

Hemington, Hardington & Foxcote Parish Council

MENDIP DISTRICT OF THE COUNTY OF SOMERSET

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
held on Wednesday 14 January 2015 at Faulkland Village Hall at 7.30pm

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

Present: Councillors F. Green, A. Hall (Chairman), W. Haworth, T. Hucker,

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

2109 **Apologies**

The following apologies were received and accepted:
Cllr P. Roberts (unwell), Cllr V. Curtis (working)

2110 **Interests and dispensations**

There were no declarations of interests

**PUBLIC
PARTICIP
-ATION**

The Chairman adjourned the Parish Council (PC) meeting and opened participation to the public.

- *Lynda Le Ray said that a footpath sign had been put up at the restricted byway. She wondered if it had been put there by Somerset Rights of Way, the Ramblers' Association, or by someone else.*
- *Anthony Piper wanted to find out what residents thought of the idea of a community shop. He had approached Equus lottery funding and the Somerset Business Support Group (SBS) which had helped him look at sites and funding.*

A community shop can be set up and run by one person, but tends to work better if the community is behind it.

Before taking the matter further he had been advised to produce a questionnaire. With the results to hand, SBS would be able to advise further.

The Chairman thanked the speakers, closed public participation and reconvened the PC meeting.

2111 **Minutes**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the PC meeting of 10 December 2014 be confirmed as a true record. The minutes were signed by the Chairman.

2112 **Clerk's report**

- Frome Minibuses were still in discussion with Somerset CC (who want to remove funding) re Saturday service. If it continues, it will still come to Faulkland.
- Andrew Joliffe had been thanked for Christmas Tree

The chairman said the tree had been lit but not decorated. It was said he had been disappointed to find the decorations in a mess. Glenda Swift of Tuckers Grave had offered to run a raffle to buy decorations in 2015. There could be carol singing.

- 2113 **Planning Updates**
The application at 16 Lansdown View, Faulkland, had been approved.
- 2114 **Highways and rights of Way**
(i) Purchase of new batteries for the speed indicator device
RESOLVED (FG/TH unanimous) to buy 2 x Haze HZB-EV12-18 12 volt 18ah AGM Batteries @ £34.99 each inc. VAT, carriage free, total cost £69.98 **A**
Mr Tim Gibbs' kind offer to fit the batteries was accepted
(ii) Grit bins District Cllr Drewe had confirmed the PC's bid for funding for grit bins for Fulwell Close and Black Hill, Hemington has been successful.
RESOLVED (FG/TH unanimous) to purchase 2 grit bins at a cost of £286 **A**
RESOLVED (WH/TH unanimous) to purchase a further bin at a cost of £143, to be sited at the Hassage crossroads. **A**
(iii) Speedwatch
Laura Piper said that after a quiet New Year a recruitment drive for new Speedwatch members was planned. People are asked to give between half an hour a month and an hour a week. Cllr Haworth will put this on Facebook. Speedwatch members had been out the previous day and the Saturday before.
There was a discussion about speed signs. Laura Piper thought that a Smiley face flashing sign seemed to be the most effective but it was expensive. Anthony Piper said fundraising events could be put on, which should also attract more members. Developers might contribute. There would be a separate meeting in the Spring about this.
Norton St Philip Speedwatch wants to liaise with Hemington and Hinton Charterhouse.
(iv) Highways update
Mr C. Higgins, Somerset Highways had apologised for the delay in responding to the PC's chaser about the following outstanding items:
 ▪ Hedge obstructing visibility at former County Council depot at Tynning Hill
 ▪ Blocked Culvert, Green St, (Gallant Hill)
These would now be inspected and acted on as required.
Highways had changed the completion date for roadworks outside the hairdresser's in Faulkland to end March 2015.
Highways to be advised tht the 30mph sign on the A366 coming into Faulkland from Tuckers Grave is obscured by vegetation. **A**
(v) Rights of way update
No footpath maintenance grants are available from Somerset CC, who are responsible for rights of way.
Enquiries to be made as to who has put up a footpath sign on the restricted byway. **A**
- 2115 **Facilities**
(i) Community shop
Cllr Hucker said the project needed enthusiasm and that success would depend on who ran it.
The PC **agreed** that it wished to encourage and participate in a survey to find out if a community shop is a viable proposition. The PC could print and deliver the survey. The PC discussed covering outlying areas such as Foxcote and how the survey could

be delivered, including online.

(ii) Allotments The Clerk had spoken to Mr Francis at Chickwell Farm and it was hoped the weather would permit ploughing in February.

(iii) Temporary post office This is now in use. A bigger notice board outside to attract customers is needed. The Village Hall Committee to be thanked for their work in getting the project going and to be asked to arrange for a larger notice board. **A**

(iv) Faulkland Village Hall Cllr Hucker said this had not yet been discussed with the Village Hall Committee. To be a February item.

2116 **Finance**

(i) Current financial statement This was noted.

(ii) Budget 2015/16 It was **agreed** that the PC needed a balanced budget and could no longer rely on reserves to cover a shortfall. An agreed grant to the Village Hall committee would increase costs. Mendip had advised provision for a contested election on 7 May should be £2,000 (£800 in 2011).

RESOLVED (TH/WH unanimous) that the PC run a balanced budget for 2015/16 of £9,983, representing a general increase of 5% (expenditure having declined in real terms in recent years), plus £480 for the Village Hall grant and £2,000 provision for a contested election.

(iii) Precept 2015/16

RESOLVED (TH/WH unanimous) to sign a precept for 2015/16 of £9,570, a charge of £38.62 for a Band D property **A**

(iv) Audit requirements Forthcoming changes in audit requirements for small councils were noted.

(iv) Payments **RESOLVED** (TH/WH unanimous) to pay

- The Landscape Group – grass cutting 2014 per budget, £1,500 inc. VAT
- Clerk's salary January £221.71, expenses £5.00

2117 **Correspondence and reports**

(i) Correspondence

- No correspondence other than that relating to items minuted above had been received
- Councillors noted information received since the meeting of 12/12/2014. No actions were identified

(ii) Reports

District Councillor's Drewe had reported that

- A grant for 2 x grit bins had been approved (see minute 2114 above)
- Mendip's Local Plan Part 1 had been adopted
- Part 2 (the allocation of sites) is under way

There were no other reports

2118 **Next meeting**

Wednesday 14 February 2014, 7.30pm, Faulkland Village Hall.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.45pm