

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

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of Hardwick Parish Council on Tuesday 8 May 2018 at 7pm in the John Bridles Hall

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

County Councillor Netta Glover
District Councillor Ashley Bond

Plus 2 residents

1. **To note apologies for absence:** Apologies were received from Councillor Amanda Tofield.
2. **To receive a report from the Chair of the Parish Council** – Chairman Richard Blacklock delivered a verbal report to the group. He reported that no major works had recently been carried out following the expenditure to the play area. Councillors had started the process of setting monies aside for road improvements in the village. The opening balance as at 1 April 2018 was £4631. Grass cutting in the village had been going reasonably well. One piece of work still to do was the cutting back of trees behind Parishes Piece. This had been put back till later in the year due to the nesting of birds.
3. **To receive reports from other Village Organisations** – None received.
4. **To agree the date of the next meeting** – 14 May 2019

Signed:

Date

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Hardwick Parish Council held in John Bridles Hall on Tuesday 8 May 2018 at 7.30pm.

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1. **Election of the Chairman of the Council** and to receive the Chairman's declaration of acceptance of office or, if not then received, to decide when it shall be received – Councillor Trevor Bowman-Shaw nominated Richard Blacklock, Vice Councillor Garth Bickerton seconded this motion. Richard Blacklock was elected as Chairman and signed his declaration of acceptance of office.
2. **To elect a Vice Chairman of the Council and to receive the Chairman's declaration of acceptance of office or, if not then received, to decide when it shall be received** – Chairman Richard Blacklock nominated Garth Bickerton, Councillor Trevor Bowman-Shaw seconded this motion. Garth Bickerton was elected as Vice Chairman and signed his declaration of acceptance of office.
3. **To receive apologies for absence** – Apologies were received from Councillor Amanda Tofield.
4. **Declaration of interest** in items on the agenda – None.
5. **Open Forum: (adjournment)** – A resident in attendance supported the fact that the cutting back of trees should indeed be delayed to avoid the current period of birds nesting. He also stated that in his opinion the village should not enter the Best Kept Village Competition this year as it was not in a fit state following works by Thames Water. He also felt that the grass cutting had not been as good over the past year.

A further resident was in attendance to raise two concerns, the first was over the planning application on the agenda for Manor House Farm. Whilst he had no objection to the planned development itself, he had concerns over the disruption during the construction phase. He hoped this could be avoided and that roads would not be blocked and vehicles could still traverse. District Councillor Ashley Bond advised the group that the Parish Council could ask for a condition to be attached to the planning application which asked that 'roads need to be kept clear at all times'.

The second concern highlighted was that Thames Water made a mess with grass verges and in particular damaged access to their drive at Briar Wood Lower Road.

The Chairman thanked both residents for their input and said all comments would be taken into consideration under their specific agenda items.

6. **To agree the minutes** of the last meeting held on Tuesday 13 March 2018 – the minutes were agreed as a correct record and signed.
7. **To update on matters arising.**
 - The Clerk had contacted the Vale of Aylesbury Housing Trust about a residents concern with the newly installed roof tiles to a dwelling in the village. The Trust confirmed they had been installed in accordance with relevant Planning guidance and that they will eventually wear in.
 - The trees down the alleyway was discussed once again as a matter outstanding. As this had been postponed till Autumn time the Clerk was asked to obtain two quotes to carry out the works. **ACTION: AMD**
 - The Clerk had also contacted three Contractors regarding quotes to widen the large green and had asked them to call Chairman Richard Blacklock. Only one contractor had so far responded.
 - The Clerk reported that there had not been any response to the poster that went up on the village noticeboards which asked for suggestions for bids for a Micro grant.
 - The Clerk asked if the photographs of the damaged granite setts and verges had been passed to Thames Water. The Chairman replied that Thames Water have to be off the roads by this Friday as their licence was due to expire. He told the group he would obtain the name of their supervisor and was to arrange a walkaround with them following the completion of the works. Councillor Carol Wright offered to accompany the

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Chairman on the walkaround.

ACTION:

RB

- The Clerk had brought along list of village footpaths as requested by Councillor Amanda Tofield. In Councillor Tofield's absence they would be added to the next agenda for discussion. **ACTION: AMD**
- The Clerk advised the group that she had yet to receive a response from the lady who had kindly advised that she would donate a bench to the village. Councillor Amanda Tofield had advised via email that she had spoken to the lady and the Clerk was asked to make further contact. **ACTION: AMD**

8. **To review and confirm the Standing Orders** – Councillors had received these via email prior to the meeting and resolved to adopt them once again for the coming year.
9. **To review and confirm the Complaints Procedure** - Councillors had received these via email prior to the meeting and resolved to adopt them once again for the coming year.
10. **To review and confirm the Councillor and Officer Protocols** - Councillors had received these via email prior to the meeting and resolved to adopt them once again for the coming year.
11. **To appoint representatives to outside bodies** – It was agreed that any Councillor or the Clerk could attend the Winslow Local Area Forum depending on their availability.
12. **To appoint committee/working groups** – The Parish Plan working group had almost completed its objective. No further working groups would be set up at this time.
13. **To receive updates** from Bucks County Council and AVDC Councillors – County Councillor Netta Glover reported that as she delivers a regular monthly update she had not prepared an annual one. She wanted to update on the Children's Service Ofsted report and said that the judgement had been far too severe given the positive strides the department had taken to improve. She also mentioned that the £1000 she had previously offered had now been 'taken' back by Bucks County Council to invest in the increasingly damaged road network.

