

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

Minutes of the meeting of Hardwick Parish Council on Monday 20 November 2023 at 7pm in the John Bridles Hall

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

Buckinghamshire Councillor Diana Blamires

- 23/85 To receive apologies for absence** – Apologies received from Councillor Amanda Tofield and Buckinghamshire Councillor Ashley Bond.
- 23/86 Declaration of interest** in items on the agenda: to declare any interests and agree any dispensation requests – Vice Chairman Garth Bickerton declared an interest in item 9, Planning. The Chairman declared an interest in item 8b. Neither took part in the voting.
- 23/87 Open Forum: (adjournment)** – None. No residents in attendance.
- 23/88 To agree the minutes** of the last meeting held on Tuesday 12 September 2023 – The minutes were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.
- 23/89 To receive updates** from Buckinghamshire Councillors – Buckinghamshire Councillor Blamires told the group that the Local Community Board being held the following evening was to be held in a new way. Rather than being ‘presentation’ like it was now going to be organised into groups on tables. This way Parish Councils would be able to share information and learn from each other’s experiences. She also told Councillors the marvellous news that our bid to improve both village greens had been approved!!
Councillor Wright asked the Buckinghamshire Councillor about the Focus Newsletter she had received from the local Liberal Democrats. Councillor Blamires said the newsletter was less than truthful and no credence should be given to its articles. Councillor Wright asked about the likelihood of a cycle path from Aylesbury to Winslow. Councillor Blamires said that whilst the cycle path would be approved in principle, with no opposition there was no funding available to make it a reality. Unless a pocket of money became available through say s.106, this would not happen anytime in the near future.
- 23/90 To note the Clerks Report** – previously circulated.
- 23/91 To consider and agree the following policies:** -
Health & Safety, Data Protection, Safeguarding & Equal Opportunities – all policies previously circulated were agreed and adopted by all Councillors.
- 23/92 To consider and agree:**
- a) Our response to the Luton Airport Expansion – the Chairman Richard Blacklock told the group he had registered to speak at the Luton Airport Expansion Hearings Week next week. He then directed his surprise to Bucks Councillor Blamires on the stance Buckinghamshire Council appeared to be taking, which was one of seeming indifference. He said that he was surprised and disappointed that Buckinghamshire Council and indeed our Ward Councillors are not supporting us with this. He reiterated the plans to create 32 million passengers going through Luton, almost as much as Gatwick. Noise, environmental effects, transport, housing policy, infrastructure. Councillor Blamires acknowledged his statement and said she would speak with Steve Broadbent the Cabinet Member for Transport to find out his stance on the matter and come back to us.

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- b) The nomination of Mrs Fiona Blacklock to the John Bridles Charity – Vice Chairman Garth Bickerton proposed that Fiona Blacklock be nominated as a trustee to the John Bridles Charity for the next four years, Councillor Carol Wright seconded this proposal. The Clerk would inform the Clerk to the Trustees. **ACTION: AMD**

23/93 Planning: To discuss planning applications and make recommendation, and to include those planning applications received after this agenda is published, if urgent:

23/0327/ALB – St Marys Cottage, The Green, Hardwick, Bucks, HP22 4DZ – Listed building application for reinstatement of cottage which has suffered significant fire damage in a like for like manner – Councillors voted unanimously to **SUPPORT** this planning application.

Due to receipt of the second planning application after the agenda was published, the following was discussed and resolved via email.

23/03332/APP – Land at Poplars Farm, Lower Road, Hardwick, Bucks – Temporary construction highway access onto A413 – Councillors voted to **OPPOSE** this planning application on the grounds of road safety. Another substandard vehicle access close to an accident black spot adds to the existing danger and possible further injuries or death. The existing road turning off the A413 into the village is not ideal but has proper signage and is widely known about by users of the A413, and this road junction allows lorries to pull off the A413 and into the future access for the site (for both HGVs and cars) as detailed in the previously approved planning consent of 22/01472/APP. The PC also notes the narrowest point entering the development is 11' 10" and an HGV is 8' 4" leaving a gap of 3' 6" which is a straightforward manoeuvre to pass through for HGVs both quickly and safely.

The Clerk would post both responses onto the planning portal.

ACTION: AMD

23/94 Highways, Footpaths and Footways

- a) To report and update on issues and repairs – A resident in the village had let the Chairman know that a vehicle visiting him had caused some damage to the small green. He confirmed he would resolve this issue. Secondly, an Enterprise skip visiting an address at 1 North View, had caused damage to the verge. The Clerk was asked to contact Fairhive Homes for their plans to affect a repair. The Chairman would send through photographic evidence for the Clerk to pass on to them. *Following a visit to the site by the Chairman it was clear the repair had been carried out so no further action by the Clerk was required.*

ACTION: AMD

Councillor Wright asked Buckinghamshire Councillor Blamires if she could ask once again for the siding out of the footpath up to Whitchurch which still needed doing and was causing no end of danger to pedestrians being 'pushed' into moving into the road. Councillor Blamires agreed to speak to our Local Area Technician Paul Foot about it.

23/95 Street lighting

- a) To report and update on issues and repairs – Nothing new to report.

23/96 Finance

- a) To agree accounts for September 2023 – All agreed. Councillor Wright highlighted the issue the grass cutting budget which had gone slightly over budget. The Chairman explained that we had asked the Contractor to carry out additional works however the Clerk agreed to keep all updated.
- b) To receive an update on our bid into the Local Community Board for seating and bird/bug boxes in the village – see above – bid approved!
- c) To consider the purchase of Neighbourhood Watch signs – The purchase of new signs at a cost of £27.85 was agreed. Councillor Amanda Tofield would be reimbursed. **ACTION: AMD**

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23/97 To report on meetings attended on behalf of the Parish Council

- a) Wing & Ivinghoe LCB – Next meeting 21 November – Clerk unable to attend – Biggs Pavilion Cublington – 6.30pm – The Chairman would try to attend.
- b) Parish Liaison Group – No notes yet available from October meeting

23/98 To receive the health & safety risk assessment for the play area – Councillor Hannon had completed the assessment. All good nothing to highlight.

23/99 Website updates – The Clerk would send through all updates to our website administrator.

23/100 To agree the date of the next meeting – Next meeting was scheduled for Tuesday 9 January 2024.

Signed:

Date: