

HEMINGTON, HARDINGTON & FOXCOTE PARISH COUNCIL

MENDIP DISTRICT OF THE COUNTY OF SOMERSET

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING held at 7.30pm on Wednesday 10 April 2013 at Faulkland Village Hall

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

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

1845 Apologies for absence RESOLVED to accept the following apology for absence: Cllr Knight (ill). Councillors sent their best wishes to Cllr Knight. Mrs Lynda Le Ray sent her apologies

1846 Interests There were no declarations of interest.

1847 Minutes RESOLVED that the minutes of the Parish Council (PC) meeting of 13 March 2013 be accepted as a true record. They were signed by the chairman.

1848 Mr Peter Lacey Councillors noted with sadness the death of the Secretary of the Somerset Association of Local Councils, Mr Peter Lacey. The Chairman said that Peter was a man who knew parish council law and practice inside out. He would be sadly missed.

1849 Finance

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

Somerset Association of Local Councils – affiliation fee 2013/14 £141

Staff salaries April 2013

(ii) It was noted that the increase in the parish council element of council tax shown on council tax bills was much higher than the increase agreed by the PC (which was in any case a return to the 2010/11 level). The reason for the higher increase is the Government's change in arrangements with billing authorities (Mendip) over council tax support, which is no longer automatically refunded, though Mendip will receive the full amount this year which they will pass to the PC as an additional payment.

RESOLVED to hold the extra payment when received in reserve against possible future shortfalls in council tax support refunding.

1850 Planning

(i) The following application not requiring a PC recommendation had been received. 2013/0794 Old Barn, Foxcote. Erection of agricultural building.

(ii) 2013/0090. Lower Row Farm, Laverton. MDC had approved reserved matter (roof materials, etc) of application 2011/0122.

(iii) The PC noted pre-application information from Savills on a proposal for a dwelling on land between Oaklea and The Cottage, Faulkland; The PC looks forward to seeing a formal submission.

1851. Faulkland Playing Field

RESOLVED to accept with thanks an offer to pay for a seat and chairs from residual funds of the Faulkland Youth Group. Prices on a round 8-seater set to be obtained.

1852. Highways

(i) Councillors discussed speeding on the A366 at Faulkland, including a letter on the subject from resident Mr John Blake. A reply to be sent to him.

(ii) Cllr Drewe will consider funding for grit bins at Tynning Hill from his District Councillor's community fund.

(iii) Somerset Highways will pay for and replace the broken village sign at top end of Faulkland. It is hoped the work will be done by the end of May. A resident to be thanked for litter picking in this area.

(iv) Cllr Drewe will explore with Mendip the possibility of extending rear vehicular access to those properties at Lansdown View who do not have it.

(iv) Mendip's Enforcement Officer to be contacted about suspected unauthorised use of a private property for trade purposes.

1853 Rights of Way Mr George Donkin to be contacted about the diversion of the Buckland Dinham restricted by-way on land farmed by the Co-op.

1854 Allotments Ploughing of the allotments had not yet taken place. The water tap would be fitted when weather allowed.

An application to be made to the District Councillor's community fund for a 12' five-bar gate onto the highway and a pedestrian gate at Brown's Lane.

1855 Correspondence and reports

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

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

Mendip District Council – Draft taxi and private hire policy 2013

Western Power Distribution – what to do in a power cut

Somerset Highways – speed figures March 2013

(ii) The District Councillor, who was temporarily covering the neighbouring Ward as well, had nothing to report that was not dealt with elsewhere.

(ii) Miscellaneous reports. The following were reported as requiring action:

- Rubbish on Hammer Lane
- Settees dumped in the wood on the way to Hardington
- Flooded area on the road from Tuckers Grave between the Hassage and Browns Lane turnings
- Collapsed badger sett (Highways are aware) on the road from Hardington to the A362
- Trench on the right-hand side of Fulwell Lane
- Potholes at Jubilee Cottages, Hemington

A resident said more buses between Writhlington and Faulkland were wanted. Cllr Drewe said an MDC group on rural isolationism was trying to get more morning and evening buses to Bath to come via Faulkland, Norton and Hinton.

1856 Future meetings

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

Wednesday 15 May 2013 (note third Wednesday of month) 7.30pm, Faulkland Village Hall

Wednesday 12 June 2013 7.30pm, Faulkland Village Hall

Wednesday 4 July 2013 (note first Wednesday of month) 7.30pm, Faulkland Village Hall

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.17 pm