practical support such as light shopping, collection of prescriptions etc..

Typically, funding is via a combination of grants, including a contribution from the Parish Council and client fees, which vary depending on the level of the service .

Thank you for providing the information requested, I have noted your interest and will provide an update as the project progresses.”

8.9 (8.2) To consider report and recommendation on Worcester Avenue play area wall repairs
Cllr Wellbelove to report.

8.10 (9) Comberton Greenways
Item proposed at the last meeting. Cllr Rose to report.

Other to note

(8.7) Accounting Statements questions

The Clerk will answer the questions at the meeting.

9. Correspondence

9.1 To consider correspondence on outstanding invoice from Herts & Cambs Ground Maintenance
Herts and Cambs Grounds Maintenance are chasing payment for their outstanding invoice.

9.2 Break in at the Hardwick Sports and Social Club
“Apologies for the delay in writing this email. HSSC was broken into early hours of Monday 6th May. The manager was alerted when the alarm company called to announce the alarm was going off (within 15 minutes of her leaving the premises).

On return to the club they discovered that the break in had occurred. Police were informed immediately and after calling 5 emergency glaziers Nick Thomas (the only one available to come out on bank holiday) boarded up the door and took away the damaged glass to order a replacement. Unfortunately there has been considerable damage to the door which only Nick can explain (he’s been copied in).

The manager called the insurance company yesterday to go through the damage to the bar, shutters, missing stock and Cash but they informed her that the building isn’t covered by our policy due to the fact that it is leased.

Nick will be dealing with the repairs to the door and can explain to you in more detail the extent of the damage.

Once again sorry for the delay.”

The Council’s insurers have been notified.

9.3 Resident - Children’s den building in open space by Sudeley Grove

10.1 Planning applications

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 on <http://plan.scams.gov.uk/swiftlg/apas/run/wchvarylogin.display>

10.1.1 S/1331/19/FL – Land to rear of 18 Hall Drive – Approval of matters reserved for access, appearance, landscaping, layout and scale following outline planning permission S/1549/15/OL for construction of detached dwelling and detached garage

10.1.2 S/1482/19/FL – 17 Lambourn Road – Proposed single storey front and rear extensions linked by a section of raised roof

10.1.3 S/1498/19/OL – 31 Cambridge Road – Outline planning permission with some matters reserved except for scale for a proposed erection of single storey bungalow

10.1.4 S/1644/19/NM – Agricultural field west of Grace Crescent – Non-material amendment of planning permission S/4551/17/RM

10.1.5 S/1645/19/VC – Agricultural field west of Grace Crescent – Variation of condition 2 (Materials) of planning permission S/4551/17/RM

10.2 SCDC decision notices

10.2.1 S/0884/19/VC – 339 St Neots Road – Variation of Condition 2 (approved plans) of planning permission S/2665/17/FL for erection of two family dwellings – Permission granted.

10.2.2 S/0264/19/FL – 114-116 Limes Road – Conversion of two dwellings into one to enable home disability adaptations with single storey rear extension – Permission granted.

10.2.3 S/1035/19/FL – 101 Bramley Way – First floor extension above existing ground floor – Permission granted.

10.2.4 S/1082/19/AD – Land east of Highfields Road – 1x stack sign advertisement – Permission granted.

10.2.5 S/0568/19/AD – 175 St Neots Road – Erection of a single illuminated fascia sign – Permission granted.

10.3 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.scams.gov.uk/swiftlg/apas/run/wchvarylogin.display>

10.3.1 S/1647/19/TP – 51 Cambridge Road

10.3.2 S/1684/19/TC – Blue Lion, Main Street (whitebeam, tree of heaven)

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

12. Finance and risk assessment and procedural matters

12.1 To consider any quotes for urgent work required because of risk and Clerk's use of delegated powers (8.2) RPM have been asked to attend to the concrete at the Egremont Road Play Area reported at the last meeting.

12.2 To receive play areas and skate park inspection reports

12.2.1 To consider the RoSPA report

To view click on this link or copy and paste the link into your internet browser

<http://playbase.rosaplaysafety.co.uk/Inspections/index.php?ID=1094509E-E998-2848-8031-129B8E22C141>

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

12.5 To consider the Internal Auditor's report if received

At the time of writing the internal audit has not taken place as the Accounts have not been collected by LCPAS.

13. Closure of Meeting and items for the next agenda

Hardwick Parish Council
Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday 23 April 2019
in the School at 7.00 pm

Present: Councillors: A Gill (Chairman), P Joslin, D Wellbelove, S Rose, P Ashton and E Croft.

In attendance: 5 members of the public and Mrs A Griffiths (Minutes Secretary, LGS Services).

Open public session including reports from the County and District Councillors

Three residents thanked Cllrs Joslin and Gill for meeting them with Hill to hear their concerns about the street lighting, the footpath and drainage in Main Street. The level of lighting and whether all the lights were necessary were queried, and the residents asked the Parish Council to consider moving one lamp post from its current location, closer to adjacent hedging, so it was not directly outside a resident's house.

The residents expressed the view that there was a greater need for expenditure on the stretch of Main Street from the Church to Cahills Corner, than from the Church to the Blue Lion. The Council explained that the widening of the footpath between the Church and the Blue Lion was a County Council Highways planning requirement for the developers of Grace Crescent. At the time of negotiation with the developers, this stretch of footpath was felt to be most in need of improvement. The residents also commented that it would be darker in the section from the Blue Lion to the new development. However, the Council replied that there was money in the S106 agreement for street lighting this section could be looked at in the future.

