

**Hardwick Parish Council**  
**Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday 18 February 2026 at 7.00 pm**  
**Held at The Cabin at St Mary's, Hardwick**

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

In attendance: 4 members of the public including Shanie Leonard and Mark Jolley (Co-Chairs, HSSC) and Rachel Worsley (Secretary, HSSC) and Mrs A Griffiths (Minutes Secretary, LGS Services).

**Open public session including reports from the County and District Councillors**

None at this point – to be raised under the relevant agenda items.

**1. To receive apologies for absence**

Apologies were received from Cllr Armisen (out of parish),  
 It was noted that Cllr Coxall had resigned as a member of the Parish Council.  
 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, and in item 8.1 as a founder and life member of HSSC.

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 8.1 as a member of HSSC.

**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 on 21 January and the budget meeting on 14 January**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting on 14 January 2026 be approved after an amendment under item 4.3, line 1, to read “given to” and signed by the Chairman as a true record. (Prop PJ, 2nd SR, unanimous)

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting on 21 January 2026 be approved after an amendment under item 4.2, line 15, to read “in error by a previous webmaster in 2021,” and signed by the Chairman as a true record. (Prop SR, 2nd PJ, 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.

**4.2 (4.2) Website update, Parish Council emails update and consideration of IT policy as required by Assertion 10**

Cllr Rose reported that there had been some positive feedback on the new Parish Council website. It was in the course of being updated and content was being added. Cllr Rose had been in touch with Hardwick Happenings and there was a meeting of the IT Working Group coming up in March.

Now that the website had settled in the work of changing email addresses to the same domain would go ahead.

The CAPALC model IT policy and draft example policy were briefly considered. It was felt the CAPALC model policy was not appropriate for Hardwick, being too extensive. The Working Group had prepared a draft policy which will be considered at the next meeting.

A request was made for Councillor training relating to the new website and emails.

4.3 (5.2) Proposal for improvements to the Worcester Avenue play area

Brochures will be passed to Cllr Joslin to look at.  
Deferred to the next meeting.

4.4 (7.3) To consider report on the Millennium Footpath

Cllr Joslin's previously circulated reports on the Millennium Footpath were noted.  
The path was free of obstructions and there were no problems with the bridge and posts. Extensive coppicing work had been carried out in the triangular plantation. Waymarker posts had been dislodged.

Cllr Joslin should contact Caroline Chivers to request that the gate be unlocked for vehicle access and seek reinstatement of the posts and removal of waste material.

4.5 (7.3) Lighting near the Church – to note response from maintenance contractors

RESOLVED, having noted the response from the maintenance contractor, given that a resident had reported the lights were on at 2.30 am during the winter, to ask the contractor whether it would be possible to adjust the lights to come on at 5.30 am and switch off at dawn. (Prop SR, 2nd AG, unanimous)

4.6 (8.1) Resident complaint about roots/suckers encroaching into garden – update

Cllr Gill had not yet been able to take a look, deferred to the next meeting.

4.7 (8.2) Proposal for a new village sign – update and to consider the next steps

Cllr Giddings reported that the timber supplier and woodworker would be able to supply sufficient wood for the sign at a cost of approximately £60.00, plus some more for the attachments which formed part of the design, and five litres of top quality wood preservative. Carving of the word "Hardwick" would cost £3.00 per letter. Jeff Jones was still willing to do the paintwork. Cllr Giddings estimated that the total cost would be less than £200.00.

It was suggested that a metal strip be attached to the top of the sign to prevent rain from getting into the timber.

RESOLVED that Cllr Giddings should proceed with the plan, with a maximum budget of £500, and report back to the next meeting. (Prop SR, 2nd PJ, unanimous)

On a proposition by the Chairman, the order of business was varied to take item 8.1 next.

8.1 Hardwick Sports and Social Club – request for financial assistance for refurbishment

Cllr Rose, having previously declared an interest in this item, left the room at 7.42 pm.

The meeting was briefly suspended to enable the representatives of HSSC to outline their request.

Shanie Leonard, Co-Chair of HSSC, explained that urgent remedial work to rectify leaking toilets was in progress, and would have to be paid for before the end of the financial year. Financial assistance was sought towards the resultant shortfall in running costs.

RESOLVED that the Parish Council would in principle be willing to support an application for financial support, subject to receipt of an application form specifying the amount required and supporting paperwork, to be discussed at the next meeting. (Prop AG, 2nd PJ, unanimous)

Cllr Rose re-joined the meeting at 7.51 pm. The meeting resumed.

The order of business was again varied to take item 6 next.

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

6.1 Planning applications and appeals

26/00293/S73 – Newton House, 147 St Neots Road – S73 to vary condition 2 (approved drawings) of ref: 24/02099/FUL (Redevelopment to form 2no. one

bedroom, 5no. two bedroom and with associated car parking, cycle storage (amendment to 21/01345/FUL) removal of rear balconies to bedrooms, retaining front balconies of 3sqm

RESOLVED that the Parish Council is neutral and to make no comments but leave it to the planners to decide. (Prop AG, 2nd PJ, unanimous)

- 6.2 To note any planning responses made between meetings using delegated powers  
None.
- 6.3 SCDC decision and appeal notices and correspondence  
25/04620/HFUL – 13 Coles Way – Outbuilding to the rear – Permission granted by SCDC.
- 6.4 Tree works applications  
On a proposition by the Chairman, the meeting was suspended to enable a resident to speak about the tree works application on trees affecting her property. The resident expressed concerns at the lack of information about the progress of the application and asked if the work to have the trees removed could now go ahead, given that the District Councillor had confirmed that there were no Tree Preservation Orders on the trees. The Parish Council explained that it had not received any information from SCDC, whose responsibility it was to approve tree works. The meeting resumed. RESOLVED to contact the Trees Officer to ask them to confirm the up to date position within seven days and, subject to their response, to progress the removal of the trees as soon as possible, and update the resident accordingly.
- 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  
None.
- 5.2 To receive play areas and skate park inspection reports and consider if any work is required  
No problems were reported.
- 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.  
(Prop PJ, 2nd AG, unanimous)
- |                                     |          |
|-------------------------------------|----------|
| Salaries                            | £599.84  |
| Greenbarnes (Notice board)          | £1217.22 |
| LGS Services (Admin support Jan 26) | £1680.31 |
- Credits including bank interest and a VAT refund, 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.
- 5.5 To consider arranging a tree survey 2026  
RESOLVED to arrange a tree survey and consider quotations at the next meeting.
- 6. To consider any planning applications and decision notices and tree works applications**  
Taken earlier.
- 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 Rose provided an update. The Planning application was still under consideration by SCDC. The Architect and Planning Officer were working to complete the process as soon as possible.

7.3 Highways Working Group report

Cllr Joslin’s previously circulated written report was noted.  
Cllr Joslin was trying to obtain an update on the Greenways works.  
The light in the passage was now working.  
Cllr Joslin will continue to seek confirmation of ownership of the 12 new street lights in St Neots Road. A street light map which appeared in Hardwick Happenings has now been corrected.  
An email had been received from a resident suggesting improvements to the pavement footpaths to make them easier for people with mobility scooters to negotiate. Some of the paths were in poor condition. This will be discussed at the next meeting.

7.4 Proposal that the notice board at Grace Crescent is repaired

The Chairman should take a look and report back to the next meeting.

**8. To consider any correspondence/communications received requiring formal noting by or a decision of the Council**

8.1 Hardwick Sports and Social Club – request for financial assistance for refurbishment

Taken earlier.

8.2 Resident – various issues in the village

RESOLVED, noting that the roundabouts at the Dry Drayton junction had now been repaired, the Millennium footpath was clear, and the Greenways scheme was the responsibility of the County Council, that the Chairman should draft a response. <sup>(Prop SR, 2nd PJ, unanimous)</sup>

8.3 Local Government Reorganisation consultation

Noted.

8.0.4 Pippins report

Cllr Giddings reported that a resident had complained about the sound of a radio near the Pre-School.  
The Pippins report should be a standing item for every meeting.

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

The next monthly meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 18 March 2026.  
There being no other business, the meeting was closed by the Chairman at 8.44 pm.

Signed .....Chairman .....date