

# HEMINGTON, HARDINGTON & FOXCOTE PARISH COUNCIL

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MENDIP DISTRICT OF THE COUNTY OF SOMERSET

**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**  
**held at 7.30pm on Wednesday 10 September 2014**  
**at Faulkland Village Hall**

**Present:** Councillors V. Curtis, F. Green, A. Hall (Chairman), W. Haworth, T. Hucker, P. Roberts

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

*Actions – marked **A** – are on the Clerk and on any Councillor whose initials appear at right →*

2062 **Apologies**

None

2063 **Interests**

There were no declarations of interests

2064 **Minutes**

**RESOLVED** to accept the minutes of the Parish Council (PC) meeting of 9/7/2014 as a true record, with the following amendment: minute 2056, delete 'byway', insert 'bridleway'. The minutes were signed by the Chairman.

2065 **Matters arising/Clerk's report**

None.

PUBLIC FORUM The Chairman adjourned the PC meeting and declared a Public Forum, which included the points noted below in *italic*. They do not form part of the minutes. He welcomed Mells Postmaster Mike Phypers and invited him to speak.

*Post Office*

- *Mr Phypers described the outreach post offices he holds at Nunney, Witham Friary and Wanstrow on various day(s) of the week. He asked what Hemington wanted and expected? He could offer all post office services except car tax and passports. He would have to employ someone to cover Mells while the Mells person came to Faulkland.*  
*Answering a question from Cllr Green he said that the Post Office covers the cost of staffing, but any profit has to be made out of transactions, of which 12+ are needed in a half-day session. He could open on 27 October if he could find the right person*
- *Cllr Hall said it was a pity it had not been possible to set this up more quickly after the closure of Faulkland PO*
- *Several members of the public said it seemed a good idea but demand could only be gauged by trying it out. Cllr Hucker thought it a good idea to give it a try*
- *Mr Phypers said that an experimental period was fine, but it would need to be*

*a year, not six months. It would be good to get Christmas business*

- *Cllr Haworth said serious publicity was needed.*

Mr Phypers was warmly thanked for coming

*Other matters*

- *A parishioner said that the 'beware skidding' notice near the exit from Browns Lane means that vehicles had to pull right out into the A366 to see.*

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part

### **Communication**

(ii) Temporary post office.

This item was taken next.

Cllr Haworth said the public's interest needed to be measured. It was agreed she would design a flyer with a response slip.

A WH

She said businesses could not rely on a post office operating one or two days a week.

Cllr Hall said that the PC had agreed to support the post office to the tune of £10 per week for six months (minute 1985) by way of payment to the Village Hall Committee. Since the post office needed a year's trial, he wondered whether the committee would agree to £5 per week for a year.

Mrs LeRay agreed to take the idea to the committee. She said a coffee morning while the post office was operating had been suggested as an additional way to raise money.

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### **Planning**

(i) **Applications**

**RESOLVED** (FG/WH unanimous) to make the following recommendation to Mendip: 2014/1390/FUL Chickwell House Chickwell Lane Hemington Radstock BA3 5XT.

Construction of new detached pavilion and detached conservatory: **approval**

**RESOLVED** (PR/WH unanimous) to make the following recommendation to Mendip:

2014/1678/CLE Daytona, Laverton, Bath BA2 7RB. Lawful existing use of dwelling house in breach of condition 3 (agricultural occupancy) on planning permission 66/16: **approval**. Observation: the building may be let but should not be sold out of agricultural use

(ii) **Updates**

Appeal (Ref: APP/Q3305/A/14/2219321)( Townsend Farm, Faulkland, BA3 5XD dismissed and planning permission refused for the erection of 3 dwellings and garages served off a private access at Lower Farm and the replacement of an agricultural access.

2011/2040 Keepers Cottage, Hardington BA11 2RE. Details (material samples) of permission 2010/0234 approved BY Mendip.

2014/1420/PAC Charlton Farm Hemington Radstock BA3 5XS. Change of use of agricultural building to dwelling house Charlton Farm Hemington. Planning permission needs to be applied for.

Councillors had received written information on Mendip's Local Plan and Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment (HELAA).

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### **Highways and rights of Way**

(i) Councillors noted that

- the A366 from Faulkland to Terry Hill had been resurfaced and white-lined

though the layby in the High Street had not been included

- the grass had again been cut at Terry Hill crossroads, where a sign to replace the burnt one had been installed
- White dotted lines had finally been painted at the junction of Faulkland Green and the A366
- A section of the road from Ammerdown Bridge to Hatchet Hill (junction with B3139) will be closed from 22/9/14 for 5 days for drainage work.
- In reply to a question from Cllr Curtis as to when the highways works outside the Post Office would be finished, Cllr Hall said that Highways have to contact all utility companies involved and that the work could take another three months
- Highways to be asked if it was legal for a burger van to be operating at Terry Hill crossroads A
- Highways to be notified about the sign on the A366 causing visibility problems for motorists exiting Browns Lane. A
- The status and ownership of the lane behind Faulkland View to be established A
- Highways to be asked to jet blocked pipes under the road at Gallant Hill Woods. A

(ii) Speedwatch co-ordinator Laura Piper reported on a positive start. The group had been out four times and caught 13 speeders driving at 36+ mph. She said that the general feedback is that more often than not drivers spot Speedwatch people on the Green and put the brakes on so that they fall under the 36mph threshold. She was thanked for all the organising work she had done. A  
A

(iii) Cllr Haworth had been asked about the state of the bridleway to The Knoll, where there were badgers. Somerset Rights of Way to be contacted. Mr M. Francis at Faulkland Farm to be asked to trim the hedges.

2068 **Standing orders** To be an October agenda item.

2069 **Environment**

(i) **Village green** Cllr Hall had talked to most residents around the village green. The consensus was that parking mats (originally suggested by Cllr Hucker) were not wanted there for aesthetic reasons and because they would formalise the parking area

**RESOLVED** (TH/WH unanimous) to do nothing till spring 2015 and then to fill holes and re-seed or re-turf the worn edges of the green.

Insurance details had been received from Mr James Nash, who hopes to carry out the tree work the week beginning 22 September.

(ii) **Allotments** Mr Ben Short of Savills would respond to the PC's request for the Estate to consider possible early surrender of the allotment lease once he had spoken to Lord Hylton.

(iii) **Playing Field** The annual play equipment inspection report had been received. All identified risks were low or very low, except for the goalposts.

**RESOLVED** to ask Mr Jim Mannings to sand and repaint the goalposts and to look at refixing them. A

2070 **Finance**

(i) Members noted that the external audit had been completed with nothing arising and that the completion of audit notice had been posted

(ii) Members noted the financial statement and budget comparison to 31/8/14.

(iii) **RESOLVED** (TH/PR unanimous) to pay the following items:

R. Francis and Partners – cut hedges at Playing Field and round top speed indicator device £57.00 + VAT = £68.40 (budgeted item not on agenda)

Play Inspection Company – annual play equipment inspection £100 + VAT = £120.00 (budgeted item not on agenda)

Staff salaries September

2071 **Communication**

balance

(i) Cllr Haworth said that the Hemington, Hardington & Foxcote Parish Council Facebook open page was up and running. She encouraged people to show support by 'liking' the page, which she controls. She will publicise the temporary village hall post office. She was thanked.

A WH

206 **Correspondence and reports**

(i) **Correspondence**

Councillors noted correspondence and information received since the meeting of 13/08/14. No actions were identified.

(ii) **Reports** None

2073 **Next meeting**

Wednesday 1 October 2014, 7.30pm, Faulkland Village Hall.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.55pm.