

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 Thursday 4 March 2021 at 7.00pm.

Present: Chairman Richard Blacklock
Vice Chairman Garth Bickerton
Councillor Carol Wright
Councillor Amanda Tofield
Councillor Tim Hannon

Bucks Councillor Ashley Bond
Plus 2 residents

21/27 To receive apologies for absence – None were received.

21/28 Declaration of interest in items on the agenda: None received.

21/29 Open Forum: Two residents in attendance drew the Councils attention to the road deteriorating to the front of their property. The Clerk stated that she had raised an inspection request on Fix my Street. If there was no remedial action seen in the next two weeks the Clerk agreed to contact our Bucks Councillor Ashley Bond to see if he would escalate the issue.

ACTION: AMD

The residents also asked if a sign asking drivers not to park on the grass could be erected. The Chairman stated that this had already been looked into some time ago and it was not permissible by Highways.

21/30 To agree the minutes of the last meeting held on Monday 18 January 2021 – The minutes were agreed as a correct record. They would be signed outside of the Zoom meeting.

21/31 To receive Clerks report

- a) To note proposals for the forthcoming elections – The Clerk had passed nomination forms for current Councillors across to the Chairman. He agreed to deliver them to all Councillors. The Clerk would display posters in the village which invited other residents to stand as a Parish Councillor.
- b) To receive the new Parish Charter – The Clerk had summarised the Parish Charter and noted that as a Parish Council we needed to be in receipt of an Emergency Plan. All present agreed that such a plan was in place with the Chairman and Vice Chairman as named contacts for the Parish Council. Councillor Tofield suggested the Chairman of the Hardwick Village Association was also a nominated person. (The Clerk has since spoken to the HVA Chairman who has agreed to be a nominee).

21/32 To receive updates from Bucks Council – Bucks Councillor Ashley Bond gave a verbal update to the group. He reported that:

- An extra £2m was to be invested into gulley clearance
- Whilst the pandemic was coming to an end, most of the 'new' Councils focus had been on managing the situation
- Numerous grants to assist local businesses had been issued
- Community Boards was the place for Parish Councils to bid for funding assistance
- 165,000 vaccinations had been delivered in Bucks, via 20 vaccination sites
- The message that you needed to be registered with a GP to receive a vaccine needed to be spread as widely as possible

Councillor Wright asked what had happened to the initiative to install a cycle and walking path between Whitchurch and Aylesbury. Cllr Bond responded that as it was a very expensive project

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officers managing the Community Boards were looking for funding options such as Cycle England. He would keep us updated on any developments.

The Clerk asked if, following approval at tonight's meeting, Cllr Bond would support us in our bid into the Community Board for a parking scheme in the village. Cllr Bond agreed that he would. The Chairman highlighted to the group several initiatives raised at the Community Board. The first was called the Roman Park Community Trust – The Trust works in partnership with local organisations to put volunteering and inclusivity at the heart of its events. Formed as a result of the pandemic, the Trust looks to improve the lives of beneficiaries and the community and volunteers in specific areas with the aim of restoring dignity to those it helps through practical help, community partnerships and finding funding for recreation, leisure and nature projects. The Clerk was asked to source publicity material and display in the village. **ACTION: AMD**

Secondly, there was a creative project operating locally called the Berryfields Buddies – This scheme aims to help individuals meet new people, and make new friends. They can be contacted on buddies@berryfieldspc.org or by calling 01296 925750.

21/33 Planning: To discuss planning applications and make recommendation, and to include those planning applications received after this agenda is published, if urgent:

a) **21/00035/APP – Old Chapel, Lower Road, Hardwick, Aylesbury, Bucks, HP22 4DZ –** Single storey infill to existing courtyard and internal reconfiguration. (*This item was dealt with between meetings due to the requirement to meet statutory consultation deadlines*). The Council resolved to offer **NO OBJECTIONS**.

b) **To discuss the potential illegal use of outbuildings at Portway, Hardwick –** The Chairman highlighted his concern about reports he had received about an individual living in outbuildings at Portway. He had instructed the Clerk to speak to Planning Enforcement and Safeguarding to ensure adequate and legal living arrangements were in place.

Points to note: - that the Parish Council had written in support of the refused planning application which had gone to appeal for Manor House Farm.

That the revised planning application for **21/00247/ALB – HARDWICK - The Poplars Lower Road Hardwick Buckinghamshire HP22 4DZ** for Subdivision of a single dwelling to two separate dwellings, new access and - was in line with recommendations of our previous decision and therefore there was **NO OBJECTION** – the Clerk would accordingly advise Bucks Council.

ACTION: AMD

21/34 Highways, Footpaths and Footways

- a) To report and update on issues and repairs – Cllr Wright reported excess mud on the road by Folly Farm. The Chairman noted it had been reported on Fix my Street but was not deemed as a safety hazard by Bucks Council. No other reports were received other than those raised in the Open Forum.
- b) To receive an update on the scheme to help relieve parking problems in the village – The Chairman reiterated what was agreed at the last meeting and advised the group that we had received a more favourable quote for the works to widen the road by the village green. A lengthy discussion ensued which considered two other options of tarmac parking bays on either on the Green or between Rectory Cottage and The Bungalow. The Chairman proposed the option to widen the road using bod pave grass surfacing. This was seconded by Vice Chairman Garth Bickerton and supported by Cllr Hannon. Cllr Wright and Cllr Tofield whilst supporting the need to alleviate parking problems, voted against this option but it was carried following a majority vote.
- c) To consider the replacement of the bus shelter roof – two quotes for the works had been received, Cllrs agreed to go with the quote from Bucks Flat Roofing. Cllr Hannon would advise the winning contractor. **ACTION: TH**
- d) To discuss the public waste bins and their emptying regime – The Chairman advised the group of the long running issues with the 'non-emptying' of the bins in the village. He was happy the situation had now been resolved after having to complain numerous times.

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The Chairman reported to the group that Weedon Parish Council had been in touch to let us know they had set up a Wildlife Group. Whilst it was initiated by their Council it was now operating as a separate entity with its own committee. The aim of the group was to bring together like minded people to work towards enhancing wildlife and biodiversity in Weedon and the surrounding area. Their focus was Weedon at the moment but Hardwick residents were welcome to join and projects would be expected to be brought to Hardwick village going forward. Anyone interested could contact Sally Jones on sallyjagojones@live.com

21/35 Street lighting

- a) To report and update on issues and repairs – The Chairman reported a light out to the outside of Manor House Farm by the barn. The Clerk would report. **ACTION: AMD**
- b) To feedback on the proposed cost to repair light in Bushmead Road – Cllr Bond was present and told of the plans by Whitchurch Parish Council to upgrade all lighting in their Parish to LED. Even though streetlights on one side in Bushmead Road belonged to Hardwick Parish Council Councillors agreed to the upgrade and Whitchurch Parish Council absorbing the cost.

21/36 Finance

- a) To agree accounts for January & February 2021 – The Clerk reported that the bank statements for February had yet to be received so Councillors only agreed the accounts for January as being a correct record.
- b) To draw cheques.

Ann-Marie Davies chq 694 £278.04

- c) To agree the purchase of new laptop for the Clerk following receipt of grant funding – The Chairman advised the group that the Parish Council had received just over £451 to purchase a new laptop for the Clerk. This was needed for the Parish Council to be GDPR compliant. The Chairman proposed an extra £150 was added to this amount. Cllrs agreed. This laptop would remain the property of the Parish Council and passed onto any future Clerks.
- d) To agree next steps to change to online banking – The Clerk advised that all paperwork had been undertaken to allow the Council to bank online. She would advise the group once this was operational.

21/37 To report on meetings attended on behalf of the Parish Council

- a) Wing & Ivinghoe Community Board – as previously advised.
- b) Parish Liaison Group – Nothing to report.

21/38 Website updates

- a) To note draft minutes are forwarded to the website administrator – The Clerk was asked to forward draft minutes once agreed with the Chairman. **ACTION: AMD**

21/39 To receive the health & safety risk assessment for the play area – The Chairman advised he would remove the damaged picnic bench in the next week. Both the Chairman and Cllr Tofield reported the play area was in good working order.

21/40 To agree the date of the next meeting – The next date was agreed as Tuesday 4 May 2021. This would also be the Annual Meeting and Annual Parish Meeting. It was hoped that this meeting may be face to face if current government restrictions allowed at that time.

Signed:

Date: