

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

Present: Councillors: P Joslin (Chairman), J Armisen, O Awoyinka, I Giddings and S Rose.

In attendance: 2 members of the public and Mr Ben Stoehr (Acting Clerk).

Open public session including reports from the County and District Councillors

None.

1. To receive apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Gill (out of parish),

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 5.5.1 as a founder and life member of HSSC and 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 18 February

Cllr Awoyinka arrived at 7.05 pm.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting on 18 February 2026 be approved after an amendment under item 4.5, line 3, to change "5.30 pm" to "5.30 am" and in line 4 change "midnight" to "dawn" 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) Website update, Parish Council emails update and consideration of draft IT policy as required by Assertion 10

4.1.1 Request for training on new email system

4.1.2 Request from a resident to have access to the website to update history information

These items were taken together.

Cllr Rose reported that the new Parish Council website was up and running, and the working group was going through the process of ensuring there was responsibility for updating various sections. Peter Cornwell was responsible for the Hardwick Happenings section, the calendar, local services and gallery. Cllr Awoyinka is to provide support if needed.

A request had been received from a resident to update the history section.

RESOLVED that the Parish Council was agreeable to Alan Everitt being able to access the old website on a read-only basis and to access the History section of the new website. Cllr Awoyinka is to offer support if required.

RESOLVED that Cllr Awoyinka should update the Parish Council news section.

RESOLVED, noting that the Hardwick Speed Watch section contained a great deal of out of date data, that Cllr Joslin should check whether Speed Watch still wish to include a section.

Cllr Joslin reported that it was difficult to get people to be involved but that the data should be kept even if it was out of date.

All Councillors were asked to provide photographs and information for the Parish Council membership section, for Cllr Awoyinka to upload.

The new .gov.uk emails were now working.

Cllr Rose reported on the draft IT policy.

RESOLVED that the Parish Council should adopt the NALC policy. (Prop SR, 2nd JA, carried with 4 in favour and 1 against)

Emails to the .org.uk email addresses were being auto forwarded to the new .gov.uk addresses. All outgoing emails should be from the new .gov.uk addresses.

RESOLVED to cancel the Zoho provision before the renewal is due at the end of the year.

4.2 (4.3) Proposal for improvements to the Worcester Avenue play area

There was no update.

4.3 (4.5) Lighting near the Church – to note response from maintenance contractors and consider quotation if received

RESOLVED to accept the quotation from K & M Lighting Services for three part night cells at £80.00 plus VAT each. (Prop SR, 2nd PJ, unanimous)

RESOLVED to check whether a PIR/motion sensor system might be possible in the future.

4.4 (4.6) Resident complaint about roots/suckers encroaching into garden – update

RESOLVED, as Cllr Gill was not present, to defer this item to the next meeting.

4.5 (4.7) Proposal for a new village sign – update and to consider the next steps

Cllr Giddings reported that the basic shape had been cut out from English oak and the trim pieces and lettering had been cut from English elm and glued together. Preservative and a metal strip will be added by Cllr Giddings. Jeff Jones had kindly volunteered to paint the sign. It was hoped that it would be completed in time for May Day.

4.6 (5.5) Tree survey 2026 – to consider quotations received

RESOLVED to accept the quotation from Eastern Tree Surgery to carry out the survey at a cost of £2,720.00 plus VAT, and to ask whether Cllr Giddings could be present. (Prop SR, 2nd PJ, unanimous)

4.7 (7.4) Proposal that the notice board in Grace Crescent is repaired

RESOLVED to defer this item to the next meeting.

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

RESOLVED to note that the Acting Clerk used delegated powers to accept a quotation from The Handyman Contractor for £89.50 to repair a bench in Limes Road which has been damaged.

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

Noted. No works were currently required. Appointment of a person to check the Church Play area is to be an agenda item for the next meeting.

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 CAPALC (Affiliation fee) £762.06, Handyman Contractor (Bench in Limes Road) £89.90, Suffolk County Council (Street light energy) £534.67, and I Giddings (Mactimbers for village sign) £267.00. (Prop IG, 2nd PJ, unanimous)

Salaries	£853.31
Oakes and Watson (Tree works in the Spinney)	£2160.00
Handyman Contractor (Notice board installation Capstone)	£185.00
Zoho (Workplace renewal)	£158.40
Cabin at St Mary's (Room hire)	£49.00
Cabin at St Mary's (Room hire)	£21.00
LGS Services (Admin support)	£1691.98

Credits including bank interest were noted.

- 5.4 To appoint two members to authorise payments at the bank
RESOLVED that Cllrs Rose and Joslin should authorise the payments at the bank.
- 5.5 Grant requests received
- 5.5.1 Hardwick Sports and Social Club
Cllr Rose, having previously declared an interest in this item, left the meeting at 7.42 pm.
RESOLVED to approve a grant of £15,000.00 to Hardwick Sports and Social Club to assist with running costs following the replacement of toilets. (Prop JA, 2nd IG, unanimous)
RESOLVED to ask HSSC to provide before and after photographs for the Parish Council's records.
Cllr Rose re-joined the meeting at 7.58 pm.
- 5.5.2 St Mary's Church
Cllr Giddings declared an interest as a member of the Church and left the meeting at 7.58 pm.
RESOLVED to approve a grant of £449.00 for the replacement of a mower. (Prop SR, 2nd PJ, unanimous)
- 6. To consider any planning applications and decision notices and tree works applications**
- 6.1 Planning applications and appeals
None.
- 6.2 To note any planning responses made between meetings using delegated powers
None.
- 6.3 SCDC decision and appeal notices and correspondence
None.
- 6.4 Tree works applications
None.
It was noted that the works to trees in the Spinney which had affected a property in Ashmead Drive had been carried out.
- 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 reported that they were still waiting for planning permission to be granted. A meeting with the architect was taking place on Tuesday.
- 7.3 Highways Working Group report
Cllr Joslin's previously circulated written report was noted.
RESOLVED to chase Hill about the village map at the Church
Email correspondence between Cllr Joslin and Jonathan Camp of CCC about Greenways was noted. Mr Camp wished to discuss the route with the Parish Council
RESOLVED that Cllr Joslin should arrange a meeting with Mr Camp.
- 7.4 Biodiversity S106 funds – to consider options for spending
There was no update.
- 7.5 Pippins report
Cllr Giddings reported that a resident had thanked the Parish Council for arranging for the light in the passage to be fixed.
- 8. To consider any correspondence/communications received requiring formal noting by or a decision of the Council**

8.1 Resident – Request for pavement/dropped kerb improvements to assist residents with mobility scooters

RESOLVED to note the request from a resident for pavement/dropped kerb improvements was noted and that this was ultimately a CCC Highways issue.

RESOLVED that Cllr Giddings should meet with the resident to see the issues and report back to the next meeting.

8.2 SCDC Cllr Nieto – Request for the Council to consider a dog park

RESOLVED to respond that the Parish Council would like such a facility in the village but as there was no land to provide it, to take no further action. (Prop SR, 2nd JA, unanimous)

9. Closure of meeting and items for the next agenda

The next monthly meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 15 April 2026.

There being no other business, the meeting was closed by the Chairman at 8.29 pm.

SignedChairmandate

