

HARDWICK PARISH COUNCIL

CLERK TO THE COUNCIL MRS ANN-MARIE DAVIES

Minutes of the Meeting of Hardwick Parish Council on Wednesday 13 March 2024 at 7pm in the John Bridles Hall

Present: Chairman Richard Blacklock
Vice Chairman Garth Bickerton
Councillor Tim Hannon

Buckinghamshire Councillor Diana Blamires
Buckinghamshire Councillor Ashley Bond

One resident

- 24/16 To receive apologies for absence** – Apologies were received from Councillor Carol Wright and Councillor Amanda Tofield.
- 24/17 Declaration of interest** in items on the agenda: to declare any interests and agree any dispensation requests – None received.
- 24/18 Open Forum: The resident in attendance highlighted that several** potholes had been filled in the village but others had been left. Councillor Blamires explained to the resident that it had been the wettest February in many years and it was likely the gangs would return to complete the works once the weather improved.
- 24/19 To agree the minutes** of the last meeting held on Tuesday 9 January 2024 – the minutes of the meeting was agreed and signed as a correct record.
- 24/20 To receive updates** from Buckinghamshire Councillors – Councillor Blamires reported that she had asked Councillors for £5m more money for potholes and it had been agreed! Councillor Bond told the group that the Community Boards were now working to a new set up. Attendees would now work in small groups rather than sit in isolation and just listen to presentations. Councillor Bickerton asked the Buckinghamshire Councillors how the new devolved powers to Local Councils was going to work. Both Buckinghamshire Councillors acknowledged this new way of working but were waiting for more detail before they could explain what that would look like.
- 24/21 To note the Clerks Report** – previously circulated. A question on road widening opposite the Bell public house had been asked of a resident at the last meeting. The Clerk had ascertained that Highways owned the land and approached them for their view. They replied saying in their opinion the road was wide enough and would not be supportive of a scheme to increase the width.
- 24/22 Planning:** To discuss planning applications and make recommendation, and to include those planning applications received after this agenda is published, if urgent: A note received from Councillor Wright in relation to a Planning matter was read out to the group.
- 24/23 Footpaths and Footways**
- a) To report and update on issues and repairs – Councillor Wright had also mentioned in her note: -
Concerns about the random pothole repairs in the village.
The company laying cables this month had promised to repair any damage to verges.
The skip remaining in situ on the green used by Fairhive – The chairman advised the group that he met with the Contracts Manager in February and agreed that the skip should remain in situ until the ground was hard enough for a lorry to collect the skip without damaging the green. Repairs to the grass would be completed once the skip and other items had been removed.
Unhealthy low hanging branches impeding the footpath by the A413, just past the bus stop on the Whitchurch side. The Chairman agreed to investigate. **ACTION: RB**

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24/24 Street lighting

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

24/25 Finance

- a) To agree accounts for December 2023 & January & February 2024 – the accounts were accepted and agreed as a correct record.
- b) To receive an update on our bid into the Local Community Board for seating and bird/bug boxes in the village – As reported in her Report, the Clerk reiterated our successful bid into the Local Community Board for funding to enhance both village greens.
- c) To confirm acceptance of the Devolution Agreement with Buckinghamshire Council and authorise the Clerk to sign on behalf of the Parish Council – Councillors unanimously accepted Buckinghamshire Councils offer to take on devolved grass cutting services.
- d) To agree the grass cutting season start date – Councillors asked the Clerk to let our Grass cutting Contractor to commence his cuts to the green as soon as possible. **ACTION: AMD**

The Chairman told the group that all of the submissions to Luton Rising had now all gone in to be considered. They have around three months to consider their decision.

A further notification had just been received from Oxford Aviation Services Limited, the owner of London Oxford Airport who have commenced an Airspace Change Proposal – The Clerk was asked to put this item on to the May agenda. **ACTION: AMD**

24/26 To report on meetings attended on behalf of the Parish Council

- a) Wing & Ivinghoe LCB – next meeting 26 March 2024 – Pitstone Pavilion – 6.30pm
- b) Parish Liaison Group – Wednesday 24 April 2024 6.30-8.30pm (will update on venue).

24/27 To receive the health & safety risk assessment for the play area – Councillor Hannon had undertaken the risk assessment and had no issues to highlight.

24/28 Website updates – The Clerk would forward minutes to our website administrator.

24/29 To agree the date of the next meeting – The date of the next meeting which would be the Annual Parish Meeting would be - Tuesday 14 May 2024

Signed:

Date: