

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

**Minutes of the Meeting of Hardwick Parish Council on Tuesday 13 March 2018 at 7pm in the John Bridles Hall.**

**Present:**

Chairman Richard Blacklock  
Vice Chairman Garth Bickerton  
Councillor Amanda Tofield

County Councillor Netta Glover  
District Councillor Ashley Bond  
Plus 2 residents

1. **To receive apologies for absence** – Apologies were received from Councillors Carol Wright and Trevor Bowman-Shaw.
2. **Declaration of interest** in items on the agenda: to declare any interests and agree any dispensation requests – None.
3. **Open Forum: (adjournment)** – A resident asked how the road closure currently in operation on the A413 would be operating. The Chairman explained the route that had to be taken during the works.

He also asked if there was any progress on bringing faster internet speeds into the village. The Chairman reported that fibre optic cable was unlikely to be in place until 2019/20 but that Rapid Rural had come into the village and installed a further mast to the Church Tower and it was providing an excellent service. He told the resident that whilst he did not want to promote any particular provider, anyone in the village would be welcome to make enquiries to Rapid Rural for further information on signing up via [enquiries@rapidrural.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@rapidrural.co.uk)

A further resident said he had contacted Ms McIlaney at TFB about the problems with gullies and drainage grips on the A413. She assured him that this would be looked at once the road patching on the A413 was completed. He highlighted the damage done by Thames Water in relation to small kerbstones opposite the Pub and the Chairman acknowledged this point and said it would be discussed later on in the agenda.

He also mentioned bluish colour tiles that had been installed to 6 West View and asked if VAHT needed planning permission for such works. The Clerk would contact VAHT in the first instance to check the correct tile was used.

**ACTION: AMD**

He further added that the Bearbrook Runners had caused all kinds of parking issues in the village during their annual visit. Councillor Amanda Tofield agreed to contact the Runners to ask them to park more considerately when next in the village.

**ACTION: AT**

It was reported that the trees down the alleyway still needed sorting. The Chairman agreed to take a look.

**ACTION: RB**

The resident stated that in his opinion, if the precept was to be higher, he felt that any donations should only be made which were for the benefit of the village. The Chairman acknowledged the point made but disagreed as he felt the village would occasionally want to donate to other worthwhile causes.

Two other points were raised. That the wooden pegs by the parking area were in a state of disrepair and also that when the grass was cut, could the collection of cuttings be extended to the whole of the village and not just the two village greens. The Chairman responded that the collection of grass was isolated to the greens only to keep the costs down. He offered to look into this matter going forward.

4. **To agree the minutes** of the last meeting held on Tuesday 9 January 2018 – The minutes were agreed and signed as a correct record.
5. **To update on matters arising** – None.
6. **To receive updates** from Bucks County Council and AVDC Councillors – (This item was heard straight after the Open Forum to allow District and County Councillors to leave and attend other meetings that evening).

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County Councillor Netta Glover told the group the 'exciting' news that Central Government had finally made a 'minded' decision to go with one unitary council for Buckinghamshire. There would now be a period of consultation with the deadline of 25 May 2018 after which a final decision would be taken.

She also told the group that she had a sum of £9k to split between the nine parishes in her ward. She invited bids.

The Chairman asked County Councillor Netta Glover for a status update on Children Centres in the County. She explained that with finite resources the budget had to be spent in areas which demonstrated the most need. The service had to explore different ways of delivering their service and no decision had yet been reached on the number of Children's Centres that would close.

District Councillor Ashley Bond reported that he had organised the clear up of the footway from Hardwick to Whitchurch on the Whitchurch side as requested.

## 7. To consider correspondence and other communication received since the last meeting.

a) To receive and adopt the updated Parish Plan – The Chairman reported that he and the Vice Chairman Garth Bickerton had met to update the Parish Plan. Councillor Carol Wright had completed the update assigned to her and the other Councillors should have completed their areas in time for adoption at the next meeting. The Clerk was asked to place this item on the May agenda. **ACTION: AMD**

b) To consider entering a bid into either the New Homes Bonus or Micro Grant funding through AVDC – Following the announcement in the Open Forum that County Councillor Netta Glover had funds to bid for, Councillors entered into a lengthy discussion around priorities for the village. It was agreed that the safe and unhindered passage of the school bus through the village was without question the first priority to try and resolve. Councillors acknowledged that they needed to take action now to prevent Bucks CC withdrawing the service from the village (as they had recently threatened to do) and instead force children in the village to stand on the busy A413 to be collected and dropped off. This is a service that the village had fought hard for following the historic tragic death of a schoolchild when alighting from the bus on the main road and it was clear something needed to be done. Regrettably, Councillors resolved to remove approximately two foot from the large village green and rekerb so that the road could be widened for the bus to travel through. This would be a costly exercise and also one that would take time to organise. The Clerk was asked to write a strongly worded letter to all residents in the village to ask for their help to think about considerately parking especially at bus pick up and drop off times and also until works could be carried out to widen the road. Councillor Amanda Tofield offered to organise for the letters to be delivered via the Parish magazine. **ACTION: AMD/AT**

