

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

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of Hardwick Parish Council on Tuesday 2 May 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

Plus, two residents

23/33 To note apologies for absence: Apologies were received from Buckinghamshire Councillors Peter Cooper, Ashley Bond and Diana Blamires.

23/34 To receive a report from the Chair of the Parish Council – Chairman Richard Blacklock gave a verbal update to the group. All Cllrs agreed the Community Payback team had done a good job in the village! The Clerk was asked to drop them an email to express our thanks. **ACTION: AMD**
One of the residents in attendance asked if there was a possibility for the Community Payback Team to tidy up the area from Coronation Bungalows to Redwell. The Chairman would speak with our grass cutting contractor. **ACTION: RB**

23/35 To receive reports from other Village Organisations – Cllr Tofield gave an update on behalf of the Hardwick Village Association. Two new members had joined the group and were doing well. Plans for the Coronation celebration were in full swing following a successful Lottery fund bid. A quiz would be planned for later on in the year and the Open Gardens would be held on the 2 July.

Gill Hogarth expressed her thanks to all Parish Councillors for continuing to do what they do for the village! The Chairman thanked her for her kind comments.

23/36 To agree the date of the next meeting – 7 May 2024

Signed:

Date

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- 23/37 Election of the Chairman of the Council** and to receive the Chairman's declaration of acceptance of office. Cllr Garth Bickerton proposed Cllr Blacklock to stand as Chairman. He was seconded by Cllr Wright. Cllr Blacklock accepted the proposal, and signed his declaration of acceptance of office.
- 23/38 To elect a Vice Chairman of the Council and to receive the Chairman's declaration of acceptance of office.** Chairman Blacklock proposed Cllr Bickerton as Vice Chairman. This was seconded by Cllr Tofield. Vice Chairman Bickerton accepted the proposal and signed his declaration of acceptance of office.
- 23/39 To receive apologies for absence** – Apologies were received from Buckinghamshire Councillors Peter Cooper, Ashley Bond and Diana Blamires.
- 23/40 Declaration of interest** in items on the agenda: None received,
- 23/41 Open Forum:** One of the residents in attendance asked if Cllrs would consider a 'No mow May' in the village or even perhaps set the cutter higher? She told the group that for just a short period of time, significant pollution could be reduced. The Chairman thanked her for bringing this proposal to the Council and appreciated it in principle however he was reluctant to agree to it as children used both greens and also our Contractor would suffer financially. All Cllrs agreed with this view. The same resident asked if any of our Buckinghamshire Councillors had said anything about community electric car charging points? The Clerk would follow this up with the Cllrs and feed back to a future meeting. **ACTION: AMD**
- 23/42 To agree the minutes** of the last meeting held on Tuesday 14 March 2023 – the minutes were agreed and signed as a correct record.
- 23/43 To review and confirm the Standing Orders** – The Standing Orders were reviewed and adopted for a further year.
- 23/44 To review and confirm the Complaints Procedure** – The Complaints Procedure was reviewed and adopted for a further year,
- 23/45 To review and confirm the Councillor and Officer Protocols** – The Councillor and Officer Protocols were reviewed and adopted for a further year.
- 23/46 To receive updates** from Buckinghamshire Councillors – None as no Cllrs were in attendance.
- 23/47 To note the Clerks Report** – previously circulated and delivered verbally to the group present.
- 23/48 Planning:** To discuss planning applications and make recommendation, and to include those planning applications received after this agenda is published, if urgent:
- a) **23/01288/APP - Land at Poplars Farm Lower Road, Hardwick, Bucks** – Erection of one and half storey dwelling – Cllrs discussed this planning application and resolved to offer **NO OBJECTION** Subject to the receipt of comments from the Heritage Officer and to also request the Planning Officer address the windows which faced the east to the Gable end and the dormer one which was looking upstairs into Langland View – they needed to be both fixed and obscured. **ACTION: AMD**
- 23/49 Highways, Footpaths and Footways**
- a) To report and update on issues and repairs – Following the last meeting, the Chairman had reported kerbs and potholes via Fixmystreet. The update from Fixmystreet stated the bridge

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down at The Folly was not currently in danger of collapse. He also reported some potholes had been repaired in the village today.

- b) To consider the purchase of extra footpath signposts – Cllr Tofield reported the signs were very well received in the village. Vic Chainey from the Folly had asked if the farmer next to the gasworks could also have a sign. The Chairman still had a spare sign which he would pass across and it was agreed a further one could be purchased going forward. Cllr Tofield agreed to come back to next meeting with a proposal for the bridle way. **ACTION: AT**
RB will speak to Matt about tidying up the bit by the bus shelter and the bench. Cllr Tofield also mentioned the bad state of the bus shelter and bench. The Chairman agreed to speak with the grass cutting contractor. **ACTION: RB**
Cllr Wright asked why the area close to Hardwicke Place had not been cleared as previously agreed. The Chairman said he had misunderstood the last minute and would speak to the grass cutting contractor to get the hedging removed and sprayed this time rather than cutback. **ACTION: RB**
Cllr Wright referred to the last meeting where works to the Parish Council trees was agreed because branches touching the wires were affecting her internet and asked if could be carried out sooner rather than later. The Chairman apologised and asked the Clerk to contact our Tree Contractor and asked him to contact the Chairman. **ACTION: AMD**
- c) To update on the proposed date for the litter pick – Thanks to the Community Payback Team this was no longer required.

23/50 Street lighting

- a) To report and update on issues and repairs – The Clerk reported the Contractor had been in touch to say the lights were still on order and would be fitted once received.

23/51 Finance & Annual Governance and Accounts Return

- a) To agree accounts for February & March 2023 – The accounts were accepted and agreed.
- b) To consider fixing our insurance premium for the next three years at £577.26 – The Clerk was authorised to accept the offer of a three-year fixed deal at £577.26 per annum. **ACTION: AMD**
- c) To consider the purchase of an additional sign for the playground – The Clerk told the group of a small Parish Council which was being sued for burns suffered from hot play equipment during the unprecedented summer of 2022 and urged other Parish Councils to install a sign which highlighted equipment could get hot. The Clerk was asked to find out which wording was used and mirror it at our play area. **ACTION: AMD**
- b) To note and approve the bank reconciliations to the 31 March 2023 (circulated) – The bank reconciliation was accepted and approved.
- c) To note the completion of Section 1 of the Annual Return (AGAR) (circulated) – Section 1 was approved and signed.
- d) To receive and approve the Annual Accounts for 2022/23 (circulated) – the Annual Accounts were received and approved.
- e) To authorise the Chairman to sign Section 2 of the Annual Return (AGAR) (circulated) – Section 2 of the Annual Accounts was received and signed by the Chairman.
- f) To note the following dates regarding the Notice of Exercise of Public Rights: The Clerk would ensure the correct documentation was pinned up to the Parish Council noticeboard.
- Announcement to be made/published on website – Monday 5 June 2023.
 - Period of inspection starts – Monday 5 June 2023.
 - Period of inspection ends – Friday 14 July 2023.

23/52 To report on meetings attended on behalf of the Parish Council

- a) Wing & Ivinghoe LCB – Despite receiving notification that the March meeting had been cancelled, the Clerk reported the meeting had actually gone ahead!
- b) Parish Liaison Group – postponed until 28.6.23

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23/53 To receive the health & safety risk assessment for the play area – Cllr Hannon had checked the play area and all was ok. He would email the report across to the Clerk. ACTION: TH

23/54 Website updates – Following the comment from the Internal Auditor which highlighted some tardy updates to the website, the Clerk was asked to forward more timely updates to our Administrator. **ACTION: AMD**

Cllr Wright asked if we could look into whether our village pub was still registered as an Asset of Community Value. **ACTION: AMD**

23/55 To agree the date of the next meeting – The date of the next meeting was agreed as 11 July 2023.

Signed:

Date