

HEMINGTON, HARDINGTON & FOXCOTE PARISH COUNCIL

MENDIP DISTRICT OF THE COUNTY OF SOMERSET

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

**held at 7.30pm on Wednesday 1 October 2014
at Faulkland Village Hall**

Present: Councillors A. Hall (Chairman), T. Hucker, P. Roberts

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

Absent: Cllr F. Green

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

2074 **Apologies**

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr W. Haworth (unwell) and Cllr V. Curtis (on holiday).

2075 **Interests**

There were no declarations of interests.

**PUBLIC
PARTICIP
-ATION**

The Chairman adjourned the PC meeting and opened participation to the public. Comment included the following, noted in *italic*, which does not form part of the minutes.

- *A resident thanked the PC for the excellent pruning work done to the two horse chestnuts on Faulkland Green*

The Chairman closed public participation and reconvened the PC meeting.

2076 **Minutes**

RESOLVED to accept the minutes of the Parish Council (PC) meeting of 10/9/2014 as a true record. The minutes were signed by the Chairman.

2077 **Matters arising/Clerk's report**

Beware horses signs Chris Betty, Senior Traffic Engineer, had advised that signs were provided sparingly, to avoid them being devalued and to avoid sign clutter. Somerset Highways' policy is to consider them only where there are twelve or more horses per day, all year, on busy roads, which normally means near equestrian centres or larger stables. It was considered that the proposed locations at Tuckers Grave and Rockley Ford did not currently meet these criteria but that the situation should be kept under review.

Unofficial layby at Terry Hill crossroads The Ammerdown Estate had confirmed this is not their land. Somerset Highways and Mendip had been asked if it is lawful for a burger van to be sited and to operate there.

2078 **Planning**

Update The appeal decision (APP/Q3305/A/14/2219321) on Townsend Farm, Faulkland (minute 2066 ii) had been sent to all councillors. The inspector accepts that Mendip DC has a five-year housing supply and so any

development outside the limit will be strictly controlled. The inspector says that 'The Old' Chapel' and 'The Barn' mark a clear division between built-up village and open countryside. To allow this development would harm the character of the village.

2079 **Highways and rights of Way**

(i) **Highways**

Speedwatch Co-ordinator Laura Piper's written report advised that:

- There had been seven sessions to date, some early morning, some evening
- 36 speeders had been caught doing between 36 and 49mph
- A lot of people enter the village at higher speed but brake to 33-35mph, just under the recording limit
- The morning group sees the same drivers on a daily basis and believes Speedwatch is having an effect
- The group has noticed a reduction in lorries over 7.5 tones
- Two sessions were planned for the week of the report, depending on weather, particularly early morning fog; shorter days will mean adjusting session times
- More volunteers are always needed

Other highways

- A definitive answer on ownership of the lane behind Lansdown view is awaited in answer to an enquiry by Cllr Hall
- The hedge of the council gravel tip is obstructing road users' view in Greenway Lane. Highways to be asked to cut it back **A**
- The sign obstructing motorists' view from Browns Lane has been moved. Reports of signs dumped in Cllr Francis's field to be checked **A**
- A request had been received for a grit bin at Hassage crossroads. Prices to be obtained before consideration by the PC. **A**

(ii) **Rights of way**

- Lynda Le Ray reported that the footpath sign on the old county road behind Faulkland Green (minute 2056) had been replaced by a bridleway sign
- A new route for the Buckland Dinham restricted byway was reported to have been agreed with the Co-op.

2080 **Temporary Post Office**

- A letter had been received from the Village Hall Committee agreeing to the PC's offer of £5 per session (£10 per week) towards the utility costs of post office sessions for one year. Cllr Hucker said it was planned to heat only part of the hall to keep the cost down. Cllr Hall noted that the cost could be ongoing
- The Post Office to be asked to go ahead with installation of the phone line **A**
- The committee to be thanked for their cooperation and understanding. **A**
- Acceptance of Cllr Haworth's offer of flyers was confirmed; the post office sessions to be advertised also in *Parish News*. **A**

2081 **Standing Orders**

Councillors had received copies of the latest NALC model standing orders, with

suggested personalisation of detail for Hemington PC.

RESOLVED (PR/TH unanimous) to continue to have no staffing committee

RESOLVED (TH/PR unanimous) to adopt the Standing Orders as presented

2082 **Environment**

Allotments

- Councillors noted the Estate's response to possible early lease surrender, namely a request to renew advertising and to rotavate the site to see if this would spark interest before Spring 2015; if not the Estate would consider the matter then

- Francis Bros to be asked to attend a site meeting to see about rotavation. **A**

- **Playing Field**

- Mr Mannings had been asked if he would sand, paint and refix the goalposts

- Zurich Insurance to be asked what the insurance cost of a skateboard ramp on the former pavilion's concrete base would be **A**

- Cllr Hucker said the children's playground was poorly equipped. Infant swings and/or a springer should be considered. Prices to be investigated. **A**

Village green

- Councillors agreed that tree surgeon, Mr Nash, had done a fantastic job.

- The timber left behind was free to anyone who wanted to collect it

- In view of Mr Nash's concerns about the condition of both horse chestnuts, which he considered senescent, Mendip DC tree officer Bo Walsh to be asked if he would inspect and report. **A**

2083 **Finance**

(i) Members noted the statement of the financial position as at 30/9/14

(ii) **RESOLVED** (TH/PR unanimous) to pay the following item: staff salaries October

2084 **Correspondence and reports**

(i) **Correspondence**

- Councillors noted correspondence and information received since the meeting of 10/09/14

- Cllr Hall will enquire at the Faulkland Inn and Suzanne Elizabeth hairdressers about the possibility of siting a defibrillator on the wall of either property **A AH**

- Cllrs will consider the matter in November in relation to the County Councillor's health and wellbeing grants

- The eligibility of play equipment for inclusion in a grant request to be established. **A**

(ii) **Reports** None

2085 **Next meeting**

Wednesday 12 November 2014, 7.30pm, Faulkland Village Hall.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.25pm.