

Hemington, Hardington & Foxcote Parish Council

MENDIP DISTRICT OF THE COUNTY OF SOMERSET

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
held on Wednesday 11 March 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 V. Curtis, F. Green, A. Hall (Chairman), P. Roberts, T. Hucker,

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

2130 **Apologies**

Cllr W. Haworth sent her apologies (she was working)

District Cllr Drewe sent his apologies

2131 **Interests and dispensations**

There were no declarations of interests

**PUBLIC
PARTICI-
PATION**

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

- Lynda Le Ray said that the small signs for the restricted byway had now arrived. Peter Le Ray had offered to install them. Both were thanked.

The Chairman closed public participation and reconvened the PC meeting.

2132 **Minutes**

It was **agreed** that the minutes of the PC meeting of 11 February 2015 were a true record. The minutes were signed by the Chairman.

2133 **Clerk's report**

Somerset Local Authorities' Civil Contingencies Unit had asked for Emergency Community contacts in case of flooding or other emergency.

Agreed Cllr Green and the Clerk will be the emergency contacts. **A**

Hemington Primary School: Lord Hylton had said that it might be possible to excavate the entrance to sloping land adjacent to the school to provide additional car parking/turning for parents delivering and collecting. He could take away the spoil.

The Chairman, Councillor Roberts and the Clerk to visit the site and report back. **A AH,
PR**

It was suggested that Somerset Education Committee be asked to contribute to the cost of any eventual work.

2134 **Planning**

There was none.

2135 **Highways and rights of Way**

- It was noted that Highways were working in Grove Lane
- Cllr Hucker said there was a blocked gully by the phone box. This will be reported to Highways. **A**

- The blocked gully by the Faulkland Village Hall still required attention A
- It was **agreed** that Tim Gibbs be thanked formally for installing new batteries on the lower speed indicator device, which was now working A
- The grit bins had arrived though they had not yet been installed
- Laura Piper's Speedwatch report had been circulated to Councillors. She had attended a Traffic Action Group meeting at Norton St Philip. The weight limit on the A366 will be extended in June/July to run from the A36 at Farleigh to the Terry Hill crossroads, with 'loading only' notices. This should stop HGVs going through Faulkland. It was hoped to ramp up Speedwatch session with the lighter mornings, but more volunteers were wanted.
- Laura Piper had written to Highways and Cllr Ham about speeding, HGVs and the noisy road surface in Faulkland. The Chairman said he hoped Cllr Ham will respond.
- Faulkland clean-up day will be Sunday 12 April, meeting outside the village hall. Sacks and litter-pickers will be provided. A 10am start was proposed **[the start time was subsequently agreed for 11am]** A
- Cllr Curtis had received complaints about cars parked in the bridleway. Cllr Hall will mention this to the parkers if Cllr Curtis finds out who they are.

2136 **Facilities**

Community shop Anthony Piper was asked to comment on the community shop questionnaire, his report on which had been circulated to Councillors and is attached to these minutes. He said that that the response (20 replies) had been disappointing. He suggested that the idea is put to one side for now, but perhaps revisited as the village grows and community cohesion improves.

Some people present said they had not received the questionnaire.

The Chairman thanked Anthony and Laura Piper for their hard work; it was a great shame there had not been a better response.

He reported encouraging use of the post office, somewhat above expectations.

Allotments Ploughing was imminent.

2137 **Elections**

The following said they would not seek re-election: Councillors Roberts and Hall. Councillors and members of the public present were asked to encourage residents to stand for the council and to stand themselves.

An announcement to be put in *Parish News*.

When received, nomination papers will be available to collect from Cllr Hall, or may be downloaded.

2138 **Risk assessment**

Councillors approved the risk assessment schedule supplied and actions to be taken

2139 **Finance**

(i) Current financial statement This was received and approved.

(ii) Payments **RESOLVED** (TH/FG unanimous) to pay:

Faulkland Village Hall Committee – insurance 2014/15, hire of hall for PC meetings
£688.46

Clerk's salary March 2015 (postdated) £221.71

R. Campbell – reimburse cost of new batteries for speed sign £85.52

R. Campbell – home as office/computer allowance 2014/15 £150.00

Faulkland Village Hall Committee – grant 2014/15 £110.00

2140 **Correspondence and reports**

Correspondence

- An email had been received from Tricia Wastvedt, Joint Chair of Shoscombe Community Plan Steering Group, asking if Hemington PC has any response to the inclusion of Foxcote in Shoscombe's Plan

Cllr Green said that Foxcote is included in Hemington, Hardington & Foxcote's Local Plan and the PC pays a £100 churchyard grant for St James the Less.

Action: The Clerk to write pointing this out and that Foxcote is an integral part of this parish, but raising no objection to the proposal if residents find this helpful. **A**

- Laura Piper's letter to Highways had already been referred to. Cllr Hall said the road was quieter when the gravel was swept up, but the surface continued to deteriorate.

Action: The Clerk will write a new letter to Highways, copies to Cllr Ham, pointing this out and saying that the road surface is a danger to inhabitants and visitors. **A**

Cllr Curtis referred to a previous proposal for a gated entrance to Faulkland. The clerk to bring details to the April meeting. He said "dragons' teeth" give the illusion that the road narrows and cause people to slow down. **A**

Reports

District Councillor's report

- There was a lack of actions at Mendip as it is in 'pre-election purdah'
- Gladman Developments' challenge to Mendip's Local Plan Part 1, initially on the grounds of insufficient housing supply over the whole period to 2029, now just on insufficient affordable housing to 2029, is likely to be heard in the High Court in April.
- If Gladman win, Mendip will have to increase the number of affordable houses in development schemes. The number is low because of lack of demand (no demand in Faulkland, Cllr Drewe says, due to no bus, no shop)

Miscellaneous reports

- Laura Piper will advise Wendy Howarth of the time of a proposed daytime meeting with County Councillor Ham, so that she can put it on Facebook.
- Cllr Curtis said that Brian Weaver had offered to harrow the molehills on Faulkland Village Green. Cllr Green will put a trap down.
- Cllr Green will give the gate at Faulkland pond a lick of creosote.

2141 **Future meetings**

April

Wednesday 11 April at 7.30pm in Faulkland Village Hall

May

Annual Parish Meeting (APM): Wednesday 13 May 2015 at 7.30pm in Faulkland Village Hall, when parishioners can raise any subject.

Annual Parish Council Meeting: Wednesday 13 May 2015 at approximately 8.00pm in Faulkland Village Hall, after the APM. The first item will be the election of a Chairman for the coming year.

The Chairman said that he had been disappointed by attendance at the APM in the past. This was people's opportunity to let the PC know what is important to them. He suggested that a letter should be sent to the church, the school, the shop and the pub reminding them that of this. The Village Hall Committee will be encouraged to send a representative. Anyone wishing to put a matter on the agenda was asked to tell the Chairman or the Clerk.

The Chairman thanked all for attending and closed the meeting at 8.45pm