In addition, the Clerk was asked to contact County Councillor Netta Glover to ask for her to consider donating a minimum of £1000 to help fund this road widening and ultimately road safety scheme. **ACTION: AMD**

The Clerk was also asked to contact the contractor to obtain prices for the scheme. **ACTION: AMD**

With regard to the Micro Grants available through AVDC, the Clerk was asked to create a poster type leaflet which was to be displayed in the village and which asked residents for their ideas on what the Parish Council should bid for. **ACTION: AMD**

The Clerk told the group that AVDC had advised a price increase of 2.7% to their dog waste emptying service.

8. **Planning:** To discuss planning applications and make recommendation, and to include those planning applications received after this agenda is published, if urgent: None.

**The Chairman asked the Clerk to find out the status of the planning application at**

## 9. Highways, Footpaths and Footways

a) To report and update on issues and repairs – The Chairman raised the matter of the works being carried out by Thames Water. The Clerk was asked to write to Thames Water noting the damage that has been done in the village to kerbs and verges and requesting that they

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make good any further erosion of banks in their subsequent works. She was also asked to include the issue of the knocked out granite setts between Poplars Farm and Hardwicke Place. Councillor Amanda Tofield will send photographic evidence to the Clerk.

**ACTION: AMD/AT**

The Clerk was asked to advise TFB that overgrown vegetation was spilling out into the footway on the road up to Whitchurch.

**ACTION: AMD**

- b) To consider the purchase of bulbs for planting in the Spring – Councillor Amanda Tofield agreed to walk around the village and photograph the sites of the current bulbs in preparation for planting.

**ACTION: AT**

- c) To consider the quote to clear along kerb stones in the village – This quote was agreed but works would not be arranged until Thames Water had completed their works in the village. The Clerk would advise the Contractor.

**ACTION: AMD**

The Clerk was asked to chase AVDC on their promise to sweep roads in the village.

**ACTION: AMD**

The Chairman referred to the correspondence from the Ramblers. BCC have agreed to supply a kissing gate, which Bob Gregory will install where the footpath crosses from the field into the farmyard. *Since the meeting the PC have been advised that when the Weedon gates were put in (3-4 years ago) BCC installed them, but it looks as if now the policy is supply only. We have been advised that if there are other landowners who are prepared to change stiles to kissing gates, but don't want to install them themselves, BCC have a team of volunteers who can help.*

Councillor Amanda Tofield asked the Clerk for a list of footpaths in the village. The Clerk would bring along to the next meeting.

**ACTION: AMD**

## 10. Street lighting

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

## 11. Finance

- a) To agree the accounts for the month ending December 2017 & January 2018 – The accounts were agreed as a correct record.
- b) To draw cheques.

The Council resolved to draw the following cheque:

Ann-Marie Davies                      chq 616                      £524.95  
(Two months wages including payment to SLCC for professional subscription)

- c) To consider making a donation to the Silent Soldier Campaign – Councillors agreed that in principle they would like to support this campaign. Councillor Amanda Tofield stated that the Whitchurch British Legion were already looking at this initiative and it would cover Hardwick. The Chairman asked for this item to be placed onto the next agenda to receive an update.

**ACTION: AMD**

- d) To note £200 kindly received from County Councillor Netta Glover and to decide purchase of two benches for the village – Councillors noted the donation from County Councillor Netta Glover and also the donation from Sarah Shaw. Councillors decided to purchase a recycled plastic bench for the little green by the play area and asked the Clerk to contact Sarah Shaw for her agreement to purchasing a similar bench for installation on the large green. Councillor Tofield to send contact details to the Clerk.

**AMD/AT**

**ACTION:**

Councillors discussed dog mess in the village and the increasing number of complaints that had been received. One particular incident recorded was dog excrement on bottom of the children's slide! Councillors agreed to purchase another dog bin for erection by Corner Cottage and next to the existing litter bin.

**ACTION: AMD**

## 12. To report on meetings attended on behalf of the Parish Council

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- a) Winslow Local Area Forum – Not attended.  
The Clerk updated the group on her attendance at three meetings since the last PC meeting. One was to the Parish Conference, the second was to the County Archives and the third was to find out how the new General Data Protection Regulations would affect the work of Parish Councils.

## **13. Website Updates**

- a) To update on new arrangements – Rapid Rural/Church Tower – Further to the note in the Open Forum the Chairman advised the group that a further transmitter had been installed to the Church Tower.

14. **To agree the date of the next meeting** – The date of the next meeting, which would also include the Annual Meeting of the Parish was set as Tuesday 8 May 2018 at 7pm in the St John Bridles Hall.

**Signed:**

**Date**