

HARDWICK PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Hardwick Parish Council held in St Mary's Church on Wednesday 15th July 2026 at 7pm

Present: Cllr Lee (Chair), Cllr Hannon, Cllr Marsden, Kelly Harris (Clerk & RFO) & 2 members of the public (MoP)

Buckinghamshire Council representative: None in attendance.

1 To receive apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Dallas.

2 Co-option of Parish Councillor

Cllrs voted on the co-option of Mr Davies.

Proposed: Cllr Lee / Seconded: Cllr Hannon / Unanimous

The Clerk asked Cllr Lee to get Mr Davies to sign his declaration of acceptance of office as soon as possible.

3 To receive any declarations of interest

None received.

4 To approve the minutes of the Annual Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 13th May 2026

The minutes were agreed unanimously and approved and signed as a true record of the meeting.

5 Public participation session

A MoP said they would like to see a larger tree house at the playpark or in the area that has been fenced off for rewilding, for older kids to enjoy.

A MoP mentioned the proposed residents Whatsapp Group. Cllr Lee felt it would be a useful tool to keep residents informed of any issues. The HVA does not want to run the group and there are concerns around GDPR.

A MoP asked if more trees could be planted in the parish to help create more shade now that summers are getting hotter. The Clerk mentioned a tree initiative from Bucks Council and she will share the details with Cllrs. **Action: Clerk**

6 To receive updates from Buckinghamshire Councillor Gomm

Cllr Gomm did not attend the meeting and no update was provided.

7 Finance

a. To agree the finance reports for May and June 2026

The reports were unanimously approved and signed by the Chair.

b. To agree the bank statements for May and June 2026

Cllrs were happy that the bank statements were correct.

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8 To report on any Highways, Footpaths and Lighting matters

Cllrs noted that the main road through the village is still full of potholes. These have all been reported via Fix My Street.

9 To discuss the quote received to remove the shrub/hedge by Newhaven

Cllrs agreed to spend the £260 quoted to remove the shrub/hedge which will include stump grinding. Cllrs noted there are a few stumps behind this bush that will also need grinding to make space for a new shrub to be planted. **Action: Clerk**

10 To discuss the first response WhatsApp message system

As above, the HVA have advised they did not want to run this group. The Clerk suggested setting up a Hardwick Parish Council Facebook page which residents can choose to follow. Cllrs agreed this was a good idea and it was agreed to trial it. The Clerk will administer the page and Cllrs will email across anything they want adding to the page – providing it is Parish Council related information for residents. Cllr Lee and a MoP in attendance will create a flyer advertising the Facebook page to share with residents. **Action: Clerk / Cllr Lee**

11 To discuss how to become a more effective Parish Council

Cllrs agreed to move this agenda point to the September meeting when all Cllrs could take part in discussions. **Action: Clerk**

12 To discuss Parish Councillor training and up-skilling

Cllrs agreed to move this agenda point to the September meeting when all Cllrs could take part in discussions. The Clerk will share details of upcoming training courses with Cllr Marsden who is keen to attend some sessions. **Action: Clerk**

13 To discuss upgrading some of the play equipment on the small village green to make it more accessible for younger children

Cllr Hannon advised he has been spoken to by residents who feel the slide is small and good for younger children, but the ladder up to the slide is a rope ladder which the younger children find difficult to use. He has been asked if the rope ladder can be changed to a proper ladder. Residents have also advised that the monkey bars are unusable and asked if they could they be swapped for something else.

The Clerk will speak to the supplier of the play equipment to find out what is possible and the costs involved and this will be added to the September agenda for discussion. **Action: Clerk**

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

Cllr Marsden attended the ONH planning meeting online on 14th July, but she felt it was aimed at Cllrs/Clerks who already had an understanding around planning and local plans.

The Clerk advised the next draft of the Bucks Local Plan is due to be released on 23rd July and comments are required by 5th September. An extraordinary meeting will be required to agree the Parish Council's response.

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Cllr Lee mentioned the village BBQ and asked if the Clerk could send a letter of thanks to the village association for hosting the event. **Action: Clerk**

16 To note the date of future meetings

16th September 2026

11th November 2026

Cllrs noted these dates.

The Chairman thanked everyone for their contribution and declared the meeting closed at 19.53.

Signed:

Date:

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