

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

**Minutes of the Meeting of Hardwick Parish Council on Tuesday 7 September 2021 at 7.00pm.**

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

Bucks Councillor Ashley Bond  
Bucks Councillor Peter Cooper

Three residents  
Clerk – Ann-Marie Davies

1. **To receive apologies for absence** – Apologies were received from Councillor Carol Wright.
2. **Declaration of interest** in items on the agenda: None received.
3. **Open Forum:** A resident in attendance raised the issue of overgrown hedges past the boundary lines in the village which was now halfway across the footpaths. He asked if villagers could be reminded to cut back to keep footpaths safe or face being recharged if the Parish Council were forced to take action. Cllr Tofield confirmed this issue already appeared in the electronic magazine. She agreed to forward a paper copy to the resident. **ACTION: AT**  
He also questioned who had permitted the removal of the trees at Poplars Farm. Further discussion on tree permission ensued with the resident being informed that tree removal was now primarily left with the Buckinghamshire Council Tree Officer for decision.  
Further questions were asked in relation to works at Poplars Farm including whether a bat survey had been undertaken before works to the roof were carried out, vision splay and traffic concerns, sewage and whether there was capacity in the pumps, and a possible agricultural tie. The resident was told all of this information was available on the Planning Portal.  
The Chairman advised that the previous planning application for Poplars Farm with parking at the front, had been commented on by the Parish Council as they agreed it looked unsatisfactory so asked applicant to revise the plans to relocate the driveway by The Bell public house and this was incorporated into a revised plan.  
  
A further resident in attendance raised two concerns about the Poplars Farm. The first was in relation to planned access down the side of the Bell and the second was to highlight that no planning notices had been displayed. Cllr Peter Cooper advised the resident to check the website to see if the notice had yet been posted, if not, consultation had not yet commenced.  
The resident referred to the Hardwick Parish Plan 2018 where the Parish Council stated they would look to install further affordable housing and would also consult neighbours with a view to any new housing developments.  
  
The third resident told the group that whilst he was delighted to see the farmhouse was being developed, he did have real concerns regarding increased traffic as the road was already congested at different times during the day.  
The Chairman thanked all three residents for their attendance and contribution and assured them the Parish Council would take them into their consideration when discussing both planning responses to the Planning Authority.
4. **To agree the minutes** of the last meeting held on Tuesday 6 July 2021 – The minutes were agreed as a correct record and signed as a true record.
5. **To receive Clerks report**
  - a) To note Clerks report sent prior to the meeting – a verbal update was delivered.

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6. **To receive updates** from Buckinghamshire Councillors – Cllr Bond advised the group there was money available from Buckinghamshire Council for anything ‘jubilee’ related. Each council could request up to 30 trees. Cllr Bond would send details through to the Clerk who in turn would advise the Hardwick Village Association.

**ACTION: AMD**

Cllr Cooper advised the Parish Council that the Local Community Board were holding several group spin off meetings, i.e. the following day would be the health and wellbeing group with attendance from agencies such as the police etc. A Transport group would be looking at cycleways, 20mph areas, and ‘switch off’ at schools on Thursday 9 September at 7pm. The Chairman asked the Clerk to contact the LCB co-ordinator to obtain a link for him to join the meeting. Cllr Tofield also expressed an interest in joining the health & wellbeing group meeting.

**ACTION: AMD**

Cllr Cooper advised that training groups for dementia will be happening right across the county and there was £40k to back any project that related to this, a health or post covid initiative. He reported the Oxford Cambridge arc included plans for up to 1.4m houses, primarily in North Bucks, the Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan was now ready, but would be replaced with a new plan for Bucks in 2025. If this was not in place by 2025 the Government could see this and they could impose their requirements in that big new plan. He completed his update by promoting the importance of Neighbourhood Plans.

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

a) **21/03089ALB** – Poplars Farm, Lower Road, Hardwick, Aylesbury, Bucks, HP22 4DZ – Replace existing conservatory with covered porch – This planning application had been considered between Parish Council meetings and **NO OBJECTIONS** were placed on the Buckinghamshire Council Planning Portal.

b) **21/03396/APP** – Poplars Farm. Lower Road, Hardwick, Aylesbury, Bucks, HP22 4DZ – Demolition of existing modern agricultural buildings, the erection of three detached dwelling houses and the conversion of the existing traditional farm building to residential use. Change of use from agricultural to residential C3 use –

Cllr Bickerton raised two concerns - first, the commitment in our Hardwick Plan where we stated we would prefer affordable housing in the village and second, the increase in more vehicles in the village which could only exacerbate existing problems in the village.

Cllr Tofield reported she was not averse to Poplars being developed but she did have reservations to the store grain being full height and the adjacent two being bungalow height. She would prefer that to stay ‘as is’. She went on to say she did not believe there was sufficient parking provision however she did not object to the entrance as they would not be going through the village and would not cause any more parking issues if there was ample parking provided.

Cllr Hannon agreed with former Cllrs contributions and said it was a shame that ‘new build’ design was used when architects could have been far more creative.

The Chairman addressed the group to say whilst he had no issues with the design of the properties we ought to definitely ask if they had contacted Thames Water regarding the sewage capacity and also pick up on the statement where Highways say ‘parking is adequate’. We should also ask for their opinion on access and movements and parking provision.

He suggested our response to the Planning Authority asked for further information on vision splay, parking, access provision and sewage. He stated we should also question the applicant who has stated there will be less vehicle movements and ask how they have come to that conclusion. In terms of parking – plans showed The Range using the same access with Plot 2 showing it is a car park space light and should have three. For the size of Hardwick this was a big development, and the provision for visitor parking spaces was important. He reminded the group this could also have another impact on the school bus which is already an issue traversing the village due to parked cars. The Chairman would pull together all of the issues raised for the Clerk to post onto the Planning Portal.

**ACTION: AMD**

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- c) **21/03341/ALB** - Poplars Farm Lower Road Hardwick Buckinghamshire HP22 4DZ  
Listed building application for demolition of existing modern agricultural buildings, the erection of three detached dwelling houses and the conversion of the existing traditional farm building to residential use. Change of use from agricultural to residential C3 use – AS ABOVE.

**8. Highways, Footpaths and Footways**

- a) To report and update on issues and repairs – The Chairman told the group there was no further progression on the Parish Council's bid to Buckinghamshire Council for funding to increase parking provision in the village.  
Cllr Tofield stated she had noticed residents were not keeping to registered rights of way around the village. She asked if the Parish Council could help to signpost. The group asked Cllr Tofield to obtain costings and bring back to the Parish Council for consideration.

**ACTION: AT**

The Chairman told the group he had come across two packets of cannabis alongside the gutter by the green. He had reported to the Police who had agreed to increase surveillance in the village.

- b) To consider the removal of vegetation close to Eastleigh – The Chairman reported this had now been cleared to allow safe passage however Cllr Tofield asked that overhanging vegetation was also taken down. The Clerk was asked to obtain a costing from our Contractor to do this together with a cost for weed spraying and the tidying up/siding out of all footways in the village.

**ACTION: AMD**

**Street lighting**

- a) To report and update on issues and repairs – The Clerk had reported the light out to outside of John Bridles Hall.

**9. Finance**

- a) To agree accounts for March, April, May & June 2021 – Accounts were agreed as a correct record.  
b) To draw cheques  
The Council resolved to draw the following cheques:

Ann-Marie Davies	chq 712	£520.08
Aylesbury Mains Ltd	chq 713	£45.24
Buckinghamshire Council	chq 714	£75.50
GM Outdoor Services Ltd	chq 715	£1100.00

**10. To report on meetings attended on behalf of the Parish Council**

- a) Wing & Ivinghoe Community Board – No meeting held since last meeting. Next meeting 22 September 2021.  
b) Parish Liaison Group – held on 14 July – no attendance.

**11. Website updates**

- a) To discuss the issue around updates to the website – as and when we decide to add extra we will discuss as a council – This was discussed by the group and it was resolved to just provide regular updates for now.

- 12. To receive the health & safety risk assessment for the play area** – Cllr Hannon reported he had carried out the risk assessment to the play area and filed the metal part down to the underside of the swing as advised at the last meeting. He reported a missing cover cap to the spring horse and would provide a photograph to the Clerk.

**ACTION: AMD**

- 13. To agree the date of the next meeting** - The next meeting was agreed as Tuesday 2 November 2021 at 7.30pm in the John Bridles Hall.

**Signed:**

**Date:**