The residents also queried the positioning of the lamp posts on the footpath on the edge of the pavement, and expressed concerns about their placement and appearance being in keeping in the conservation area. However, they had understood from discussions with Hill that they would be happy to make adjustments and would inform Hill of their wishes and where they would prefer the lights to go.

The Parish Council explained that it understood the whole path from the southern end of the village up to the School would be improved in quality and S106 funding would be received for further street lighting improvements. Whilst the section south of the Blue Lion was not specifically referred to, this was something that could be discussed in the future.

Another resident asked how it could be ensured that the footpath was not subject to flooding. It was noted that this was a Highways responsibility but it was suggested that they remind Hill that the footpath was subject to flooding and ask them to consider the drainage of that stretch when doing the work. The residents will raise these points with Hill.

1. To approve apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Giddings (unwell) and from District Cllr Grenville Chamberlain.

2. Declaration of interests

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

None.

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

None.

3. To approve the minutes of the previous meeting on 26 March

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting on 26 March be approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record. (Prop PJ, 2nd DW, carried with 4 in favour and 2 abstentions)

4. Matters arising and carried forward from the last or previous meetings for discussion/decisions**4.1 (4.1) Neighbourhood Watch – request for CCTV in the village**

A reply from the Police was awaited and had been chased.

4.2 (4.2) To consider quotation for re-painting of the old telephone kiosk in Main Street

RESOLVED having considered two quotations for the work, to accept the quotation from Sharp Property Services at a cost of approximately £400.00 for two days' work. (Prop SR, 2nd AG, unanimous)

RESOLVED to order the paint from X2connect at a cost of £99.59 plus VAT. (Prop SR, 2nd AG, unanimous)

4.3 (4.3) Emergency Plan update

RESOLVED, in the absence of Cllr Giddings, that this item be deferred.

4.4 (4.6) Works to the pond – to consider Environment Agency report and quotation if received

RESOLVED, noting that a quotation was still awaited from Buchans and ownership and issues regarding flooding were still to be clarified, to write to the Cambridgeshire Wildlife Trust for advice in accordance with the Environment Agency suggestion.

4.5 (7.2) To clarify the decision on the purchase of new Speedwatch equipment

RESOLVED, to confirm that the new speedwatch equipment is from Morelock at a cost of £2474.00 plus VAT. (Prop SR, 2nd PJ, unanimous)

4.6 (8.1) Maintenance of benches at Egremont Road

RESOLVED, in Cllr Giddings's absence, to defer this item.

4.7 (9) Volunteering under the Duke of Edinburgh Scheme

RESOLVED having considered Cllr Ashton's suggestions for volunteer opportunities under the scheme, including assistance with the website, to accept Cllr Croft's offer to take on the webmaster role and provide support and supervision, and that Cllr Rose and Croft should liaise on what is required and draw up terms of reference. The opportunity was welcomed to encourage engagement between the younger members of the community and the Parish Council. (Prop SR, 2nd AG, carried with 1 abstention)

RESOLVED, having noted the Clerk's advice, to consider further volunteering possibilities, including more litter picking, at the next meeting, and that Cllr Ashton be authorised to update Comberton Village College. (Prop SR, 2nd AG, unanimous)

4.8 (9) To consider the condition of the village notice boards

RESOLVED to obtain quotations for the refurbishment of the notice board at the south end of Main Street initially as this is the one in the poorest condition.

4.9 (9) Fly posting

RESOLVED in the absence of Cllr Giddings, to defer this item.

4.10 (9) Surplus sports equipment on the recreation ground

RESOLVED in the absence of Cllr Giddings, to defer this item.

4.11 (Feb meeting) Bus shelter graffiti – to consider quotations

RESOLVED having considered two quotations, and noting that cleaning may make the perspex cloudy, to accept the quotation from J & S Gardening to clean the three affected bus shelters on St Neots Road, namely those at the Dry Drayton turn,

opposite Cambridge Road, and between Cambridge Road and Long Road, for the sum of £220.00 plus VAT. (Prop AG, 2nd DW, unanimous)

Briars behind the shelters are to be reported online to CCC by Cllr Joslin.

- 4.12 (Feb meeting) WSP street lighting and path widening Main Street – to confirm if the street lighting design is acceptable and that the Parish Council will take on long term maintenance of the lights so that CCC may sign the S278 agreement. Consideration to be given to any correspondence from residents on this matter

RESOLVED, having noted the comments of residents, to respond that the street lighting design is acceptable to the Parish Council, but the Council asks that consideration be given to minor changes to the placement of the lamp posts requested by the local residents, and also to take into account the local residents' views about the final markings for the pavements.

RESOLVED to confirm that the Parish Council agrees to take on the long term maintenance of the lights. (Prop SR, 2nd DW, unanimous)

Cllr Ashton left the meeting briefly at 8.34 pm and returned at 8.36 pm.

- 4.13 (4.10) Internal Auditor appointment

RESOLVED, noting that the signed contract had not been returned, and the delayed date of the audit, and having also considered concerns about independence, to continue with the appointment of LCPAS and to confirm with them that they will carry out the audit and pick up the books as soon as possible after May bank holiday Monday. (Prop SR, 2nd AG, unanimous)

- 4.14 (6.3) Tree planting in villages

SCDC had replied that there were no current schemes for villages.

5. Correspondence/communications received

- 5.1 The Salvation Army – request to site a clothing recycling bank in the village

RESOLVED, as the Parish Council regarded the previous bank as a well used facility for the village, to respond that the Parish Council would like to have a clothing bank in the corner of the Egremont Road car park. (Prop AG, 2nd DW, unanimous)

- 5.2 Countryside Properties Bourn Airfield Development plans

RESOLVED to invite the representatives to the June meeting.

- 5.3 SCDC Village Design Statements consultation

Noted.

- 5.4 SCDC Mobile Warden Scheme enquiry

RESOLVED to respond that there is no scheme in the village, but the Council considers that a scheme would be of interest to local residents and would like to have more information on how the scheme would operate. (Prop AG, 2nd PJ, unanimous)

6. Planning Applications and Decision notices and tree works applications

- 6.1 Planning applications received since the last meeting

- 6.1.1 S/1035/19/FL – 101 Bramley Way – First floor extension above existing ground floor
RESOLVED to support the application. (Prop AG, 2nd PJ, unanimous)

- 6.1.2 S/1082/19/AD – Land east of Highfields Road, Highfields Caldecote – 1x stack sign advertisement

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

- 6.2 SCDC Decision Notices

- 6.2.1 S/0867/19/DC – 175 St Neots Road – Discharge of condition 3 (Noise mitigation management plan) of planning consent S/3137/18/VC for removal of condition 4 (number of users) of planning consent S/1256/18/FL for change of use of part of

- commercial unit A1 pet store to D2 gym/personal and small group fitness training business – Permission granted.
- 6.2.2 S/0584/19/DC – 26 Main Street – Discharge of conditions 5 (Method statement for repair of the Bressemer beam), 6 (Mortars plaster and render), 7 (Methodology for cleaning brickwork and repair of any new or replacement bricks) and 9 (Recording of works with drawings and photographs) pursuant to listed building consent S/0584/19/DC – Permission granted.
- 6.2.3 S/0488/19/OL – Rear of 31 Cambridge Road – Outline planning permission for erection of 1 no. detached bungalow with some matters reserved except for access and scale – Withdrawn.
- 6.2.4 S/0477/19/FL – Redruth, Hall Drive – Front entrance automatic gates and fence – Permission granted.
- 6.2.5 S/0343/19/FL – 12 Merton Walk – Front porch extension – Permission granted.
- 6.2.6 S/0320/19/DC – 11 Cambridge Road – Discharge of conditions 2(i) (Materials), 3(i) (Boundary treatment), 4(i) (Hard and soft landscaping), 6(i) (Surface water drainage), 7(i) (Plan showing finished floor levels), 8(i) (Details for the construction of the parking and turning area) and 13 (Hedge) pursuant to planning permission S/4392/18/VC – Permission granted.
- 6.2.7 S/0040/19/DC – Land South of 279 St Neots Road – Discharge of condition 5 (Landscaping) of planning consent S/3064/16/OL for outline planning permission for a residential development of up to 155 dwellings following demolition of two existing dwellings with areas of landscaping and public open space, and associated infrastructure works with all matters reserved except for access – Withdrawn.
- 6.3 Tree Works Applications
None. An application for 84-86 Main Street had already been approved by SCDC.
- 7. Members reports and items for information only**
- 7.1 New Housing Developments and Planning Obligations including appointment of architect
Cllr Rose reported that the Working Group had carried out a process for interviewing architects and identified AMA Chartered Architects as an architect for the project. RESOLVED that the Parish Council confirms that it is satisfied with the process carried out by the group so far in identifying an architect for the project and approves the group moving to the next stage of the appointment, which is to agree draft conditions of engagement and fees which will be put to the Parish Council for their approval in due course as a party to the agreement. (Prop PA, 2nd AG, carried with 1 abstention)
The Grace Crescent development is progressing.
- 7.2 Village Plan printing
The printed copies of the Village Plan had been delivered to the village. RESOLVED with regard to distribution, that Cllr Gill should ask Peter Cornwell whether it would be possible for the copies to be delivered at the same time as the next issue of Hardwick Happenings.
On a proposition by the Chairman, the meeting was briefly suspended at 9.20 pm to enable Martin Cassey to speak. The Community Association wish to place a welcome pack for new residents in the show home for Meridian Fields, and it is envisaged that additional copies will be required by new residents, necessitating a reprint. The Parish Council indicated that it would be amenable in principle should a request be made to a future meeting. The meeting resumed at 9.22 pm.
- 8. Finance, procedure and risk assessment**
- 8.1 To consider any quotes for urgent work required because of risk and Clerk's use of delegated powers

None.

8.2 To receive play areas and skate park inspection reports

The play inspection reports were received.

RESOLVED, as residents had reported youths equipped with tools had been deliberately loosening or removing bolts from the new play equipment which had now been replaced and tightened and observing that the very large tyres used by the fitness training group had been moved around to contact the Police to report this activity and ask them to keep an eye on the play area, and on the tyres stacked between the Pavilion and the tennis courts.

RESOLVED given the verbal report, that at Worcester Avenue, the brick wall between the parking area and the playground was deteriorating with bricks crumbling away, Cllr Wellbelove should take a look with a view to establishing the ownership of the wall and report back to the next meeting.

8.3 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 RPM (Egremont Road play repairs) £876.00, Hardwick Community Association (Affiliation fee) £45.00. (Prop PJ, 2nd DW, unanimous)

Salary	£90.56
Salary	£135.72
NEST (Pension) (DD)	£173.53
Hardwick School (Room hire)	£87.50
LGS Services (Admin support)	£1337.29
LGS Services (Admin support)	£288.00

Credits, including investment interest and rent, were noted.

8.7 To consider the Accounting Statements (Section 2 of the Annual Return)

The Accounting Statements were considered. Clarification was sought on the period to which the debtors and creditors related, what they were for and how overdue the payments were, and whether the VAT covered one or four quarters. Clarification was also sought on the method of valuation of assets.

