

HARDWICK PARISH COUNCIL

CLERK TO THE COUNCIL MRS ANN-MARIE DAVIES

Minutes of the meeting of Hardwick Parish Council on Tuesday 12 September 2023 at 7pm in the John Bridles Hall.

Present: Chairman Richard Blacklock
Vice Chairman Garth Bickerton
Councillor Amanda Tofield

Buckinghamshire Councillor Ashley Bond

23/70 To receive apologies for absence – Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs Wright and Hannon.

23/71 Declaration of interest in items on the agenda: None.

23/72 Open Forum: None – no residents in attendance.

23/73 To agree the minutes of the last meeting held on Tuesday 11 July 2023 – the minutes were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

23/74 To receive updates from Buckinghamshire Councillors (BC) – BC Ashley Bond had nothing important to report but told the group that two dog breeders who had been breeding illegally had both been recently imprisoned.

23/75 To note the Clerks Report – previously circulated. Cllr Tofield asked Buckinghamshire Cllr Ashley Bond to find out a bit more about the Community Board bus which visits Hardwick on 26 October 2023. He agreed to feedback to the group. **ACTION: AB**

23/76 To receive reports on:

a) Luton Airport Expansion – the Chairman expressed his surprise at the lack of engagement from Buckinghamshire Council on this issue. He said the ‘knock on’ effect in Buckinghamshire would be fairly extensive and it was very disappointing. BC Ashley Bond reported that new planning guidance was due, namely ‘National Infrastructure Planning’ which was expected to affect this proposal. No further details were available at this time. General consensus from Hardwick Councillors was that Buckinghamshire Council should be taking more of a lead on this to defend the interests of local Parish Councils. Christine Urry in Planning is taking the lead on this on behalf of BC. Cllr Tofield suggested joining forces with other adjoining Parish Councils to have more of an impact. The Clerk was asked to send an email to everyone in our local community board area asking if there is interest to oppose this.

ACTION: AMD

b) Whitchurch Neighbourhood Plan – Cllr Garth Bickerton had taken on the task of reading this Neighbourhood Plan and provided a verbal summary to the group. He acknowledged the vast amount of work which had clearly gone into producing the plan and thought not choosing to do one was the right decision for Hardwick. He stated that Whitchurch Parish Council had produced a final version, it was currently sitting with BC now and will then move to community engagement. The next stage will be the consultation after which it will then be passed to an Independent Examiner and finally to a Local referendum. If supported, BC will then adopt it and use it in accordance with Local Planning laws. He mentioned the style did not differ greatly to our own Parish Plan. The Neighbourhood Plan focussed on housing and types, settlement boundaries, traffic improvements, commercial premises, green spaces and infrastructure. Interestingly in relation to potential development on green land it stated that ‘any loss needs suitable mitigation and replacement features’. 35% of people responded. BC Ashley Bond stated his lack of faith in neighbourhood plans and said that when the new BC plan comes out, the WPC Neighbourhood Plan could already be deemed out of date! The Chairman thanked Cllr Garth Bickerton for reading the document and for his update.

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

Cllr Tofield questioned whether the boundaries listed in the document were accurate. Cllr Bickerton agreed to examine them to check they were correct and would feed back to the group.

ACTION: GB

23/77 Planning: To discuss planning applications and make recommendation, and to include those planning applications received after this agenda is published, if urgent:

23/02676/APP – 26 Bushmead Road, Whitchurch, Aylesbury, Bucks, HP22 4LG – Householder application for first floor loft space extension, replacement of existing flat roof and existing roof finishes to existing garage wing – The Council resolved to offer **NO OBJECTIONS**.

23/02737/VRC – Frith Cottage, Lower Road, Hardwick, Aylesbury, Bucks, HP22 4DZ – Householder application for erection of a shed, fence and gate/ Variation of condition 2 (plans) relating to application (Erection of dwelling) – **NO OBJECTION**

The Clerk was asked to note our recommendations on the BC Planning Portal. **ACTION: AMD**

It was noted that Hardwicke Place was listed for sale. The Clerk was asked to speak to the Conservation Officer to clarify which areas of Hardwicke Place were actually classified as 'listed' and did it apply to the outbuildings and boundaries. **ACTION: AMD**

23/78 Highways, Footpaths and Footways

- a) To report and update on issues and repairs – Nothing to report.
- b) To consider the email from Cllr Peter Cooper on 20mph speed limits and to offer the view from our Parish Council – Cllrs had a lengthy discussion on this issue and the Clerk was asked to reply to BC Peter Cooper to thank him for undertaking this piece of work but to stress that from our perspective, not having a school in the village, speeding was not seen as an imminent danger as the volume of traffic near our closest schools would generally prohibit any speeding. **ACTION: AMD**

23/79 Street lighting

- a) To report and update on issues and repairs – The Chairman thought there may be a streetlight out at back of Bowman Shaws property. He would check and report to the Clerk. **ACTION: AMD**

23/80 Finance

- a) To agree accounts for August & September 2023 – the accounts for August were agreed as a correct record. September bank statements were yet to be received so were unable to be verified.
- b) To receive an update on our bid into the Local Community Board for seating and bird/bug boxes in the village -The Clerk told the group she had written a funding bid which had been submitted into the Coordinator for the Wing & Ivinghoe. It included all of the elements previously discussed namely: accessible picnic tables and bench, bird and bug boxes, bulbs and bird cherry tree. She was asked to add in costs for the hardstanding, which would be up to £1500, with labour being provided by local residents and also reiterate the involvement of the local preschool who would be growing bulbs in pots from October which would then be planted onto the green. Costs would be in the region of £300. **ACTION: AMD**

23/81 To report on meetings attended on behalf of the Parish Council

- a) Wing & Ivinghoe LCB – held on 5.9.23 (details in Clerks report)
- b) Parish Liaison Group – 25.10.23 (No venue yet decided)

23/82 To receive the health & safety risk assessment for the play area – The Clerk reported that Cllr Tim Hannon had provided the report via email and had noted no areas of concern.

HARDWICK PARISH COUNCIL

CLERK TO THE COUNCIL MRS ANN-MARIE DAVIES

23/83 Website updates – The Clerk would provide the usual updates to our website administrator. **ACTION: AMD**

23/84 To agree the date of the next meeting – Tuesday 14 November 2023

Finally, on behalf of the Parish Council we noted and wished to welcome the new tenants of The Bell Public House.

Signed:

Date: