

HEMINGTON, HARDINGTON & FOXCOTE PARISH COUNCIL

MENDIP DISTRICT OF THE COUNTY OF SOMERSET

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

held at 7.30pm on Wednesday 14 September 2011
at Faulkland Village Hall

Present: Councillors E. Drewe (Chairman), F. Green J. Knight, D. Perkins

In attendance: County Councillor M. Ellis, R Campbell (Clerk), five members of the public

1615 Apologies

Apologies were received and **accepted** from Cllrs Brombley and Roberts (on holiday)

1616 Declarations of Interest

None

1617 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of the parish council held on 10 August 2011 were **approved** and signed by the chairman.

1618 County District Councillors' reports

(i) County. Cllr Ellis apologised for having been unable to attend recently.

The Boundary Commission was carrying out a review of Somerset which was likely to lead to a reduction from 58 to 54 councillors. Wards in the Mendip area would reduce from 13 to 12. The ward including Hemington parish might extend further west and include a greater number of people.

The County Council was commissioning out more services and would employ fewer directly.

Cllr Ellis asked to be kept informed of any local problems. He was thanked.

(ii) District. Cllr Drewe said that Mendip District Council was also cutting costs. The council offices in Shepton Mallet would become a hub for the police, social services and citizens advice bureau, as well as for the council. Officers would typically be in the office two days a week, work in the field one day and work at home the remaining two days. They would be less accessible by the public.

A working party was examining rural isolation, rising poverty and the inability of those on fixed incomes to get around. Locally, re-routing one of the frequent buses from Midsomer Norton to Bath through Kilmersdon and Faulkland in the morning and one in the evening was being considered.

Cllr Drewe was part of a working party on the Local Development Framework, the successor to the Local Plan. The direction of the LDF was uncertain. He referred to the Government's presumption in favour of development.

1619 Finance

(i) The following items were **approved** for payment (proposed Cllr Knight, 2nd Cllr Green) and cheques signed by Cllrs Drewe and Perkins at the end of the meeting:

Moore Stephens – audit of parish council annual return for year ended 31/3/11,
£144.00 inc. VAT

A. J. Charlton Ltd – pegs to mark out allotment plots £42.96 inc. VAT

Clerk's salary for September

1620 Planning

(i) No applications.

(ii) Updates:

The following decisions had been notified.

Stock Barn Laverton BA2 7RA. Appeal against refusal of permission for demolition of stock barn and construction of 2 holiday letting cottages: allowed by the planning inspector.

An application for costs had been refused.

2011/0959 (Full planning) and 1095 (LBC) Highchurch Farm, Hemington. Two extensions and garage: approved by Mendip DC.

2011/1065 Haywood Farm, Tery Hill. Erection of poultry shed: approved by Mendip DC.

1621 Allotments

The amendments to the lease proposed by the parish council (minute 1607) had been agreed.

Cllr Drewe will research possible grants for setting up allotments and report. Should a grant be available councillors will consider a water supply to the site on a one-year trial. Some doubts were expressed about the on-going cost of supplying water.

Cllr Green asked if the electricity supply for a barn conversion in Browns Lane would cross the site.

Cllr Drewe and a parishioner will peg out the plots.

If there are more applicants than the 12 plots, a ballot of applicants 13 onwards will be held.

1622 Highways

(i) Cllr Knight reported that the welcome increase in pupil numbers at Hemington school had been accompanied by an unwelcome increase in vehicles parked outside, particularly at collection time, making it very difficult for through traffic. The school to be contacted to see if a remedy can be found.

(ii) Police to be informed of the theft of the solar panel from the flashing speed sign at the west end of Faulkland. The area traffic engineer to be asked to visit the site to discuss moving the sign.

1623 Playing Field

The person asked to cut the hedge had suggested an alternative with more suitable equipment, who would be contacted.

1624 Standing Orders

Amendment of standing order 3b(i) to allow electronic service of agendas for parish council meetings was **agreed**. Councillors present confirmed with their signature the email address to which their agendas should be sent.

1625 Rights of Way

Somerset's senior rights of way officer to be contacted about complete lack of progress on getting the Buckland Dinham to Hardington path operational.

1626 Correspondence and reports

(i) Correspondence: Councillors reviewed the following correspondence received since the last meeting.

Somerset Association of Local Councils – information on review of Somerset County Council ward numbers and boundaries; annual report and account 2010/11; agenda for Annual General and Area General Meetings to be held on 24 September at Long Sutton Village Hall

Local Government Boundary Commission – information on electoral review of Somerset County Council

Royal Horticultural Society – information on Britain in Bloom

Mendip District Council – funding schemes for village; Parishes Information Bulletin September 2011 (includes seasonal letter from Police District Commander)

Somerset County Council – youth and community group grants

Avon and Somerset Police Authority – Strategic Policing Plan 2011-14

‘Clerks and Councils Direct September 2011

Email from Mr D. Gillard about Faulkland Playing Field. A reply to be sent.

‘The Playing Field’ Summer 2011

Invitation to join the National Highways and Transport Survey folder

Letter from Richard Clifford, Faulkland Inn, about reported complaints made during the recent beer festival. Cllr Drewe said in that in response to being contacted by six parishioners about noise levels, he had established from Mendip DC that the festival was covered by the inn’s regular licences and that decibel levels have to be tested at the time to establish if they are acceptable. He had not complained. Councillors expressed support for occasional events run by the Faulkland Inn. Mr Clifford to be so advised.

(ii) Miscellaneous reports:

Cllr Green will mend a broken plank bridge on a footpath across his farm

In response to an enquiry, it was confirmed that a cheque to reimburse the village hall committee for insurance had been issued in June.

1627 Date of next two meetings

Agreed

Wednesday 12 October, Faulkland Village Hall, 7.30pm.

Wednesday 9 November, Faulkland Village Hall, 7.30pm.

The meeting closed at 8.38 pm