8.8 To approve the Accounting Statements by resolution

RESOLVED that the Accounting Statements be approved. (Prop DW, 2nd PJ, unanimous)

8.9 To ensure that the Accounting Statements are signed and dated by the person presiding at the meeting

RESOLVED that the Accounting Statements be signed and dated by the Chairman on the Council's behalf. (Prop DW, 2nd PJ, unanimous)

8.4 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 2018 and 31 March 2019)

The system of internal control was reviewed and all appeared to be in order. (Prop PJ, 2nd AG, unanimous)

8.5 To prepare the Annual Governance Statement (Section 1 of the Annual Return)

RESOLVED that statements 1-8 in the Annual Governance Statement be all answered "Yes," apart from Question 9 (Trusts) which was not applicable. (Prop SR, 2nd AG, unanimous)

8.6 To approve the Annual Governance Statement by resolution

RESOLVED that the Annual Governance Statement be approved and signed by the Chairman on the Council's behalf. (Prop PJ, 2nd DW, unanimous)

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

Cllr Ashton raised a query regarding the burnt out building. RESOLVED, noting that the Council had not heard of any developments, to ask the District Councillor if he could provide up to date information on the position regarding the burnt out building. The Comberton Greenway report has been published and is to be an agenda item for the next meeting.

RESOLVED that Cllr Joslin should arrange for a representative of the Greater Cambridge Partnership to come and talk to the Parish Council about the Greenway and hear what residents are asking for so that this can be discussed in the village.

Items for Hardwick Happenings are to include: damage to the new equipment at the play park; the proposed Salvation Army clothes bank; the delivery of the Village Plan; and the burnt out building.

There was no further business and the meeting closed at 10.06 pm.

SignedChairmandate

DRAFT

Pond Maintenance

Factsheet No. 26



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A wildlife pond is a balanced ecosystem and should need very little maintenance. If any active management is necessary then it should be carried out gradually over a long period of time. If you need to remove plants from the pond, it is strongly advisable to leave the vegetation on the side of the pond for 24 hours before placing it on the compost heap to allow any creatures to escape.

Problems with algae

As a new pond becomes established it may become covered by algae because of the high concentration of nutrients in the water. This is usually caused by using tap water to fill or top up a pond. The use of lawn feeds, compost, pesticides or fertilisers close to the pond has the same effect and should be avoided. For many invertebrates, small amounts of algae are a valuable source of food and shelter. However, large amounts can prevent light from reaching submerged aquatic plants. Scooping up excessive growth with a net once or twice a week will reduce this problem. Once plants start to establish themselves, they will also absorb excess nutrients from the water and algal growth will eventually reduce. For a list of wildlife-friendly plants to use in your pond, see the Pond Creation factsheet.

If the pond is becoming overgrown

As ponds establish themselves there may be a period of 'settling' where one species seems to dominate. This is natural and the pond ecosystem will stabilise with time. If you wish to help avoid one species dominating your pond, plant a variety of plants that prefer growing in different depths of the pond. Competition for light and nutrients encourages the plants to concentrate on survival growth rather than spreading. The more plants there are the less likely any one species will take over and the more structural variety there will be. If one species is spreading rapidly plant a competitor next to it or thin out the dominant plant. The best method is to remove small sections of plants by hand, do not completely remove any plant because some invertebrates will be dependent on it for food and shelter.

Management Through the Seasons

The ideal situation for any pond is to know what species and habitats you have, then manage them carefully in the quietest time of year for your pond. The best time to carry out any pond work is late autumn. Spring is not a good time for a lot of active management because it is breeding season for most creatures and many animals use the pond in winter for hibernation. When doing work try to avoid disturbing the marginal vegetation or churning up the sediment at the bottom of the pond as this may release nutrients into the water and affect the eco-balance.

Trees

Falling leaves do not always have a detrimental effect on your pond wildlife. They can add to the sediment at the bottom of the pond and create important breeding and over-wintering habitats, as well as providing food, for many small creatures. Wood debris and fallen branches also provide excellent habitats. The tree may help those creatures that rely on land as well as water to complete their life cycle. If you feel that a densely shading tree is having a bad effect, consider pollarding it rather than removing it completely.

Oak leaves, which contain tannins, may tinge the water dark brown. It may look unsightly but is not a problem to the pond ecosystem. Consider leaving the shady pond alone and creating a new one in an open, sunny position away from the oak tree.

Protected species in the pond

If great crested newts are thought to be present in a pond seek advice from the Trust's Wildlife Information Service or English Nature (contact details below) before any management work is carried out, as they are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.

Yearly maintenance schedule
<p>Spring Gently skim dense blanket weed or algae from the surface of the pond to enable sunlight to penetrate the water, not forgetting to leave the weed on the pond side for 24 hours, before putting it on the compost heap.</p>
<p>Summer Water levels in ponds naturally fluctuate, and can decrease by up to 50 cm in the summer months. Unless there are fish in the pond, there is no need to top up the water level. The muddy or vegetated area between the highest and the lowest water level is called the drawdown zone, and is required by many pond-living creatures to complete their life cycle. For example dragonflies lay their eggs in this mud and some pond plants need their seeds to be exposed to air before they can germinate. If a top-up of water is desired, tap water should be avoided due to its high nutrient content. Natural rainwater collected in a water butt is best. Grass and surrounding vegetation should be left uncut along at least one third of the pond edge, to provide shelter and a foraging area for amphibians and other creatures.</p>

Autumn

October is a good time to work on clearing vegetation. It is important to monitor the growth of the plants to retain a section of open water. Cutting bays into the vegetation helps to create a wavy edge, which leaves the maximum area of edge habitat valued by aquatic invertebrates.

Also, try to maintain vegetation across a range of water depths by leaving sections of vegetation that are continuous from the shallow edge into the deeper water. Cutting the bays across a variety of depths, not just from one level, will help to achieve this. Do not attempt to clear any more than one third of a section of vegetation at any one time.

Winter

Ponds that freeze over in winter do not need to have holes melted in the surface unless they contain fish. If there is a deep section the pond will contain enough oxygen to keep amphibians alive over winter. If it is necessary to melt a hole in the surface of your pond then the safest way to do this is to hold a pan of boiling water on the surface of the ice. The bottom of the pan will be warm enough to melt it.

Contacts

Ponds Conservation Trust, The School of Biological & Molecular Sciences, Oxford Brookes University, Gipsy Lane, Headington, Oxford OX3 0BP. Tel: (01865) 483249. Email: rsnow@brookes.ac.uk Website: www.brookes.ac.uk/pondaction/index.htm

The Froglife Trust, The White Lodge, London Road, Peterborough PE7 0LG. Tel: (01733) 558844, Fax: (01733) 558440. Email: info@froglife.org Website: www.froglife.org

Local Amphibian & Reptile Recorders:

Matt Smith (Berkshire Records Officer) Tel: (01189) 794313.

Rod d'Ayala (Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Records Officer) Tel: (01865) 407792.

A large print version of this fact sheet is available on request; please contact BBOWT's Wildlife Information Service on (01865) 775476.

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For more information please contact
The Wildlife Information Service

Berks, Bucks & Oxon Wildlife Trust, The Lodge, 1 Armstrong Road, Littlemore, Oxford OX4 4XT
tel: 01865 775476 email: wildinfo@bbowt.org.uk web: www.bbowt.org.uk reg. charity no 204330
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Restoring and Maintaining Ponds for Wildlife

A Suffolk pond in good health is an incredibly rich and varied oasis of living things. When the environmental conditions are right, an array of differing plant species grow in abundance, creating a spectrum of aquatic zones in which a myriad of different creatures manage to find the right kinds of spaces to flourish.

The plants clean the water by absorbing salts and even pollutants as they grow, and a host of filter feeding invertebrates Hoover up tiny particles and break down rotting matter. In other words, a well-balanced pond does its own housekeeping, and there are strong forces of nature keeping conditions stable. A healthy pond is a busy place. Everywhere you look some weird and wonderful creature is going about its peculiar ways.

However, the condition or health of a pond can be affected by a number of factors, often resulting in a less productive and diverse habitat. Often the water goes murky, the smell becomes foul and the habitat becomes unbalanced. The pond becomes dominated by a few species and the system does not function so well. Ultimately creatures and plants which are becoming less common due to a lack of suitable ponds are denied a potential home in which they can thrive.

To successfully bring a pond back into a healthy state, you must first determine which factors are pushing it out of its natural balance.



1. DIAGNOSING PROBLEM FACTORS

The primary indicator of pond health is an abundance of underwater vegetation composed of several different plant species.

The most important single factor contributing to a pond's health is an abundance of varied plant cover, both underwater and growing out of it, but particularly under water. It is the plants that attract animal life and create favourable conditions for it. However improving the health of a pond is not a matter of planting more plants but of maintaining the right conditions for natural plant growth to thrive.

In optimal conditions aquatic vegetation should densely occupy approximately three-quarters of the underwater pond volume in the summer.

Plants naturally colonise in clean, well-lit shallow water. If plants are not thriving there are usually identifiable factors which are preventing sustained plant growth from occurring.

2. COMMON PROBLEMS AFFECTING POND HEALTH

Trees

Unless your pond is a long established woodland pool, trees can hamper the growth of plants not only by shading out the water, but also through tannins released from the dead leaves and blossom they drop in the pond. The shading also means that the pond and its immediate vicinity does not get warmed up so much in the warmer months, limiting plant and animal growth, and making it a less attractive site for creatures such as frogs.

Trees may be having an adverse impact if more than 20% of the southern side of the pond is overshadowed by trees, or if more than 50% of the total pond edge is overshadowed. The dropped leaves of species such as oak and sycamore generally have a more adverse affect on the quality of the water than finer-leaved species such as willow.

Algae, duckweeds and pond water enrichment

It is healthy and normal to have some algae in your pond. Less than 5% algal cover should not have an adverse affect. However when ponds become poorly balanced, it is often the algae which dominate to the detriment of higher plant growth. Algal domination can take the form of brownish or green colouring in the water, candy-floss-like columns of woolly blanket weed, furry green coverings on underwater plants or a scum or film coating the surface of the water.

Duckweeds are tiny free-floating plants consisting of one or two tiny leaves with little roots dangling off them. Like algae, they have their place in healthy well-balanced ponds. However, if they are not controlled then they can completely coat a pond surface, blocking out the light so that underwater plants cannot grow, as well as stopping oxygen from diffusing into the water through the surface film. This makes underwater life impossible for many pond creatures, and disrupts the decomposition process of dead matter on the pond floor.

The domination of duckweeds or algae is often indicative of an imbalance in the pond. If the water is rich in nitrates and phosphates the algae and duckweeds, are able to thrive and outgrow other plants. Other factors may also be inhibiting plant growth, allowing the algae to dominate. In some cases, removing excess algae or duckweeds can give the pond enough of a boot to 'kick-start' the cycle of plant growth and pond health again.



Tackling nutrient build-up

Determine whether nutrients have entered the pond as the result of a particular event or whether they are gradually building up.

The source of the nutrients may be close to the pond (as in a septic tank overflow) or far away (as in agricultural rainwater run-off carried to the pond via a ditch). Investigate where the water which fills the pond comes from to see whether the water is picking up nutrients before it gets to the pond. A nutrient build-up may also be associated with one of the other factors discussed in this sheet

In the more severe cases it may be better to concentrate on restoring health to another pond in which there is more potential for a good response.

In old ponds the black ooze that lies at the bottom of the pond has often built up high concentrations of nutrients. If this gets stirred up, a rush of nutrients and other substances (eg tannins) held in the ooze, can suddenly get dissolved in the water, leading to a sharp rise in nutrient levels whose effect may be felt over the following months.

Nutrient build-ups are more obvious and more of a problem in ponds which are less-well balanced to start with. Sometimes neutralising other factors, which are upsetting the pond, helps reduce nutrient build-up.

There are two main ways of reducing the level of nutrients in a pond:

- The slow and gentle way is to create the right conditions for ample plant growth, and to remove excess vegetation each autumn.
- The fast and brutal way to do it is to drain the pond and remove the built-up black ooze.

Ducks and geese

Whilst these birds have their place, they can create a lot of damage to small ponds when present for long periods in any large numbers. They enrich the water with their droppings and stir up enriched sediment as they root around. This destroys plant communities and favours algal blooms. Ponds are often left bare, murky and largely lifeless.

Fish

Generally speaking, ponds without fish contain more wildlife and remain healthily well-balanced for longer. Many fish have a voracious appetite which leads to a loss in number and variety of pond creatures such as amphibians. Certain fish, such as carp and trench, disturb the sediment of ponds stirring up the mud and nutrients within it. Short of really thoroughly draining and dredging a pond, total fish removal is virtually impossible.

Arable buffer zones

It is a reality that herbicides and insecticides sprayed onto arable field sometimes drift during application and miss the field by tens of metres. Where a pond is situated close by, delicate plants and invertebrates can be severely affected, resulting in a pond which is depleted in biodiversity and unable to maintain its own healthy balance easily. Fortunately some of the agri-environment schemes fund measures to protect ponds with grassy buffer strips in their field margin schedules.

Invasive non-native and native plants

A number of non-native plants available in this country can be extremely damaging to a pond. When a wetland version of one of these 'invasive exotics' gets into a pond, it often swamps it, displacing native plants and ruining habitats associated with those plants. As these exotic plants are relatively new arrivals to the region, our native creatures are often not well adapted to making use of them, so these plants are often less rich in animal life than native equivalents.

Invasive exotics often appear in a pond after a trip to the garden centre. These problem plants have often infested the nursery which supplies the garden centres with aquatic plants. The plants on sale may not show any signs of infestation, having been prepared for sale. However the problem plant can reappear unnoticed a few weeks after transfer to a pond.

Commonly sold wetland plants which cause problems include New Zealand Pygmyweed (*Crassula helmsii*), fairy moss (*Azolla filiculoides*), Canadian pondweed and its relatives (of the family *Elodea*), floating marsh pennywort (*Hydrocotyle ranunculoides*) and parrots feather (*Myriophyllum aquaticum*).

As a rule, do not introduce plants to ponds. Concentrate on creating the right conditions for abundant plant growth (by minimising all the negative factors discussed in this leaflet), and you will be surprised what plants just appear of their own accord.

Summer-dry temporary ponds

Drying up in summer is not necessarily a failure for a pond, though certain groups such as fish and dragonfly larvae cannot tolerate such conditions. Some groups such as amphibians, beetles and plant communities can actually benefit from ponds drying out because their main predators get wiped out, although amphibian larvae need a pond to hold some water until at least halfway through the summer. Dredging such a pond out will usually turn it into a permanently flooded waterbody. In rare cases this could be classified as an improvement in conservation terms; in other cases it would add up to the damage to a useful temporary pond ecosystem as deeper water is often less rich in wildlife than really shallow water. In some cases deepening a pond may not actually help it hold water.

Deep and shallow water

Very shallow water is where most of the wildlife is. In wildlife pond terms, deep water is water over a metre deep, shallow water is less than 30 centimetres in depth, very shallow is less than 5 centimetres.



Deep water differs from shallow water in two pertinent aspects: light does not penetrate as well in deep water and water in the deeps does not tend to get warmed up as much as that in the shallows. These two factors combine to mean that underwater plants grow much more easily in water less than half a metre deep and most pond creatures favour the warm shallows where they thrive much better.

Ponds which are steep sided so that within the horizontal space of two metres from the bank the water depth goes from zero to more than 50 centimetres tend to have a very different overall character to ponds which have extensive shallow zones occupying the majority of the pond. Largely shallow pools generally tend to balance out rich in plant and animal life and, typically, frog and newt tadpoles develop much quicker and survival rates to adulthood are higher. Ponds in which the majority of the water is over 50 centimetres deep are much more likely to be largely devoid of underwater plants and consequently poor in animal life. In these ponds, if tadpoles occur at all, they take longer to develop and a lower proportion survive to adulthood.

Exceptions do occur, but as a rule ponds that are intended for wildlife richness should be mostly shallow; and ponds that are largely lifeless and happen to be of a deeper profile can often be turned around by increasing the proportion of shallows to deeps.

3. POND MANAGEMENT OPTIONS

Manage trees and shrubs

Coppice a third of smaller trees/shrub/hedge, every three years, particularly on the southern sides of a pond as these reduce the amount of sunlight reaching the water and hamper aquatic plant growth. Excess dead leaves and blossom can also foul the water and further hamper plants from growing.

Cutting most shrubs and small trees down to ground level will not kill them but will mean they re-sprout with renewed vigour. This means that they will need re-coppicing within ten years. Cut a third of the shrub round a pond every two years to set up a cycle of coppicing such that at any one time you will have trees and shrubs at different stages of growth. Alternatively, shrubs can be regularly trimmed. Small trees can also be cut at chest height and the resulting stem growth can be periodically snipped off to form a pollard.

Where you want to reduce the amount of coppicing required roots may have to be removed to stop re-growth. It is often convenient to have this done by a digger at the same time as a pond is being dredged or an edge being re-profiled. Chemical treatment of cut stumps to stop re-sprouting is not recommended beside water because of the high risk of contamination of the pond. Coppicing is best carried out in late autumn - winter after the leaves have fallen.

Ponds quickly get shaded out by bushes and trees. Occasionally a pond manages to retain its health in such circumstances, but most ponds that are struggling to remain healthy anyway succumb to a state of comparatively lifeless murky water devoid of underwater plants, supporting just a handful of aquatic creatures, or in more advanced cases become smelly and deoxygenated.



Reduce aquatic vegetation

Thinning out excess aquatic vegetation every autumn, such that at the end of the operation the pond is left one quarter dense with plants.

Most Suffolk ponds progressively build up nutrients such as nitrates and phosphates, which in pond terms means that ponds become more prone to algal murkiness over time. Removing excess vegetation is a gentle way of taking such nutrients out of the water after they have been absorbed by growing plants. If too much aquatic vegetation is left on a pond over winter it will return nutrients to the pond as it rots, resulting in the pond becoming more dominated by duckweed, blanket weed or other forms of algae in the following growing season.

The optimal amount of plant cover in a pond during the summer is somewhere between 60 and 85% of the water volume. Most of this massive amount is considered surplus for the winter months, when just about 25% is needed, enabling a 'crop' to be taken. If a pond is estimated to be 30% dense with plants in an autumn, there is not much excess, and the only opportunity for removing plants may be in removing blanket weed algae or duckweed, which in itself smothers aquatic plants, and limits plant growth. Excess plants are either raked out (most submerged species which only have cursory roots), or pulled out roots and all (reedmace), but some well rooted plants (including sedges) have to be cut.

Thinning out excess vegetation is also a good opportunity to knock back the plants that are dominating a pond to the detriment of more slow-growing varieties. Where a species of plant is occurring as a minority, faster growing plants in the vicinity can be removed to give it more space. In shallow ponds there is often a case for attempting to eliminate the reedmace (*Typha latifolia*) altogether, as it is a fast-spreading species that is on the increase and tends to reduce overall wildlife value where it dominates.

Many creatures will be taken out of a pond within removed vegetation. Some care should be taken to establish what creatures are being disturbed in this way. If great crested newts (or their larvae) are found the operation should cease, and only continued later in the autumn when they are established to have left the pond. To a certain extent other creatures can be picked or rinsed out and returned to the pond. Some will crawl back into the water if the weed is strewn temporarily on the banks. However, many creatures will perish trapped by the weight of overlying plant material when out of water, or eaten by scavenging birds. It is impossible to thin out plants without some invertebrates perishing; sometimes it is deemed necessary that invertebrates should perish in the short-term, in order that a decline in invertebrates is avoided in the medium term.

Vegetation should eventually be piled away from the pond to avoid the nutrients seeping back into the pond when it rots. Be aware that any site used for the strewing of such rotting vegetation may subsequently be more prone to nettle and thistle growth as a result.

Most lowland ponds only stay in peak condition for a handful of years, and tend to be more prone to duckweed and algae each year. As a rule, the more algae and duckweed, the less other plant growth and the less diversity of creatures are found in ponds. Not removing excess vegetation lays a pond more open to this course of events. But how quickly or slowly a given pond succumbs to this varies immensely as it depends on a wide variety of factors.

Remove excess algae, blanketweed and duckweeds

Algae and duckweeds tend to dominate a pond when phosphate levels are high. In many cases phosphate levels are unnaturally high and it is possible to discern where the nutrients have, and are, coming from. Thus the most effective remedy for this problem is to prevent further nutrient build-up and to remove the excess nutrients currently from the pond. Removing excess algae and duckweeds may then also help the situation.

When blanketweed or duckweeds smother a pond they blot out the light and prevent a decent amount of underwater vegetation from developing, hampering the pond's health. Thus removing as much of it as you can, helps let the light back in. In addition, blanketweed and duckweeds generally only dominate in ponds containing high levels of phosphates, a situation often caused by seepage from septic tanks, manure heaps or excessive fertilising on fields. Because the duckweeds/algae absorb many phosphates as they grow, when you remove the duckweed/algae you are removing the phosphates from the system, so that in future the growth rate will not be so great – unless more phosphates are getting into the pond through an inlet somewhere.

- Duckweeds are best netted up with a fine-meshed sampling net. This can be particularly effective in heavy wind when most of the duckweed is swept to one side of a pond.
- Most blanketweed can be twisted and dragged out when it is in its growing stages. Grab (or twist a stick amongst) part of it and slowly pull as you twist – the twisting binds it together, like spinning wool, and you can often remove large sheaves of it in one go. Sometimes however it breaks up, and in these cases it is best netted up.
- Duckweeds and blanketweed often have a lot of creatures amongst their strands. In spring and summer, you either need to comb through the removed vegetation by hand, or leave the pond until the autumn before tackling (particularly if great crested newts are known to inhabit the pond).

Be sure you are also managing the nutrient levels in the pond, and setting up favourable conditions for plant growth – both of which may reduce the excess algae anyway.

Algae, and to some extents duckweeds, are sometimes controllable using barley straw. A 300 sq m pond can take one bale, broken up and loosely arranged in net bags tied to the edge with light rope/baling twine. Put it in the water in January and remove 6 months later. Another one can take its place for the latter half of the summer, though its time submerged should overlap with the first one by one or two months.

Algal blooms often come and go without management, but also often get worse over time if not dealt with. Ponds regularly stricken by algal blooms, or prone to more than half their surface being covered with duckweed, tend to lose plant and animal abundance and variety over time.

Dredge the pond bottom

Autumn/winter dredging of accumulated silt from a pond in two phases.

The silt at the bottom of a pond is sometimes a lingering store of accumulated pollution or naturally occurring substances, which obstruct the achievement of pond health. Overtime the effects can sometimes be reduced enough by the repeated removal of excess vegetation in the autumn, but in more severe cases in which excess plant growth does not occur, the removal of silt is a rapid solution, though it necessarily involves massive upheaval for a pond.



To avoid losing all lingering pond life, rather than dredging the whole pond out in one go, ponds should be dredged in two phases, the phases being separated by a one or two years. In practice this usually involves getting a digger in one autumn/winter to scrape out a shallow bay or two, on a side of the pond which will not impede digger access during the second phase. Then over the next year or two the bay should naturally get colonised by marginal plants and creatures will make use of the vegetation for sheltering and feeding. When the main part of the pond is drained and dredged, the bay is left as a separate shallow pool or damp dip in which a range of pond creatures will persist, acting as a source when reunited with the rest of the pond once winter water levels return.

In two particular cases there may be grounds for dredging a pond in one fell swoop:

- if fish are present, dredging is a good opportunity to give the pond a fish-free fresh start; an angling club may be found to remove the fish exposed during drainage, and care needs to be taken not to leave pools or mud in which fish can survive.
- If a nuisance invasive non-native plant has infested the pond, in some cases dredging may be the way to remove it, though additional or alternative measures may need to be taken depending on which alien plant is present.

Before dredging, or bank re-profiling, any crevices should be investigated for sheltering amphibians, which should be carefully removed to dense undergrowth within a few hundred metres. If great crested newts are found, work will have to be halted and advice/licence sought from English Nature. Dredged silt behaves initially like a liquid, so the site chosen should not be where seepage can occur back into the pond.

Silt needs to be disposed of with consideration for how it may affect the land it is spread on. The rich organic matter of the silt will enrich land and damage sites of floral value because of their low nutrient levels (e.g. flower-rich grassland or woodland). In practice, by linking up with the local farmer, an arrangement can be made to synchronise the dredging with ploughing time so that silt can be spread thinly on arable land and ploughed in.

Any areas of valuable vegetation in a pond should, where possible, be left untouched as a source of plants and animals for the future colonisation of the rest of the pond.

On wet sites, the tracks of heavy machinery may cause unnecessary damage to surroundings after late October. In these cases there can be a case for dredging a pond in September or early October, but extra care needs to be taken to ascertain that amphibians are not still in the pond before work starts.

You can sometimes avoid the need for dredging by dealing with the other factors which are limiting the growth of vegetation in a pond, and removing excess plant material each year. Ponds that are not dredged may persist with problems characterised by a lack of vegetation, though they can sometimes recover of their own accord in time, particularly if other detrimental conditions are neutralised.

Control ducks and geese

Excess numbers of duck exert negative pressures on ponds, which can soon turn healthy ponds into muddy, relatively lifeless puddles. Ducks are often attracted by the presence of food – often by local people feeding them bread. In some cases where a community has become used to feeding ducks on a pond, it may be best that the community will prevail and the pond remains a duck pond.

After feeding has ceased, regular scaring may be enough to get ducks out of the habit of congregating at the pond. If ducks cannot be discouraged at a particular pond, it may be better applying pond restoration resources on another site where the potential is greater.

HARDWICK PARISH COUNCIL MONTHLY FINANCIAL STATEMENT

May-19

Summary of previous month**Balance brought forward** **£156,007.72****Adjustments and amendments****Expenditure approved at last meeting/between meetings**

RPM	PLAY AREA REPAIRS	-876.00
HARDWICK COMMUNITY ASSO	AFFILIATION FEE	-45.00
MORELOCK	MVAS - SPEEDWATCH	-2,968.80

Misc credits

SCDC	PRECEPT	30183.00
HARDWICK FC	PITCH HIRE 17/18	250.00

*Total Adjustments*26543.20

Balance revised after adjustments

£182,550.92**Bank Reconciliation to last statement**

Account	Funds	Statement	Outstanding
Current Account	59,801.73	65852.22	-6,050.49
Business Account	546.44	546.44	
Cambridge Counties Bank	94,202.75	94,202.75	
Bonds	28,000.00	28,000.00	
Total	182,550.92	188,601.41	-6,050.49

Expenditure for approval

£

	SALARY	90.36
	SALARY	148.90
NEST	PENSION	173.53
VICTOIRE PRESS	VILLAGE PLAN PRINTING	1500.00
RH LANDSCAPES	GRASSCUTTING	906.00
CAPALC	AFFILIATION FEE	529.87
LGS SERVICES	ADMIN SUPPORT	1353.81
PLAYSAFETY LTD	ROSPA INSPECTION	411.00
X2CONNECT	PHONE BOX PAINT	109.59
RPM	PLAY EQUIPMENT REPAIR	192.00
LCPAS	INTERNAL AUDIT	200.00

*Total expenditure*5615.06

Balance c/f

£176,935.86**Notes:***Late invoices will be brought to the meeting*