She encouraged residents to use the Fix my street reporting website for reporting any potholes in Hardwick <https://www.fixmystreet.buckscc.gov.uk/>

The Clerk was asked to report a pothole on the A413, North of Weedon Hill Farm and also a 'depression' like hole close to the outside of the John Bridles Hall. **ACTION – AMD**

County Councillor Netta Glover also reported that £5m was to be spent immediately on a highways repairs programme – that would equate to £20m invested in total this year. Plus an extra £2.7m for secondary type repairs.

With regard to Modernising local government, she said that the unitary decision was still very much up in the air. Aylesbury Garden Town project beginning to gain momentum and the decision on the Expressway routes would be decided before the end of this year's parliament.

District Councillor Ashley Bond reported that AVDC had lost 10% of their staff and he acknowledged that there was a real shortfall of staff in the Planning Department.

14. **To consider correspondence and other communication received since the last meeting.**
 - a) To discuss and adopt the Parish Plan for Hardwick village – Vice Chairman Garth Bickerton asked Chairman Richard Blacklock if he could please add a passage on Environmental Protection within the Parish Plan. **ACTION: RB**
Vice Chairman Garth Bickerton also asked all Councillors present to agree to own the action points within the Parish Plan and if there was any disagreement at all it should be raised at this point. He agreed to liaise with Councillor Amanda Tofield to obtain photos and insert them into the Plan and then bring it back to Council. RB thanked GB for all the work he has undertaken, and indicated that it had really freshened it up.

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- b) To receive an update on the Silent Soldier campaign – Councillor Amanda Tofield had asked for this to be on the agenda. In her absence the Clerk was asked to carry it over to the next meeting.

ACTION – AMD/AT

The Chairman brought to the groups attention a letter he had received from Mr & Mrs Hogarth earlier in the day which related to inconsiderate parking in the village. The author of the letter felt the Parish Council should take a firmer stance on this matter and suggested the Council write directly to those who were not using their allocated parking spaces and instead taking up valuable spaces elsewhere in the village. A further suggestion was that the Parish Council should ‘free up the rental Garages in Lower Road’ so that they could be used for their ‘intended purpose.’ Councillors had a lengthy discussion over this issue and all agreed in the first instance that the Parish Council is not the Highways Authority and has absolutely no right to dictate how or where people park their cars provided they are taxed and insured. And secondly, the garages referred to are owned and maintained by the Vale of Aylesbury Housing Trust and they let them out to whoever choose. The Parish Council has no influence whatsoever as to who and why they are let. The Parish Council also wondered whether the current works by Thames Water had necessitated displaced vehicles which may have exacerbated the issue. The Clerk was asked to respond to the author acknowledging their complaint and to say that whilst we have every sympathy, we are completely powerless in taking either of the steps put forward. However we are determined to take physical action and are planning to remove part of the green to encourage more considerate parking.

ACTION – AMD

15. **Planning:** To discuss planning applications and make recommendation, and to include those planning applications received after this agenda is published, if urgent:

18/00974/APP – Manor House Farm, Lower Road, Hardwick, Aylesbury, Bucks, HP22 4DZ
– Proposed new detached dwelling with detached garage within curtilage of Manor House Farm
– Councillors resolved to offer **NO OBJECTIONS** but to put forward the suggested condition by District Councillor Ashley Bond which was to add a condition to keep all materials off the road at all times.

18/01089/APP – Jnana Cottage, Buckingham Road, Hardwick, Bucks, HP22 4EF – Loft conversion including hip to gable, 10 skylight windows and new canopy – Councillors resolved to offer **NO OBJECTIONS**.

The Clerk was asked to advise AVDC Planning of both decisions

ACTION AMD

16. Highways, Footpaths and Footways

- a) To report and update on issues and repairs

Substantial depression in the road and outside Bridles which needs to be reported to TFB. The Clerk was asked to report.

ACTION: AMD

The Chairman reiterated that any damage by Thames Water should be brought to his attention as he would shortly be meeting with them to discuss reinstatement.

Councillor Carol Wright asked what had happened to one of the football goals. Chairman Richard Blacklock advised that it had been purchased about four years ago and one was now damaged which he would remove. Councillors felt they would leave the situation for now and see if there was any call from residents for it to be replaced. Should this happen, Councillors agreed to replace in future with smaller goals aimed more directly at children.

ACTION: RB

Following the meeting the Chairman had discovered one of the goals was not damaged, only folded. He had put it back in situ for the time being.

- b) Cutting of trees – footpath by Parish’s Piece and North View – see previous note under agenda item 7.

17. Street lighting

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

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18. Finance

- a) To agree the accounts for the year ending March 2018 – Accounts were previously circulated and agreed.
- b) To sign off Sections 1 & 2 of the Annual Governance & Accountability Return for 2017/18 – The Annual Governance and Accountability return and Sections 1 & 2 were signed by the Chairman of the Parish Council.
- c) To decide whether to enter the Bucks Best Kept Village Competition at a cost of £25 – Councillors decided to not enter the competition this year due to the damage suffered in the village by Thames Water activities.
- d) To consider a donation to the upkeep of footpaths around the Church – Grounds and paths donation – Councillors agreed to donate the same as last year - £175
- e) To draw cheques –

CANCELLED CHQ	617	
Clerk salary & Expenses	618	
CANCELLED CHQ	619	
Came & Company	620	£381.54
L A Orchard	621	£70.00
NBPPC	622	£20.00
BALC	623	£63.93
GM Outdoor Services	624	£980.00
St Marys Hardwick PCC	625	£175.00

The Chairman advised the group that he had authorised the grass cutting contractor to carry out an extra £100 cut to the greens only.

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

- a) Winslow Local Area Forum - None

20. **Website updates** – The Chairman reported he had been in touch with Ant Mitchell and the website would be up and running and handed over to him within the next few days.

21. **To agree the date of the next meeting** – Date of next meeting 10 July 2018

Signed:

Date