

HARDWICK PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Hardwick Parish Council held in John Bridles Hall on Wednesday 11th March 2026 at 7.30pm

Present: Cllr Blacklock (Chair), Cllr Hannon, Cllr Lee, Cllr Marsden, Cllr Dallas, Kelly Harris (Clerk & RFO) & 26 members of the public (MoP)

Buckinghamshire Council representative: None in attendance.

1 To receive apologies for absence: None received, all Cllrs were in attendance.

2 Declaration of interest: None received.

3 Open Forum: The 26 MoPs were in attendance to talk about the draft Bucks Local Plan and specifically, the proposed traveller site for 10 pitches located off the A413 just outside the village.

Many questions were raised including why the site was deemed as appropriate for planning when it had been rejected in the past, how many acres the site covered, whether the PC has funds for legal advice if required, what impact the proposal would have on the parish and how to encourage all residents to comment on the plans.

Cllr Blacklock suggested producing a flyer to share with all residents, to accompany the flyer already provided by the previous owners of the land. It was agreed that Cllr Blacklock and the Clerk would work on the flyer on Thursday (12th March), and once printed various volunteers would distribute to all residents in the village. **Action: Cllr Blacklock / Clerk**

Cllr Dallas will ask Whitchurch school to email out the flyer to all parents informing them of the plans and suggesting they submit comments on the proposals.

Cllr Blacklock advised the importance of every resident submitting an objection by the deadline (16th March), but not to use a uniform objection as they would be ignored by Bucks Council.

4 To agree the minutes of the last meeting held on Wednesday 14th January 2026 – the minutes were agreed unanimously and approved and signed as a true record of the meeting.

5 To receive updates from Buckinghamshire Councillor Gomm
Cllr Gomm did not attend the meeting.

6 Planning: To discuss the Parish Council's response to the draft Bucks Local Plan
As above, Cllr Blacklock and the Clerk will produce a flyer for all residents outlining the Parish Council's objections and this will be submitted using the online submission form to respond to the local plan. **Action: Cllr Blacklock / Clerk**

7 Highways, Footpaths and Lighting matters
The potholes at the Folley are to be repaired in the next 6-8 weeks.

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A conifer is overhanging Newhaven and the residents there have asked if the PC could remove it. It was agreed that this will be added as an agenda point at the May meeting. **Action: Clerk**

8 Finance

a. To agree the finance reports for January & February 2026

The reports were unanimously approved and signed by the Chair.

b. To agree the bank statements for January & February 2026

Cllrs were happy that the bank statements were correct.

c. To agree to appoint Brian Fludgate as Internal Auditor to the Council for the 2026 audit period

Cllrs agreed to appoint Brian Fludgate as the Council's internal auditor for the 2026 audit period.

d. Annual review and approval of the Parish Council Financial and Management Risk Assessment

Cllrs unanimously approved the Parish Council Financial and Management Risk Assessment.

e. To discuss donating £175 to the church for the upkeep of the churchyard

Cllrs agreed to donate £175 and the payment will be made once the precept is in the Parish Council bank account in April.

9 To confirm the grass cutting contractor for 2026

Cllrs agreed to continue working with MRA Garden Services for the 2026 grass cutting season and noted the small increase in costs.

10 To approve the Devolved Services Agreement for 2026/27

Cllrs approved the Devolved Services Agreement and the Clerk will sign and return to Bucks Council. **Action: Clerk**

11 To adopt the Hardwick Parish Council Standing Orders and Financial Regulations

Cllrs resolved to adopt these policies and the Clerk will add them to the website. **Action: Clerk**

12 To adopt the ICO Model Publication Scheme and the Hardwick Parish Council Freedom of Information Scheme

Cllrs resolved to adopt these policies and the Clerk will add them to the website. **Action: Clerk**

13 To discuss the village pub being listed as a community asset

The pub is due to reopen shortly. Cllrs agree the pub should be listed as a community asset, but that there is no urgency to do this. Cllr Blacklock believes an easier route to list an asset is being brought forward and we should wait until this is in place. It was agreed that this would remain an agenda point until this happens.

Action: Clerk

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- 14 To receive the health & safety risk assessment for the play area**
Cllr Hannon provided the Clerk with the latest assessment. No issues were raised.
- 15 To report on any meetings attended on behalf of the Parish Council**
There was nothing to report.
- 16 To agree the date of the next meeting**
Cllrs unanimously agreed to Wednesday 13th May for the Annual Parish Council meeting and Annual Parish meeting, starting at 7pm in the John Bridles Hall.

The Chairman thanked everyone for their contribution and declared the meeting closed at 19.54.

Signed:

Date

37 Brook Farm Close, Stoke Hammond, MK17 9FN 07793 131810 /
clerkhardwick@gmail.com / www.hardwickparishcouncil.co.uk