

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

Minutes of the Meeting of Hardwick Parish Council on Tuesday 3 January 2023 at 7pm in the John Bridles Hall.

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

Buckinghamshire Councillor Peter Cooper
Buckinghamshire Councillor Ashley Bond

23/01 To receive apologies for absence – None received.

23/02 To receive official reports from County and District Council Members – Cllr Cooper reported there was nothing of note to report to update. Slight interruption in the highways service was being seen due to the contract for TFB finishing at the end of March and Balfour Beatty taking over in April 2023. Cllr Bond told the group that Buckinghamshire Councils current budget was in a very poor position and they were encouraging all Parish Councils to try and keep their precepts either the same or a small rise if at all possible.

23/03 Declaration of interest in items on the agenda: Cllr Hannon declared an interest in item 8a.

23/04 Open Forum: – None present.

23/05 To agree the minutes of the last meeting held on Tuesday 8 November 2022 – the minutes were agreed and accepted as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

23/06 To note the Clerks Report (previously circulated) – The report was read out by the Chairman. It was agreed that one of the trees collected by the Chairman could be planted by Parrish Piece.

As ratified at the last meeting, it was agreed the Chairman and Clerk would purchase goals for the green.

ACTION:RB
ACTION: RB/AMD

23/07 To consider correspondence and other communication received since the last meeting – All on agenda for discussion.

23/08 Planning: To discuss planning applications and make recommendation, and to include those planning applications received after this agenda if urgent.

23/09 a) For noting only - Land adj Manor House Farm, Lower Road, Hardwick, - 22/03982/ALB – Listed building application for replacement cart shed in front garden – *This planning application was considered between meetings* and Councillors voted to offer **NO OBJECTIONS**.

23/10 b) For noting only - 3 Manor Farm Court, Hardwick, HP22 4DH – Householder application for entrance porch/canopy single storey side extension with Velux skylights and feathered edge-stained timber cladding to upper elevations. *This planning application was considered between meetings* and the following **OBJECTION** was posted - Hardwick parish council wish to oppose this application due to the proposed roof windows impacting on the privacy of the neighbouring property. We have no objection to the west facing windows, however, the east facing windows would give direct line of sight into no. 2 Manor Farm Court. If these windows were non-openable and obscured then the parish council would have no objection to any aspect of the application.

c) **Application 22/01472 Poplars Farm HP22 4DZ**, Councillor Wright informed the meeting that the consultant ecologists had commented again, in December, that they require further

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information before their report/recommendations can be made on this application. No decision on this application has been made at this time.

23/11 Highways, Footpaths and Footways

- a) To report and update on issues and repairs – The Chairman reported that carriageways in the village still have small potholes, large humps and areas that are crumbling. The Clerk urged Councillors to keep photographing and reporting them on Fixmystreet. It would then be present on lists for when further funding could become available. Buckinghamshire Councillor Peter Cooper suggested Councillors make a list of their top five wishes so that they could share it with the Local Area Technician and keep our requests ‘live’.

ACTION: ALL

The Chairman updated the group on the budget position and proposed carrying out further kerbing works in the village. Cllr Tofield suggested kerbing by the new parking area by the green as vehicles were mounting the green. The Clerk was asked to obtain a quote.

ACTION: AMD

The Chairman told the group that table and chairs had been left to the outside of Alexander Cottage. Councillors had no problem with this area being used but asked that, to be even-handed with all residents, the table and chairs should be taken indoors when not being used. The Chairman would visit the resident to ask for this cooperation.

ACTION: RB

The subject of recycling items being left on the small green by the resident of Newhaven was also raised by Councillor Tofield and was felt to be inappropriate. The Chairman asked another councillor to call to speak with this resident Councillor Bickerton agreed to do this.

ACTION: GB

The Clerk was asked to write to Colin Creed to thank him for maintaining the green to the front of his property on behalf of the PC and keeping it in an excellent state of upkeep and if he is prepared to carry on for 2023.

ACTION: AMD

Footpath crossing land at Millpeace, Councillor Wright said that the footpath was obstructed by an electric fence and the footpath should not be cordoned off, however Councillor Bickerton replied that the electric fence had an opening with sprung loaded clips. The Chairman agreed to talk to the landowner to check the situation.

ACTION: RB

Cllr Wright asked about the land around the northern bus shelter on the main road and the unsightliness. The Chairman explained that this area was not covered under our devolved services agreement as it is on the main road so no action could be taken at this time.

- b) To discuss furniture and kerbing works in the village – covered above.

23/12 Street lighting

- a) To report and update on issues and repairs – all working at present.
b) To discuss future potential lighting projects in the village – Costs to replace lights in the village have been in the region of £1200 per light. The ones recently replaced were of a cheap domestic nature and the Chairman proposed we should look to improve within our current budget. This was agreed by all Councillors. Suggestions to replace the 3 lights would be passed to the Clerk for her to advise the contractor.

ACTION: RB/AMD

Cllr Hannon commented on the strength of the new lights and asked if perhaps the wattage could be reduced. The Chairman suggested another option of placing a protective board.

23/13 Finance

- a) To agree accounts for October & November 2022 – The accounts for October and November were agreed as a correct record. The budget for 2022/23 was also agreed.

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- b) To consider the request for our precept amount and respond to Buckinghamshire Council with the amount – All Councillors unanimously agreed to leave our precept as £13175. The Clerk would advise Buckinghamshire Council. **ACTION: AMD**
- c) To authorise cheques/note BACS payments –

Ann-Marie Davies - £563.85 (two month's salary)

- d) To consider upgrades to current street lighting and kerbing in the village – as discussed under item 23/11 and 23/13, b.
The Chairman told the group that he had spotted the St Georges oxford diocese flag was in a bad state of disrepair, He proposed that we purchase one and donate it to the Church instead of donating money towards the footpath. This was unanimously agreed. Cllr Tofield agreed to speak to Sarah Gibbs about it and report back to the group. **ACTION: AT**

A discussion was held about banking arrangements and sign offs. It was unanimously agreed to continue with the current system of the Clerk seeking permission from Cllrs to make payments, and once agreed by at least three councillors, she would release the amount for payment. The Chairman and Cllr Tofield have full access to the bank account and can view or make payments at any time.

23/14 To report on meetings attended on behalf of the Parish Council

- a) Winslow & District LCB – held on 6 December 2022 – The Clerk would circulate the minutes **ACTION: AMD**
- b) Parish Liaison Group – January meeting had now been postponed until 1 March.

The Clerk was asked to report back to Whitchurch Parish Council on their Neighbourhood Plan (NP). The Clerk was asked to respond that Hardwick PC had read and considered the Whitchurch NP and would only comment that they would urge Whitchurch PC to ensure sufficient off-road parking provision was made for any future housing development on any main road.

23/15 To receive the health & safety risk assessment for the play area – Cllr Hannon reported that all was fairly good at the play area. He had picked up some litter, and a broken gnome but would not pick up dog foul left! He had reported this on fixmystreet.

23/16 Website updates – the agenda had not been posted online this time as the Web administrator was away on leave.

23/17 To agree the date of the next meeting – The next meeting is scheduled for 7 March 2023 at 7pm in the John Bridles Hall.

Signed:

Date