

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

DRAFT Minutes of the Meeting of Hardwick Parish Council which took place on ZOOM on Tuesday 27 October 2020 at 7.00pm.

Present: Chairman Richard Blacklock
Vice Chairman Garth Blacklock
Councillor Carol Wright

Plus 4 residents

1. **To receive apologies for absence** – Apologies were received from Councillor Trevor Bowman-Shaw and Bucks Councillor Ashley Bond.
2. **Declaration of interest** in items on the agenda: None.
3. **Open Forum:** Residents present spoke in favour of looking for a solution to vehicles parking on the bend near to Rectory Cottage and the ensuing problems with the school bus trying to pass. It was generally felt that the proposal to create more parking spaces would take away far too much of the village green and not address the problem of the bus safely passing through the village.
4. **To agree the minutes** of the last meeting held on Tuesday 11 August 2020 – Following clarification after the meeting, the minutes were agreed as a correct record and would be signed by the Chairman at a later date.
5. **To update on matters arising** – The Clerk updated the group on matters outstanding since the last meeting - Bulb planting – Contractor had purchased 1000 bulbs and the Chairman stated he would be meeting the grass cutting contractor this week and would speak to him about doing bulb planting rather than the usual grass cut. The Chairman welcomed any suggestions from other councillors and residents on where bulbs could be positioned in the village.

ACTION: ALL

The Chairman had spoken to the farmer at land on the corner of Folly and the main road about the safety issue of residents crossing the road at this point. He was reluctant to take this forward and encourage pedestrians onto his land at this time. The Clerk suggested we contact the Local Area Technician (LAT) to ask for his advice to try and improve the situation.

ACTION: AMD

The Chairman would speak to the tenant of the land opposite the model plane air club to follow up the request to potentially install a new kissing gate.

ACTION: RB

Councillor Tofield was not present so we were not able to ascertain whether she had forwarded photographs of the village to our website. This action would be carried over to the next meeting.

ACTION: AT

The Chairman reported he had been unable to remove the picnic bench just yet due to shoulder injury. This action would be carried over to the next meeting.

ACTION: RB

The Chairman reported our grass cutting contractor had removed rubbish from the bus stop and also vine that was growing by Newhaven.

Councillor Wright asked about the works by Thames Water outside Poplars Farm. The Chairman was able to update the group as he had spoken to the Contractors and suggested the situation was monitored.

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6. **To receive updates** from Bucks Council – No Councillors were present to provide an update.
7. **Planning:** To discuss planning applications and make recommendation, and to include those planning applications received after this agenda is published, if urgent: None received.

8. Highways, Footpaths and Footways

- a) To report and update on issues and repairs – The Chairman urged Councillors and residents to report any potholes or works needed in the village on fixmystreet.com – he had used this tool several times and it had proved worthwhile. Councillor Wright had spotted a dumped mattress and would use this facility to report it. Councillor Bickerton referred to white lining in the village, particularly to the right hand south side as you enter the village. The Clerk was asked to contact the LAT to report.

ACTION: AMD

Councillor Wright reported several ridges that had appeared on the highway in the village. The Chairman said he had raised this with the LAT a year ago but unfortunately it was not considered to be a high priority for TFB with the specified criteria to order actual works they were required to work within.

She also asked what had happened to the suggestion of a cycle path up to Whitchurch which was raised by Bucks Councillor Ashley Bond. The Clerk was asked to contact Councillor Bond and also Weedon PC to try and move the scheme along. **ACTION: AMD**

- b) To consider a project to help relieve parking problems in the village – The Chairman reported that following numerous contacts from residents regarding problems with parking and safety in the village he had met the local PCSO to ask if there were any solutions the Police could offer. Unfortunately their only suggestion was to educate drivers which the Parish Council had tried to do on numerous occasions via mail drop to all residents. We then looked at physical measures that may be available to us. The Chairman and Clerk had met a Contractor out on site to discuss options to try and improve parking and safety in the village. Several options had been considered but unfortunately only one price of £9800 plus vat to create parking spaces had been received at the time of this meeting. Further quotes for other measures would be forthcoming which included taking about a metre of the green away to create a roadway 5.5m in width using grasscrete to give a more aesthetic appearance of grass rather than tarmac. Representation from residents who opposed any suggestion to take away any part of the large village green had been received but this option, to do nothing, was not considered acceptable to any Councillor as this problem was not going away. Councillor Wright alluded to the suggestion from Councillor Tofield to possibly create parking spaces between the bungalow and Rectory Cottage. The Chairman felt strongly that this option would not improve any safety of the bus traversing through the village with cars parked on the bend. Councillor Bickerton asked what the chances were of obtaining any grant funding towards this project. The Clerk advised that potential funding was available from the newly created Community Board providing a bid was put in by the end of October so timescales were very tight. Councillor Wright stated that she believed all five Councillors should be present before any decision was taken as there were several options to consider. The Chairman was very concerned about delaying any further decision as the Parish Council was quorate and a decision could and should be made. He was also reluctant to agree to any proposal other than removing part of the green by the bend. Councillor Bickerton proposed that this option should be voted on as a proposal subject to costings. The Chairman seconded this proposal. The Clerk would chase the quote and a further meeting would be called via Zoom to confirm arrangements. In the meantime the Clerk would also put forward a bid into Bucks Council for funding. It could be withdrawn at any stage. **ACTION: AMD**
- c) To consider the removal of the bin by the bottom of The Close (parking area opposite JB Hall) – The Parish Council had received various complaints during the summer about this bin not being collected. This had caused a health and safety issue especially during the warm weather. The situation had now been resolved in terms of collection and Councillors

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decided no action should be taken at this time but the situation should continue to be monitored.

9. Street lighting

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

10. Finance

- a) To agree accounts for July, August & September 2020 – Previously circulated accounts were agreed as a correct record.
- b) To draw cheques – three cheques had been raised since the last meeting.

GM Outdoor Services	chq 676	£808.00
The Clerk	chq 677	£611.08
Graham Lee	chq 678	£180.00

- c) To note and agree the annual pay rise for the Clerk from £12.65 to £12.98 per hour – this was noted and agreed.

The Chairman raised the suggestion of the Parish Council donating £150 towards the HVA initiative to erect a Christmas tree in the village. The playground was considered the best place as it was close to a power source. The Clerk was asked to place this item onto the next agenda for consideration.

ACTION:

AMD

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

- a) Wing & Ivinghoe Community Board – The Clerk provided a brief verbal update on both of these meetings. Martin Tett reported that rates of Coronavirus were increasing at an ‘alarming’ rate across the county. Bucks Council were now facing a significant £8.8m underfunded pressure for next year due to lost revenue for council tax and business rates and also lost income streams from car parking and commercial property. £28.5m had been allocated to the roads maintenance programme for potholes and patch programmes across the county. £3.9m had also been allocated to Community Boards which Parish and Town Councils had the opportunity to bid for.
- b) Parish Liaison Group – see above.

12. Website updates

- a) To update on the website accessibility to meet new rules WCAG 2.1AA compliance– The Clerk reported that Graham Lee had done an outstanding job to make our website fully accessible and compliant with new guidelines for Parish Councils.

- 13. **To receive the health & safety risk assessment for the play area** – Councillor Tofield was not present so an update was not available. The Chairman had recently visited the play area with his grandson recently and had not spotted any defects.

- 14. **To agree the date of the next meeting** – to be confirmed once quotes from the Road Contractor were available.

Signed:

Date: