

Hemington, Hardington & Foxcote Parish

Annual Parish Meeting 2014

held at 7.30pm on 14 May 2014 in Faulkland Village Hall

11 parishioners were present In attendance R. Campbell (minute taker)

1. Minutes of the 2013 Annual Parish Meeting

These were agreed to be a true record and were signed by Edward Drewe, Meeting Chairman.

2. Chairman's report

Mr Drewe welcomed 11 parishioners, including councillors. He noted the following.

Allotments The site had been fenced and a gate put in with grant money. Sadly, the allotments had not thrived in the past year and there were now only two allotment holders. Maybe plots were too big or too much soil preparation was needed. The PC has to consider the future. At least five allotments are needed to pay the rent. One suggestion is for an allotment orchard. The landlord was happy for part of land to be planted with fruit trees. Again, what was needed was some public enthusiasm for the project.

Faulkland Playing Field Work had been delayed by continual wet weather, but blocks of old concrete would shortly to be removed from the site, except for one be used to anchor the wooden picnic table and benches which are ready to be put out. Play equipment is inspected annually and identified repairs carried out. Grass has been approved as a suitable safety surface. There is interest in a skateboard ramp: the concrete base of the old pavilion might be suitable for a skateboard ramp.

Planning He thought and hoped that Mendip were getting close to a housing supply agreement. The Local Plan Part I had been inspected and the inspector had not raised any major difficulties, though a little pruning was needed before it went back to the inspector for approval, which hopefully will close the door on development over quota. A decision had been made approving the West Farm development. The Section 106 agreement was being pursued. It would cover five affordable houses, the maintenance of green areas and a surface water pond. The decision had been dealt with by the Chair and vice-chair of the planning committee.

Mendip had also approved a dwelling on the site between Oaklea and the Cottage which the PC had recommended for refusal (site too small, green space too visually important to lose). The PC had recommended refusal of plans for eight houses between Oaklea and Faulkland Farm. The PC had recommended refusal for an application for houses outside the development limit. The decision was awaited.

Post Office Faulkland Post Office had sadly closed. The Post Office were keen to run sessions in Faulkland Village Hall. Roger Jacobs of Hinton Charterhouse could provide the equipment if someone to operate it could be found

Councillors Once again there had been changes in parish council membership. Following the resignation of Jim Knight this time last year, the PC welcomed Andy Hall. Earlier this year Maggie Brombley, Vice-chair, resigned and a replacement was sought.

Mr Drewe concluded by noting that there remained only one more year before Parish Council elections.

Faulkland Green Signs restricting parking on Green to Hall would go up shortly. Ramblers were encouraged to book the hall, so they can park and use the loo. The PC were waiting for a tree surgeon to reduce the crowns of chestnuts at the bottom of the Green. There had been a better size Christmas tree this year, thanks to Lord Hylton and the Ammerdown Estate

3. County Councillor's report

A report from Councillor Ham was presented on his behalf.

4. District Councillor's report

Mr Drewe had already covered this

5. Parish Council accounts

The internally audited accounts for the year ended 31 March 2014 were presented and adopted. The Hon. Auditor, Nick Brown from Norton St Philip, was thanked.

6. Other business

The possible application for a wind turbine was discussed. Lynda Le Ray said it was close to the bridleway. Edward Drewe said the pendulum was swinging against wind turbines. In parishes where they had been given planning permission, funds for the benefit of local people had been generated. Lady Hylton said the one at Chantry had been turned down on grounds including disturbance to peregrine falcons.

The meeting ended at 8.00pm