

## **Hardwicke Parish Council**

Minutes of A Meeting of the Parish Council held at Hardwicke Village Hall on Tuesday  
January 2<sup>nd</sup> 2024

### **Present**

Cllr John Perkin (Chair)	Cllr Peter Rotherham
Cllr Jill Brearley	Cllr Denise Powell
Cllr Graham Brearley	Cllr Andrew James
Cllr Ian Butler	Cllr Fran Welbourne

Cllr Sarah Moore

### **In attendance**

County Councillor Stephen Davies, District Councillor Gill Oxley, Carrie-Anne Panting and Kevin Lee, Clerk

### **1/24 Apologies**

Apologies were received from Cllr Hannah Day

### **1/24 Declarations of Interest**

**There were none**

### **2/24 Public Questions**

**There were none**

### **3/24 Minutes of the Meeting held on December 4<sup>th</sup> 2023**

**Resolved; The Minutes of the Meeting were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.**

### **4/24 Casual Vacancy**

Carrie-Anne Panting had expressed an interest in joining the Parish Council and had previously attended meetings of the council as an observer.

**Resolved; to appoint Carrie-Anne Panting to the Parish Council**

### **5/24 Councillor Reports**

District Councillor Gill Oxley reported that there would be an extra-ordinary meeting of the Full Council to consider a motion on the Draft Local Plan and its Examination in Public. The meeting would be held on January 25<sup>th</sup> 2024. Parish Councillors made reference to the letter by the Local MP raising concerns about the Draft Local Plan. It had been noted that the Planning Inspectors had expressed concerns that the Junctions 12 and 14 of the M5 would create a number of problems to future development. Cllr Graham Brearley proposed that the Parish Council should seek a meeting with the MP to discuss the Draft Local Plan and the impact on Hardwicke. Cllr Gill Oxley agreed to contact the MP and to request a meeting.

County Councillor Stephen Davies reported on the success of the County's Skillzone facility located in Tuffley, Gloucester.

The Trading Standards Department had been successful in suing a shop for selling E Cigarettes to under 18s.

Cllr Jill Brearley asked for an update on the planned resurfacing works for Church Lane, it was acknowledged that the work had been planned but slipped from the programme during COVID lockdown. Cllr Davies agreed to raise the matter with the Area Highways Manager.

Cllr Peter Rotherham asked for an update on the proposed works to the 'flyover' and the access road to Hunts Grove. Cllr Davies advised that the contract was due to be signed off but no indication of a start date.

The Chair, Cllr John Perkin asked if a TRO would be needed to reduce the speed limit from 40 mph to 30mph. It was agreed that this would be raised with the Area Highways Manager. Cllr Perkin gave an update on his discussion with a representative of the Environment Agency in respect of Shorn Brook and the measuring station. The Chair had received a complaint from a resident about dogs being exercised in the MUGA. The clerk was asked to arrange for some signs to be put up advising that dogs were not allowed within the area.

**Resolved; to note the reports and follow up actions**

#### **6/24 Finance Report**

1. The Clerk presented the Finance Report for the period ending December 31<sup>st</sup> 2023 and the list of payments

**Resolved; to approve the report and payments**

2. Members considered the draft budget and precept for 2024/2025. The budget allowed for a slight increase in the precept from £ 37.65 per year to £38.00 per year (*based on a band household*)  
Members discussed the budget headings and suggested some changes; they identified some projects that they may wish to see included in the budget for the new financial and suggested that these could be partly funded from existing balances. Members also asked for an assessment of the impact of an increase in precept of 1%, 2% and 3%

**Resolved; The Clerk to revisit the budget and to make provision for specific projects**

**Meeting Closed at 21.15**

**Signed**

**Chair**

**Date**