

# HEMINGTON, HARDINGTON & FOXCOTE PARISH COUNCIL

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MENDIP DISTRICT OF THE COUNTY OF SOMERSET

## **DRAFT MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**

**held at 7.30pm on Wednesday 12 November 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 →*

- 2086 **Apologies**  
Ward Councillor E. Drewe, attending a meeting at Mendip District Council (MDC), sent his apologies
- 2087 **Interests**  
There were no declarations of interests.
- PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**  
The Chairman adjourned the Parish Council (PC) meeting and opened participation to the public. Comment included the following, noted in *italic*, which does not form part of the minutes.
- *Concern was expressed about cars speeding to Hemington Primary School. Kilmersdon and Shoscombe have 20 mph limits, though it was understood the police would not enforce these; Mells has a one-way system (not the answer at Hemington). The Acting Headteacher had agreed that speeding was a problem. Did other people agree?*
  - *The problem is not just one of speed, but also of parking, particularly on the zigzag lines. The governors had in the past asked the police to come and talk to parent collecting their children. This should be happen again, as the situation is very dangerous.*
- The Chairman closed public participation and reconvened the PC meeting.
- 2088 **Minutes**  
**RESOLVED** to accept the minutes of the PC meeting of 1/10/2014 as a true record. The minutes were signed by the Chairman.
- 2089 **Matters arising/Clerk's report**  
No matters arising.  
The Clerk reminded members that parish council elections will be held on general election day, 7 May 2015. He asked members to consider in good time if they will stand. Those standing for election should intend to serve the full four years.
- 2090 **Planning**  
**(i) Applications**  
**RESOLVED** (FG/WH unanimous) to recommend as follows to MDC.  
2014/1876/FUL Wheelbrook Laverton Bath BA2 7RA. Demolition of existing dwelling

and the construction of a new dwelling with associated landscaping: **approval**.

Comment: the PC would have preferred a proposal with more architectural integrity.

**RESOLVED** (TH/PR unanimous) to recommend as follows to MDC.

2014/2068/FUL Faulkland Farm, Grove Lane Faulkland BA3 5UU. Provision of 392 photovoltaic panels on south facing roof slope of existing farm building: **approval**

**RESOLVED** (WH/PR unanimous) to recommend as follows to MDC.

Lansdown View, Tynning Hill To Faulkland, Faulkland BA3 5UT. Single storey extension on the rear elevation with the insertion of rooflights: **approval**

#### (ii) Updates

MDC had notified the following decisions.

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 (PC's recommendation: approval).

2014/1390/FUL Chickwell House, Chickwell Lane, Hemington. Construction of new detached pavilion and detached conservatory: approval with conditions (PC's recommendation: approval).

2014/0318/OTS Land Between Faulkland Farm And 'Oaklea' Faulkland Somerset. Outline planning application for residential development of 8 dwellings and means of access (off A366), with all other matters reserved: approval with conditions (PC's recommendation: refusal).

District Cllr Drewe's had advised that his request for the application to go to the planning board had been refused, as the NPPF held sway at that time (June). The decision to approve was subject to a Section 106 Agreement, and so was held up until October

2013/0914 (outline) Land South of West Farm, Fulwell Lane, Faulkland, BA3 5UH. 18 residential houses on land adjoining development boundary: approval with conditions. (PC's recommendation: refusal).

In relation to applications 2014/0318/OTS and 2013/0914 (outline) the Chairman made the following statement, which was approved by all councillors.

*I am sorry that it is up to me to tell you that approval has been given for the development of 18 houses at West Farm and 8 houses to the north of the High Street.*

*I am personally very disappointed that these applications have been granted.*

*These applications are a cynical exploitation of a period when the Mendip plan was temporarily not in operation.*

*I believe that, should these developments be proposed now, they probably would not be approved.*

*The applicants and their advisers have engaged in an asset-stripping enterprise which I believe will change the character of this community for the worse.*

*These developments may adversely affect others who, through their initiative, vision, skill and hard work, have established an enterprise which benefits this and the wider community.*

*If the decision makers and planners continue to make decisions such as this they can only encourage the 'here today, gone tomorrow' profiteers to the detriment of those who live and work in rural areas.*

*I should like to thank all those who in any way opposed this development and I am very*

*sorry that all your efforts came to nothing.*

*However, we must accept that things will change and we must look to the future and try to ensure that we remain a good community in which decent people will wish to live.*

**(iii) Mendip Local Plan**

The report of the Planning Inspector on the examination into MDC's Local Plan 2006-2029, Part I: Strategy and Policies, previously sent to members, was noted.

2091 **Highways and rights of Way**

**(i) Highways**

**Speedwatch** Co-ordinator Laura Piper, invited to speak, said that volunteers were still going out once a week, though the weather and short days were making this more difficult. Over 50 speeders (over 36mph) had been recorded. A police motorbike had been in Faulkland that afternoon. There would shortly be another training session in Frome. New volunteers were always welcome.

She was thanked by the Chairman.

**Hemington School**

- **RESOLVED** to write to the Governors of Hemington Primary School, Somerset Education Committee and Somerset Highways expressing concern about speeding cars and parking at school collection time, asking for a response and pointing out that a long-term solution is needed as the catchment size is likely to increase. **A**
- **RESOLVED** to write to the Acting Headteacher asking her to contact parents about the matter **A**
- **RESOLVED** to ask the police to visit the site at 3.10pm on a school day. **A**

**Other highways**

- **RESOLVED** to send a letter to Highways and the Police, expressing concern at the siting of a burger van, flag and rotating sign at Terry Hill crossroads, which is an accident black spot. **A**
- Consideration of the purchase of a grit bin for the Hassage crossroads was held over to December, pending an answer from Highways as to the suitability of the location

**(ii) Rights of way**

Somerset Rights of Way officer Clare Haskins had written agreeing that the path behind Faulkland Green is a county road. She will report on a meeting held two days previously about clearing such routes.

2092 **Temporary Post Office**

The Post Office was continuing preparations to operate two half days a week at Faulkland Village Hall. An electricity cable had been run round the outside of the building to avoid problems going through the roof space.

2093 **Environment**

**Allotments** Cllr Hall had spoken to the South West Allotments Association, who had agreed the PC was in a difficult situation.

**RESOLVED** (WH/PR unanimous) to have the field ploughed at a maximum cost of £70 and then allow it to weather over the winter. The allotments to be advertised again in the New Year. If there is interest, the land to be rotavated to make it ready for spring planting. If there is no interest, the Estate will be approached about early **A**

surrender of the lease.

**Playing Field** An answer from Somerset CC about the eligibility of play equipment for a health and wellbeing grant application was awaited.

**RESOLVED** that if a favourable answer was received, Cllr Hucker and the Clerk would prepare and submit an application by the end-November deadline. A TH

Mrs M. Mannings had said that her family would undertake maintenance work on the goalposts.

There would be no additional premium to add one skate ramp to the PC's Public Liability cover. An all risks cost would be provided when the value of the equipment was known.

**Village green** MDC tree officer Bo Walsh had visited Faulkland Green and said that the two horse chestnuts recently pruned were in reasonable physical condition for their age, species and location. Replacement trees would be needed in due course.

2094 **Finance**

(i) Members noted the statement of the financial position as at 31/10/14. The cost of a grant to the Village Hall Committee when the temporary post office opens will be included in future statements.

(ii) Mendip Community Transport to be asked how their service benefits the parish before a grant request is considered. A

(iii) **RESOLVED** (TH/VC unanimous) to purchase the following: Society of Local Council Clerks – *Arnold-Baker on Local Council Administration* 9<sup>th</sup> edition £66.00 A

**RESOLVED** (TH/PR unanimous) to pay staff salaries, November

2095 **Correspondence and reports**

(i) **Correspondence**

- No correspondence other than items mentioned above had been received
- Councillors noted information received since the meeting of 1/10/14. No actions were identified

(ii) **Reports**

**District Councillor's report** Cllr Drewe had advised that

- MDC will ratify their Local Plan Part I on 15 December
- That evening he was at a Local Development Framework meeting to discuss allocation of sites for Local Plan Part II.

**Miscellaneous reports**

- Cllr Hall said that the roadworks outside Suzanne Elizabeth Hairdressers had to be completed by 3 January 2015.
- *Frome Standard* readers had voted the business Hair Salon of the Year
- Cllr Green volunteered to clear the path at Faulkland pond; he was thanked
- MDC will be contacted about the status of land put forward for development in response to that council's call for sites
- Cllr Curtis reported landrovers using a local bridlepath
- Frome minibus will be contacted about reports that the Saturday bus is to end

2096 **Next meeting**

Wednesday 10 December 2014, 7.30pm, Faulkland Village Hall.

The Chairman, making his apology for December, closed the meeting at 8.57pm.