

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

**DRAFT minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of Hardwick Parish Council on Tuesday 7 May 2019 at 7pm in the John Bridles Hall**

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

Plus County Councillor Netta Glover & 1 resident

1. **To note apologies for absence** – Apologies were received from District Councillor Ashely Bond.
2. **To receive a report from the Chair of the Parish Council** – Chairman Richard Blacklock reported that there had been no major expenditure during the past year. Items purchased have been the Silent soldier which will ultimately be placed by the small war memorial, and two new benches in the village, with the help of two generous donations. Netta Glover our local County Councillor donated £130 to help purchase bulbs for the village and we were also successful in bidding for funds for a laptop from the Bucks Association of Local Councils for our Clerk to use. In addition, our Parish Plan has been updated and we also have a new website. He ended the update by acknowledging the devastation to the village caused by Thames Water (TW). He assured those present that the Parish Council would do all they could to put pressure on TW to carry out repairs. He emphasised that the staff on sit were all polite and courteous but Head Office were reluctant to accept responsibility.
3. **To receive reports from other Village Organisations** – Councillor Carol Wright had received a report from the Church and she read a summary to the group. (It is attached to these minutes for reference).

Councillor Amanda Tofield updated the group on the Hardwick Village Association for the past year. She reported it had been a positive year with a healthy bank balance of £6-7k in the bank. The village windows had been done, new curtains had been purchased and the floor was next on the list to be repolished and resanded, together with replacing the wood panels on the oil tank to that of metal. Parts of the floor were rotting but no major expenditure was needed at the moment. She informed the group that the Association was in negotiations with the Redline bus company as they had damaged the wall to the village hall whilst traversing through the village. It was not in an unsafe condition.

4. **To agree the date of the next meeting** – After discussion Councillors resolved to revert to meetings being held on the second Tuesday of the month from the September 2019 meeting.

The meeting closed at 19.13

**Signed:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_

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DRAFT minutes of the Annual Meeting of Hardwick Parish Council held in John Bridles Hall on Tuesday 7 May 2019 at 7.30pm.

1. **Election of the Chairman of the Council** – Councillor Amanda Tofield proposed that Councillor Blacklock was elected as Chairman. This was seconded by Councillor Carol Wright. Councillor Blacklock accepted the Chairmanship and signed his declaration of acceptance of office.
2. **To elect a Vice Chairman of the Council** – Councillor Carol Wright proposed that Councillor Garth Bickerton was elected as Vice Chairman. This was seconded by Councillor Amanda Tofield and accepted by the Vice Chairman. He duly signed his declaration of acceptance of office.
3. **To receive apologies for absence** – Apologies were received from District Councillor Ashley Bond.
4. **Declaration of interest** in items on the agenda: to declare any interests and agree any dispensation requests – None received.
5. **Open Forum: (adjournment)** – The resident in attendance urged the Council to install kerbstones instead of granite setts when carrying out future kerbing works as the setts were continually being knocked out/disturbed by vehicles driving through the village.

He also reported to the group that footpaths in the village were very overgrown, particularly along Westview, and Parrish Piece was blocked and needed a general tidy up. The Chairman thanked the resident for bringing these matters to the Councils attention and said once agreement was reached with TW as to what reparatory was to be undertaken, further maintenance work would then be carried out by the Parish Council.

The Chairman made a change to the agenda and took item 13 to allow Netta Glover the County Councillor the opportunity to leave after her item. She reported that setting up the new Buckinghamshire Council following the unitary decision was taking up a good deal of officer and Councillors time at the moment. The first positive of this new set up would be seen in the Autumn when all five authorities would be sharing their legal resources. Offers to take on more services would be sent to Parish and Town Councils for their consideration in due course. The Chairman, Clerk and Councillor Amanda Tofield confirmed they would be attending the Unitary Workshop planned for June. County Councillor Glover said Andrew Grant the CEO of AVDC would be taking redundancy before the new organisation was to be created and the new post of CEO of Buckinghamshire Council was to be advertised along with other posts and it was hoped to attract some quality staff. In her role as current Chairman of BCC she told the group she would be taking selected social workers to the Royal Garden Party this year as a means of thanking them for their work. Other items of interest were that, the new Expressway route would go out to consultation at end of 2019, scamming was prevalent in the area and residents were urged to be vigilant, more money was to be injected into the weed treatment programme across the county and all five Councils had recently petitioned the Government to ask that the decision to go ahead and build HS2 was halted. Lastly, 'Be a better biker' training sessions were to be held shortly. Details could be found on the BCC website.

6. **To agree the minutes** of the last meeting held on Tuesday 5 March 2019 – The minutes were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.
7. **To update on matters arising** – The Clerk advised the group that Thames Water had offered to meet and walk around the village to discuss damage caused by their works on Wednesday 29 May at 1pm. Councillors agreed this date. The Clerk was asked to contact Thames Water to accept their offer. **ACTION: AMD**  
The Clerk asked Councillor Tofield for an update on the kissing gates project. Councillor Tofield confirmed the landowner she had approached had agreed in principle and was coming back to her with coordinates. **ACTION: AT**

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The Clerk asked Councillor Tofield if the resident who lived where the Silent Soldier to be placed was agreeable to it being installed. Councillor Tofield confirmed that they had agreed to this proposal.

Following the refusal of planning permission at The Old Exchange, a discussion arose around vehicle movements. The Clerk was asked to keep in contact with Weedon PC for further updates as they were the Consultee Council and to put this item on the next agenda. **ACTION: AMD**

Councillor Tofield asked the Chairman if the plaque had been placed onto the donated bench. The Chairman said it had not but he would deal. **ACTION: RB**

Councillor Tofield also asked if the benches and noticeboard had been sited in the correct place now. The Chairman responded that the benches would be moved when the plinths are finished and he would arrange for the noticeboard to be resited before the next PC meeting.

**ACTION: RB**

8. **To review and confirm the Standing Orders** – As minuted in the Open Forum meetings would revert back to the second Tuesday of every second month as of the Autumn. **ACTION: AMD**
9. **To review and confirm the Complaints Procedure** - Agreed
10. **To review and confirm the Councillor and Officer Protocols** - Agreed
11. **To appoint representatives to outside bodies** – Councillors agreed to send representatives to the Winslow LAF on an Ad Hoc basis. Councillor Tofield agreed to attend the NBPCC when the agenda dictated our attendance. Councillor Tofield agreed to attend the quarterly Parish Liaison Group meetings.
12. **To appoint committee/working groups** – None identified at this time.
13. **To receive updates** from Bucks County Council and AVDC Councillors – see Open Forum for details.
14. **To consider correspondence and other communication received since the last meeting.**
  - a) To consider response from Thames Water regarding remedial works in the village – See item 7 for information.
15. **Planning:** To discuss planning applications and make recommendation, and to include those planning applications received after this agenda is published, if urgent: None – See item 7 for information.
16. **Highways, Footpaths and Footways**
  - a) To report and update on issues and repairs – It was acknowledged that repairs were needed in the village. This would be reviewed following the meet up and with TW and their agreement to carry out repairs.
  - b) Cutting of tree at the Copse – Following a complaint from a local resident regarding seedling droppings, the Chairman had accompanied a tree contractor to inspect the tree. Expert opinion advised the tree was fit and healthy and if trimmed, it would invigorate the tree to grow quicker. For this season, the tree would be left as is. The Clerk had informed the complainant.  
Discussion arose over some hedges in the village which had been allowed to grow into village paths. Councillors agreed that the Clerk should write an official letter to households asking for their cooperation to trim back after the bird nesting season, with the proviso that dangerous branches need to be trimmed as soon as possible. The Chairman would provide addresses to the Clerk and he and Councillor Tofield would visit residents to deliver letters.

**ACTION: AMD**

## **Street lighting**

- a) To report and update on issues and repairs – None to report.

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**17. Finance**

- a) To agree the accounts for the year ending March 2019 – The accounts were agreed as a correct record.
- b) To sign off Sections 1 & 2 of the Annual Governance & Accountability Return for 2018/19 – The Annual Governance and Accountability return and Sections 1 & 2 were signed by Richard Blacklock, the Chairman of the Parish Council.
- c) To consider a donation to the upkeep of the Church footpath – The Chairman proposed the Parish Council donate £150. Councillors unanimously agreed and the cheque was raised. See below for details.
- d) To consider items for proposed expenditure: kerbing to verges, additional street lights, hedge and grass cutting – The Chairman asked for suggestions for expenditure. Councillor Tofield concurred with the resident in attendance and stated she thought kerb setts recently installed were not suitable more urban type kerbing would be more suitable. The Chairman put forward possible future sites for kerbing – the passing areas by Rectory Cottage, and down towards the bottom of the village green where parking was chaotic. Councillors agreed to removing part of the large village green and investigating prices for doing kerbing works and making wider spaces for better parking. The Clerk was asked to contact a local contractor for quotes.

**ACTION:AMD** Councillor Bickerton reported it was extremely dark by West View. Councillors agreed and the Clerk was asked to obtain a quote for a new streetlight to be installed at this location.

**ACTION:AMD**

The blocked alleyway brought to the Parish Councils attention by two residents would be cleared. The grass cutting contractor would be asked to deal.

**ACTION:AMD**

Councillor Tofield would purchase and plant poppy seeds alongside the Silent Soldier as previously agreed.

**ACTION:AT**

- e) To draw cheques

Councillors resolved to draw the following cheques:-

Came & Company	chq 650	£218.00
Ann-Marie Davies	chq 551	£515.40
BALC	chq 552	£62.98
NBPPC	chq 553	£20.00
L A Orchard	chq 554	£70.00
Churches of Hardwick & Weedon Together	chq 555	£100.00
GM Outdoor Services	chq 556	£880.00
St Marys PCC	chq 557	£150.00

Councillor Tofield asked if the repairs to the tyre swing had taken place. The Clerk confirmed it had been attended to by the installer. Councillor Tofield agreed to carry out bi-monthly checks of the play area. The Clerk agreed to create a bespoke checklist for her to use.

**ACTION:AT/AMD**

**18. To report on meetings attended on behalf of the Parish Council**

- a) Winslow LAF – No attendance.
- b) Parish Liaison Group – Councillor Tofield had attended and enjoyed it.

- 19. **Website updates** – The Clerk was asked to ask the Administrator how many visits the website had received and send through minutes and Annual Return to be published. **ACTION:AMD**

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20. **To agree the date of the next meeting** – The next meeting would be held on 2 July 2019 at 7pm in the John Bridles Hall.

**Signed:**

**Date**

**THESE MINUTES WILL BE RATIFIED AND SIGNED AT THE NEXT PC MEETING.**