

HEMINGTON, HARDINGTON & FOXCOTE PARISH COUNCIL

MENDIP DISTRICT OF THE COUNTY OF SOMERSET

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING held at 7.30pm on Wednesday 13 March 2013 at Faulkland Village Hall

Present: Councillors E. Drewe (Chairman), M. Brombley, F. Green,
T. Hucker (from minute 1835), P. Roberts

In attendance: R Campbell (Clerk), six members of the public

1832 Apologies for absence

RESOLVED to accept the following apology for absence:
Cllr Knight (ill). Councillors sent their best wishes to Cllr Knight.

1833 Interests

There were no declarations of interest.

1834. Co-option of Councillor

No request for an election had been made to Mendip DC.

Mr Tony Hucker expressed interest in becoming a councillor.

RESOLVED to co-opt Mr Tony Hucker as a member of Hemington Parish Council

Mr Hucker signed the declaration of acceptance of office and was welcomed to the council

1835 Minutes

RESOLVED that the minutes of the PC meeting of 13 February 2013 be accepted as a true record. They were signed by the chairman.

1836 Finance

(i) **RESOLVED** (proposed Cllr Green, 2nd Cllr Brombley) to pay the following:

Savills – rent of Faulkland Playing Field 2013/14 £125.00

Faulkland Village Hall Committee – hire of hall for PC meetings £130, reimburse insurance £634.72, total £764.72

R. Campbell – home as office/computer allowance 2012/13 £245 (as 2011/12)

SLCC subscription contribution 40% = £45.60

Staff salaries March 2013

1837 Planning

(i) The following approval by Mendip District Council (MDC) was noted.

2012/1626 Charlton Farm, Hemington, Frome, Somerset BA3 5XS. Conversion and extension of steel framed building into two holiday homes.

Mendip decision: approve with conditions

(ii) Cllr Drewe, in his role as District Councillor, reported on the inspector's ruling at a recent planning enquiry at Evercreech. During questioning, Mendip District Council had had to admit that it did not have a rolling 5-year supply of land for housing in the terms required by the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). The inspector had ruled that he would disregard the Draft Local Plan and consider the appeal only in terms of the NPPF. This will have general effect. The Local Plan will not be submitted to the Secretary of State until Mendip has the evidence base to demonstrate that it has a 5-year supply of

deliverable sites (by the summer at the earliest) and in the meantime planning applications for new houses will be assessed with reference to the NPPF. Mr Drewe was appalled and said this would constitute a free-for-all for developers.

1838 Faulkland Playing Field

(i) The safety audit will be carried out in late April

(ii) **RESOLVED** to put an advertisement in the Radstock Journal to see if a tenant can be found for the football pitch

(iii) Councillors considered samples of matting through which grass could grow to strengthen wearing sections of the play area. To be reconsidered after the safety audit.

1839 Risk assessment

The annual risk assessment schedule was considered line by line and signed by the chairman as an accurate statement of actions completed, on-going and to be carried out at specific times in the future.

1840 Highways

(i) Somerset Highways has been asked to supply two grit bins for Tynning Hill and one for Black Hill, following a request from Hemington School, which had been forced to shut during snow because people could not reach it safely.

(ii) Councillors noted the extent to which Bishop Street has been adopted by the Highway authority.

1841 Rights of Way

Mrs Le Ray had walked the Buckland Dinham – Hardington restricted byway though she had subsequently been advised that the official route varied slightly in one section and this was where it encountered a badger sett. She understood that the landowner had been advised not to speak to anyone about the matter.

Councillors agreed that the County Council had failed in its duty to establish the route agreed at great expense by two public enquiries.

Cllr Hucker said a footpath through a wood had been deleted from the Ordnance Survey map. Cllr Drewe will investigate if this is Duchy land.

The rights of way officer to be contacted about ploughing of a section of the Hemington-Buckland Dinham footpath which runs through the middle of a field.

Concerns were also expressed about the footpath from Lime Kiln to Oldfield.

1842 Allotments

Ploughing of the unused allotments was due the following weekend, weather permitting.

The tenancy precluded the planting of trees, so an orchard would not be possible.

Two tenants were likely to withdraw. Two people in Buckland Dinham were interested.

An application to the District Councillor's community fund could be made for a 12' five-bar gate onto the highway.

1843 Training

There were no takers for spring training sessions for councillors to be run by SALC.

1844 Correspondence and reports

(i) Councillors noted the following correspondence received since the last meeting.

Mendip District Council (MDC) – Parishes Information Bulletin February 2013

Clerks and Councils Direct March 2013

NHS Somerset – Joint Strategic Needs Assessment 2012

(ii) Miscellaneous reports

- An increase in the number of vehicles using Hollowpit Lane was reported

- Cllr Drewe will ask Mendip if they will supply a grit bin for Fulwell Close
- A blocked gully at Faulkland Village Hall and pothole where the Green joins the A366 to be reported

1845 Future meetings

RESOLVED that the dates of the next two parish council meetings be as follows

Wednesday 10 April 2013 7.30pm, Faulkland Village Hall

Wednesday 8 May 2013 7.30pm, Faulkland Village Hall

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.34 pm