

Hardwick Parish Council
Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 21 January 2026 at 7.00 pm
Held at The Cabin at St Mary's, Hardwick

Present: Councillors: A Gill (Chairman), B Coxall, I Giddings, P Joslin and S Rose.

In attendance: 1 member of the public and Mrs A Griffiths (Minutes Secretary, LGS Services).

Open public session including reports from the County and District Councillors

A resident enquired about the status of the tree work applications for her property, which were required by the insurers. The Chairman explained that the applications were currently in the hands of the planning authority and their decision was awaited. Noting that the resident had been in touch with the District Councillor, it was suggested that she might be able to find out why the applications were shown as withdrawn on the SCDC website.

1. To receive apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Armisen (unwell). Cllr Awoyinka was not present.

2. Declarations of interest

2.1 To receive declarations of interests from Cllrs on items on the agenda and details of dispensations held

Cllr Rose declared non-pecuniary interests in item 7.2 as a Trustee, Guarantor and Director member of the Hardwick Community Centre Charity.

Cllr Gill declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 7.2 as a Trustee, Guarantor and Director member of the Hardwick Community Centre Charity.

Cllr Giddings declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 7.5 as a user of the footpath.

2.2 To receive written requests for dispensation and grant any as appropriate for items on this agenda

None received.

3. To approve the minutes of the previous meeting

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting on 10 December 2025 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record. (Prop PJ, 2nd BC, unanimous)

4. Matters arising or deferred from the last or previous meetings for discussion/decision

4.1 (4.2) Biodiversity funds received – to consider options for spending (standing item)

Nothing to report. It was noted that the funds had to be used on The Spinney Biodiversity enhancement and maintenance as per the Biodiversity Net Gain Assessment for the Offsetting dated October 2021.

Cllr Giddings asked whether the Scout group could use the wood from trees that were to be taken down on the site of the new Community Centre, to make Christmas reindeer. The Parish Council had no objections.

4.2 (4.2) Website update and to consider approval

Cllr Rose provided an update on the new Parish Council website.

The new site www.hardwickparish.gov.uk is now live and once the developer has completed the final checks, the old website will be shut down and searches will automatically be redirected to the new website address. The developers have transferred the content to the new website and saved the old website so that the old data will be backed up and remain available. There is an ongoing contract for the developer to manage the website and facilitate content being added. Arrangements will need to be made for those with restricted permission to upload information. Cllr Rose has been checking for out of date items and arranging for these to be updated. The new website will be announced on Facebook.

The new email addresses will be linked to the new website and redirected at first.

A resident had written requesting a separate website for the village and a consultation with residents on the direction and development of the current website. He had raised the erroneous inclusion of incorrect material which did not relate to Hardwick. Cllr Rose explained that this had been included in error by a previous webmaster in 2021. This had been removed and did not reflect on the current process.

RESOLVED to reply suggesting that the resident waits until the new website is up and running, and if having seen it, he still wishes to pursue his request he would be welcome to raise the matter again.

Cllr Rose left the meeting at 7.40 pm.

4.3 (7.3) Maintenance of two solar powered lights in Miller's Way - update

RESOLVED to note that the manufacturers had said when the lights were purchased in 2020 that no maintenance was necessary, and the lights were purchased without a maintenance contract. It would be necessary to replace the batteries when they expired.

Cllr Joslin reported that she had the key and instructions for the solar panels on the bus shelters.

4.4 (9) Training for committees running Community Centres

RESOLVED to note that Cambridgeshire ACRE, which the Parish Council had joined, was a good source of information and support.

4.5 (4.13 of 18.6.25) Review of parking at the Church

The Parish Council reviewed the current condition of the village green and the previously discussed options for improving this.

A proposal was made, ^(BC) given that the Council believed the ground would dry out in the spring, to review the situation again in six months' time.

Another proposal was made ^(PJ) to check the legal process/requirements for the land to be changed to a parking area.

RESOLVED to amalgamate the two proposals to review the situation again in six months' time and in the meantime to check the legal requirements. ^(Prop AG, 2nd PJ, unanimous)

5. Finance, risk assessment and procedural matters

5.1 To consider any quotes for urgent work required because of risk and the Clerk's use of delegated powers

Parish Council Websites had agreed to transferring the existing website to their servers until the new website is live at no charge as the hosting arrangements for the existing website were due to expire.

5.2 To receive play areas and skate park inspection reports and consider if any work is required

RESOLVED to receive reports from Cllr Coxall for the Church play area and Cllr Gill's reports for the Grenadier Walk and Worcester Avenue play areas.

Cllr Armisen had also submitted his reports. No remedial work was currently required. A proposal for improvements to the Worcester Avenue play area will be an agenda item for the next meeting. Cllr Gill undertook to look at brochures.

5.3 To receive the financial report and approve the payment of bills

RESOLVED that the payments as listed below in the finance report should be paid, plus The Cabin (Room hire) £21.00 and £21.00, and Cass Allen (Acoustics) £1,704.00.

RESOLVED that a third invoice from The Cabin for £21.00 (Room hire) be placed on hold and queried, as the date was incorrect. ^(Prop PJ, 2nd IG, unanimous)

Salaries	£757.31
Oakes and Watson (Tree work)	£228.00
Blue Ink Architecture (RIBA Stage 2 completion)	£9360.00
LGS Services (Admin support)	£1560.88

Credits including bank interest and lease rent, were noted.

5.4 To appoint two members to authorise payments at the bank

RESOLVED that Cllrs Gill and Joslin should authorise the payments at the bank.

6. To consider any planning applications and decision notices and tree works applications

6.1 Planning applications and appeals

6.1.1 25/04861/FUL – Land adj Egremont Road – New Community Centre for Hardwick Village

The Parish Council supported the application.

6.1.2 21/03058/CONDA – 339 St Neots Road – Submission of details required by conditions 3 (Surface water drainage), 4 (External materials), 5 (Hard and soft landscaping), 6 (Scheme of ecological enhancement), 9 (Cycle parking), 10 (Energy statement), 11 (Water efficiency specification) and 12 (Construction Environmental Management Plan) of planning permission 21/03058/FUL

Noted.

6.2 To note any planning responses made between meetings using delegated powers

6.2.1 25/1408/TTCA – 87 Main Street – Considered between meetings – The Parish Council made no comments.

6.3 SCDC decision and appeal notices and correspondence

25/03960/S73 – Newton House, 147 St Neots Road – S73 to vary condition 2 (approved drawings) of ref. 24/02099/FUL (Redevelopment to form 2 No. 1 bedroom, 5 No. 2 bedroom and with associated car parking, cycle storage, and bin storage (amendment to 21/01345/FUL) to show first and second floor balconies have been replaced with Juliet balconies – Permission refused by SCDC.

6.4 Tree works applications

None.

7. Members' reports and items for information only

7.1 New Housing Developments and Planning Obligations

Nothing to report.

7.2 Community Centre update

Cllr Gill reported that following the submission of the planning application, the Working Group would be meeting with the architect and services consultant tomorrow to look at options for the appearance of the building, which would be subject to budgetary constraints.

7.3 Highways Working Group report

Cllr Joslin's previously circulated written report, which included Greenways, MVAS equipment, and village lighting, was noted. Cllr Gill is updating the St Neots Road street light map.

The bus shelter has been ordered and CCC consulted. There is no requirement for an S278 agreement.

Cllr Joslin reported that she would be attending a meeting to look at Bourn Airfield on 11 February.

A report on the Millennium Footpath is to be an agenda item for the next meeting.

A resident had reported a problem with a tree in the parking area near the shop. RESOLVED, noting that this was the responsibility of the landowner and not the Parish Council, that Cllr Joslin will inform the resident.

The three lights near the Church are staying on instead of switching off at midnight. This has been raised with the maintenance contractors who are checking the position.

7.4 Pippins report

Cllr Giddings reported on matters raised by residents at the Pippins coffee mornings, including: screening and parking arrangements for the Community Centre (landscaping is included in the plan); the height of trees between Ellison Lane and Lambourn Road; and an enquiry from a resident about a disabled parking space.

On a proposition by the Chairman, the following two items were taken together.

7.5 Condition of pavement from Howells Close westbound7.6 Condition of St Neots Road foot/cycle path – proposal that the Parish Council writes to CCC

Cllr Giddings described the poor condition of the surface of the foot/cycle path between Howells Way and Weatherheads, which was hazardous for pedestrians, especially the elderly and infirm.

RESOLVED that Cllrs Giddings and Joslin should report the issues on the CCC website, and encourage other residents to do so too.

8. **To consider any correspondence/communications received requiring formal noting by or a decision of the Council**8.1 Resident complaint about roots encroaching into garden

RESOLVED that the Chairman should take a look at the suckers encroaching into the resident's garden.

8.2 Resident – to consider whether a new village sign should be procured

Cllr Giddings reported that he would take the village sign to a woodworker near Oundle to see how this could be repaired and obtain an informal quotation.

RESOLVED that this will be an agenda item for the next meeting to consider whether to proceed with repairs and seek quotations.

8.3 Haslingfield Parish Council – Potential East West Rail working group

RESOLVED to make a one-off contribution of £50.00 to Haslingfield Parish Council for meeting expenses and additional Clerk time. (Prop PJ, 2nd AG, unanimous)

8.4 SCDC Six Free Trees offer (deadline 31 January)

RESOLVED not to apply on this occasion.

8.5 CAPALC – letter from Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) seeking views on the postponement of local elections

RESOLVED to note that elections will be taking place and that there was no need to respond.

8.6 Resident – dilapidated fence Sudeley Grove / Cambridge Road

RESOLVED to reply that the responsibility for the fencing belongs to the owners of the houses in Cambridge Road where it backs onto Sudeley Grove.

RESOLVED to note that the Council had written twice to the owner of the camper van and recreational vehicle which had gained access over Parish Council land without permission, but there had been no response. The vehicles did not appear to have been moved, but the Parish Council will remind the owners again that the vehicles had been driven across Parish Council land and permission must be sought if they wish to move them.

9. **Closure of meeting and items for the next agenda**

Information on training for committees running Community Centres is to be obtained for the next meeting.

The next monthly meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 18 February 2026.

There being no other business, the meeting was closed by the Chairman at 9.03 pm.

SignedChairmandate