

HARDWICK PARISH COUNCIL
CLERK TO THE COUNCIL MRS ANN-MARIE DAVIES

**DRAFT Minutes of the meeting of Hardwick Parish Council on Tuesday 5 March 2019 at 7pm
in the John Bridles Hall**

Present: Chairman Richard Blacklock
Vice Chairman Garth Bickerton
Councillor Carol Wright
Councillor Amanda Tofield
Councillor Trevor Bowman-Shaw

County Councillor Netta Glover
District Councillor Ashley Bond

Plus 2 residents

1. **To note apologies for absence:** None received.
2. **Declaration of interest** in items on the agenda: None
3. **Open Forum: (adjournment)** – Brian Hogarth was in attendance to listen to agenda item 9d.
4. **To agree the minutes** of the last meeting held on Tuesday 8 January 2019 – The minutes were agreed as a correct record and signed.
5. **To update on matters arising** – The Clerk asked if the benches, old and new had been resited in the village. The Chairman confirmed it had not. The Clerk would contact the contractor to progress. **ACTION: AMD**

The Chairman confirmed the trees by Parrish Piece had been pollarded.

6. **To receive updates** from Bucks County Council and AVDC Councillors – NG gave a verbal update to the group. District Councillor Ashley Bond told the group that the new space in front of the cinema was to have an official opening on Friday 8 March 2019 at 5.30pm. He also advised those present that the VALP is being reduced by 1500 homes.
7. **To consider correspondence and other communication received since the last meeting.**
 - a) To consider the change of bi-monthly meeting dates and update standing orders accordingly – Councillors agreed that due to room availability, future meetings would be held on the first Tuesday every second month. The Clerk was asked to make this change to their laid down standing orders. **ACTION: AMD**
 - b) To consider putting together a community emergency plan for the village – The Chairman gave a brief background to this proposal which had been put forward by AVDC. He asked Councillors if they wanted to go down the line of producing an emergency plan for the village. After discussion Councillors considered it was not necessary at this time and unanimously voted to not proceed. The Chairman and Vice Chairman were happy to be nominated as contacts for the village in this regard. The Clerk would advise AVDC. **ACTION: AMD**
 - c) To consider and complete the Rights of Way Improvement Plan received from BCC/TFB – The Chairman and Clerk would complete this survey outside of the meeting. **ACTION: RB/AMD**
8. **Planning:** To discuss planning applications and make recommendation, and to include those planning applications received after this agenda is published, if urgent: RB updated the group on

The Chairman advised the group that there had been a recent refusal for the planning application at The Old Telephone Exchange. AVDC refused it on the following grounds:-

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1. The development proposal is considered to constitute an isolated dwelling in the countryside and does not fall within any of the limited exceptions, set out in paragraph 79 of the NPPF whereby development of this kind may be acceptable.
2. The proposed development would result in an intensification of use of an existing access at a point where visibility is substandard and would lead to danger and inconvenience to people using it and to highway users in general.
3. The applicant is not able to provide a satisfactory turning space within the site.
4. The proposed dwelling on this site would result in a cramped and over intensive form of development that would be visually incongruous, intrusive and out of keeping with the countryside surroundings.

5. Highways, Footpaths and Footways

- a) To report and update on issues and repairs – The Chairman reported the shocking mess which had been created by Thames Water carrying out works in the village. Councillors agreed with the Chairman's proposal to write to Thames Water stating the static areas in which they have worked are a mess and their vehicles and lorries are parking in difficult areas, going over verges and because of inconsiderate parking, are then forcing residents to cross verges to access their own properties. The village green has also been damaged by being dug up and debris is being dumped onto the grass. Councillors fully expect the green to be reinstated to the condition it was before works started. They are expected to be in the village until 23 March 2019. The Clerk was asked to write to Thames Water about the state of the village and ask that they meet the full cost of reinstating all of the verges.

ACTION: AMD

Councillor Bickerton suggested it would be helpful to get an indication of the costs of the works to carry out repairs in the village before the contractor leaves. Councillors agreed and the Clerk was asked to contact the grass cutting contractor and ask him to 'walk' the village in about 10 days' time in order to obtain an indicative cost.

ACTION: AMD

- b) To receive an update on kissing gates in the village – The Chairman told the group that he had already spoken to one local landowner and was in discussion with another about taking up this scheme. Councillor Tofield asked for the details of the scheme to be sent through to her.

ACTION: AMD

- c) To report back on annual inspection to the play area – The Chairman had attended an inspection to the play area around three weeks ago. No report had yet been received. The Clerk was asked to chase.

ACTION: AMD

Councillor Tofield told the group she had received notification of a problem with the tyre swing. The Clerk had reported the issue to Safe & Sound who agreed to call out the same day. Again the Clerk would check this with the contractor and also ask that the washers sitting beneath the tyre were changed from square to circular in order to avoid any future problems.

ACTION: AMD

- d) To consider the cutback or removal of ash tree in the copse – The Clerk had previously received and circulated an email about a problematic ash tree from a local resident who was in attendance. The Chairman explained 'dieback' to the group. The resident enlarged on the situation he was dealing with which was the size of the tree, the cutting out of light at certain times of the day and the amount of seedlings it dropped into their garden. After discussion the Chairman suggested we commission a tree surgeon to inspect the tree to see if it is healthy and then consider next steps. The Clerk was asked to source a tree surgeon.

ACTION: AMD

Councillor Tofield enquired as to what had happened to the silent soldier. The Chairman said it had been displayed in a public place and it had been removed until such time a permanent place could be found. Councillor Tofield suggested a good place for it to 'rest' would be by the monument by the bottom of the village. Poppies could also be placed around it. Councillors thought this was a wonderful idea. Councillor Tofield agreed to speak to the owners of the hedge by the monument to seek their permission.

ACTION: AT

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Councillor Tofield also asked about the main noticeboard and if it was to be re-sited away from facing the road as it had been previously agreed. The Chairman indicated the glass on the noticeboard could suffer from condensation and moisture if it did not face the church as it would be in the shade all the time. Councillors agreed that in the short term the posts would remain in place and just the board would be turned around to check for moisture for a while. The Clerk was asked to speak to the grass cutting contractor to see if he could arrange this for us.

ACTION: AMD

6. Street lighting

- a) To report and update on issues and repairs – No streetlights out.

7. Finance

- a) To draw cheques

The Council resolved to draw the following cheques:

Aylesbury Mains Ltd	chq 648	£90.48
Ann-Marie Davies	chq 649	£553.33

- b) To consider the purchase of bulbs – Councillors agreed the Clerk should apply to County Councillor Netta Glover for £200 for bulbs and poppies.

ACTION: AMD

8. To report on meetings attended on behalf of the Parish Council

- a) Winslow Local Area Forum – Next meeting 21 March 2019.
b) Parish Liaison Group – 27 March 2019. Councillor Tofield offered to attend with the Clerk. The Clerk agreed to send across details.

ACTION: AMD

9. **Website updates** – The Clerk was asked to send through the confirmed notes from January and also the draft notes from this meeting to the website administrator. **ACTION: AMD**

Councillor Tofield agreed to sign post the new website through the village magazine.

ACTION: AT

Councillor Tofield and Councillor Wright agreed to contact the Hardwick Village Association and the Church respectively to ask for an annual report for the Annual Parish Meeting held in May.

ACTION: AT/CW

10. **To agree the date of the next meeting** – Tuesday 7 May 2019

Signed:

Date: