

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 5 January 2021 at 7.00pm.

PRESENT: Chairman Richard Blacklock
Vice Chairman Garth Bickerton
Councillor Carol Wright
Councillor Amanda Tofield

1. To receive apologies for absence – None.

The Chairman told all Cllrs present that he had met with Councillor Trevor Bowman-Shaw to discuss his plans going forward. Cllr Bowman-Shaw advised the Chairman that he wanted to resign primarily because of the current need to conduct our business via technology for the foreseeable future rather than face to face.

All Cllrs wished their thanks and gratitude to Cllr Bowman-Shaw be expressed by way of these minutes, and by personal letter, to thank him for his long standing service and commitment to the Hardwick community.

The Chairman advised that a resident had shown an interest in being co-opted onto the Parish Council as a Councillor. In this respect it was felt appropriate to hold a special meeting with no other business but to Co-opt as any resident would be able to contest this appointment at the elections due to be held in May 2021.

2. Declaration of interest in items on the agenda: None.

3. Open Forum: None – no residents in attendance.

4. To agree the minutes of the last meeting held on Tuesday 27 October 2020 – with one word added to the minutes they were agreed as a correct record and would be signed at a later date.

5. To update on matters arising – The Clerk updated the group on actions since the last meeting and advised that this item would be known as ‘Clerks report’ going forward. **ACTION: AMD**
Bulbs had been planted across the village.

The Local Area Technician advised that any walkabout in the village would be delayed till the spring. In the interim, he had added our request for white lining in the village to his list of planned works. The Clerk was asked to request that the junction by the bungalow near Manor Farm Court was added to his list.

ACTION: AMD

The Chairman had spoken to the tenant of the land opposite the model plane air club in order to try and follow up the request to potentially install a kissing gate. Whilst the feeling was that they would like to help, they did not have the resources to move this forward at this time.

The picnic bench to be removed was still in situ but following examination was not felt to present any danger. This action would be carried over to the March meeting. **ACTION: RB**
Buckinghamshire Councillor Ashley Bond was not in attendance so an update on the cycle path to Whitchurch was unable to be given.

The bid for funding for a parking scheme in the village had been sent into the Wing & Ivinghoe Community Board.

The blocked drain by The Bell public house and Poplars had been reported and was on an action list to repair by Transport for Buckinghamshire.

6. To receive updates from Bucks Council – Councillor Ashley Bond not in attendance so no update received.

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7. **To confirm Mrs Fiona Blacklock as the Parish Council representative for the John Bridles Charity** – Councillors unanimously agreed the nomination. The Clerk would advise the Charity.
ACTION: AMD
8. **To formally thank Colin Creed for maintaining PC land** – The Clerk was asked to write to Colin Creed to thank him once again for maintaining the Parish Council land to such a high standard.
ACTION: AMD
9. **Planning:** To discuss planning applications and make recommendation, and to include those planning applications received after this agenda is published, if urgent: None received.
10. **Highways, Footpaths and Footways**
 - a) To report and update on issues and repairs – update from Local Area Technician – please see update under 'Matters Arising'.

The Chairman asked the Clerk to further report blocked drains to the outside of Fern Cottage in Lower Road and Manor House Farm and Burston View. The local farm owner had investigated and found sewers to be blocked with mud.
ACTION: AMD

Councillors discussed the overhanging debris and plant pots to the outside of Eastleigh Cottage which despite previous letters to the owner continued to be an issue. The Clerk was asked to write once more asking for more co-operation or the Parish Council would be forced to clear the area themselves.
ACTION: AMD

The Chairman asked the Clerk to contact Bucks Council to ascertain the collection dates of the litter and dog bins.
ACTION: AMD

Other areas in the village were highlighted as being particularly unkempt but the group hoped this would be more under control by the spring. In the meantime the Clerk was asked to also write to the tenant of 5 North View for help in tidying up his front garden.
ACTION: AMD

Cllr Tofield advised the noticeboard could do with a varnish. This would be actioned around May time.
ACTION: AMD

- b) To receive an update on the scheme to help relieve parking problems in the village – Lengthy discussion about this issue took place. Whilst it was generally felt that residents in the village had had plenty of opportunity to engage with this process and that a way forward had been agreed at the last meeting, in the interests of complete transparency other options put forward by Cllrs would also be costed: further parking spaces by the post box and also by Rectory Cottage and the bungalow. The Clerk would contact Contractors.
ACTION: AMD

Once all costs were available Cllr Tofield would work with the Clerk to share this information with residents in the village.
ACTION: AT/AMD

11. Street lighting

- a) To report and update on issues and repairs – None reported.
- b) To feedback on the proposed cost to repair light in Bushmead Road – Buckinghamshire Councillor Ashley Bond had contacted the Chairman to advise that one of our streetlights in Bushmead Road had been deemed defective and in need of replacement. The Clerk had tried to contact the Contractor to ascertain costs without any success. She would speak to the new Clerk at Whitchurch for further detail so that Hardwick Parish Council could consider their contribution.
ACTION: AMD

12. Finance

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- a) To agree accounts for October, November & December 2020 – the accounts distributed via email were agreed.
- b) To draw cheques.
Cheques raised since the last meeting are listed as follows-

Graham Lee	chq 679	£19.00
GM Outdoor Services	chq 680	£361.19
Graham Lee	chq 681	£19.00
Ann-Marie Davies	chq 682	£257.15
CANCELLED	chq 683	
Hardwick Village Ass	chq 684	£150.00
Bucks Council	chq 685	£151.85
Ann-Marie Davies	chq 686	£325.93
GM Outdoor Services	chq 687	£380.00
Richard Blacklock	chq 688	£57.00
(Pads for defibrillator)		

- c) **To confirm the donation of £150 towards a Christmas tree in the village** – Cllrs agreed and confirmed the donation.
- d) **To agree the previously circulated budget for 2021/22** – Cllrs agreed with the budget that had been circulated prior to the meeting.
- e) **To consider and set the precept for 2021/22** – It was felt that as there had not been an increase for some years and as the Parish Council had a wish to help alleviate parking issues in the village, a precept increase of 3.84% was agreed. This equated to an increase from last year's precept of £12722 to £13175. The Clerk would advise Bucks Council.

ACTION: AMD

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

- a) Wing & Ivinghoe Community Board – No report.
- b) Parish Liaison Group – No report.

14. Website updates

- a) To update on the website – The Clerk reported that it had been noted there were gaps in the minutes displayed on the village website. She had contacted the web administrator and was assured they would all be loaded within the next week.

15. To receive the health & safety risk assessment for the play area

– The Chairman and Cllr Tofield had each inspected the play area and agreed there were no areas to cause concern noted.

16. To agree the date of the next meeting

– The Clerk was asked to arrange a short meeting via Zoom to Co-opt the new Councillor onto the Parish Council. A date was set for Monday 18 January at 7pm.

ACTION: AMD

Signed:

Date:

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