

Hemington, Hardington & Foxcote Parish Council

MENDIP DISTRICT OF THE COUNTY OF SOMERSET

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
held on Wednesday 9 December 2015 in 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 T Hucker (Chairman), V. Curtis (Vice-Chairman), M. Corney, F. Green, F. Haywood

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

**PUBLIC
PARTICI
PATION**

The Chairman opened public participation. Comments are noted in italic; they do not form part of the minutes

- *Lynda Le Ray reminded all present that there would be carol singing on Faulkland Green on Green Monday 21st December, starting at 6pm*
She wondered whether the Post Office in Faulkland Village Hall would continue beyond the guaranteed date, early in 2016.

Mells Post Office to be consulted

- *Edward Drewe, speaking as a villager, said that there was always surface water on the road 200 yards south of Tuckers Grave after heavy rain. There was a blocked gully on the left going south.*

Somerset Highways to be notified

- *Mr Drewe asked Cllr Green if he had a meeting with the West Farm developer, as mentioned at the last Parish Council meeting.*

Cllr Green said the meeting had taken place. He had been told by the developer that the level of the housing land was lower than Cllr Green's field, which was not the case. The issue was not spring water, but rainwater. He had told the developer that the drainage report was not satisfactory, a fact confirmed by Mendip DC.

- *Ann Gatley wondered whether there was any point in having a tree on Faulkland Green if the lights did not work properly.*
- *It was suggested that the tree be placed outside Faulkland Village Hall, which would allow an electrical connection.*

The Chairman thanked the speakers and closed public participation

2251 **Apologies** There were no apologies for absence.

2252 **Councillors**

(i) Dennis Perkins The Chairman said that former councillor Dennis Perkins had died. Cllr Francis Green will represent the Council at his funeral at 1pm on Friday

11 December at St Mary's Hemington. Ward Councillor Drewe will also attend. The Chairman said that Dennis had done a lot for the Parish Council, which it was thought he had served for about 30 years, and for Faulkland Village Hall, where he had been a member for even longer. He had also been involved with the Frome Show. He was a man of few words, but when he did speak he was well worth listening to.

Ward Councillor Drewe added that Dennis had done a lot behind the scenes. He had organised whist drives for up to 100 people and if necessary put up the prizes himself, all proceeds going to the Village Hall. He has also been involved with the Faulkland Flower Show. Cllr Drewe had served on the Parish Council with him from 1999 and Dennis had hardly missed a meeting. Dennis had only chaired one PC meeting and had said afterwards that he had no desire to repeat the experience.

(ii) Acceptance of Declaration of Office Fiona Haywood, co-opted on 11 November, signed the declaration of acceptance of office and was welcomed to the Parish Council.

(iii) Co-option No-one had put themselves forward for co-option to fill the one remaining place on the council. The Chairman said that current members all lived in the centre of Faulkland and that it would be good to have a councillor living in another part of the parish, particularly Hemington or Foxcote.

(iv) Councillors' lead areas of responsibility Areas vacant due to resignations were assigned as follows:

Playing Field – Cllr Hucker

Highways – Cllr Haywood

Speedwatch – a co-ordinator to be sought outside the PC

Facebook – Cllr Haywood will ask her husband

2253 **Interests and dispensations**

There were no declarations of interests

2254 **Minutes**

Cllr Corney queried minute 2241, fourth paragraph (District Cllr's conversation with Planning Officer).

Councillors present on 11 November 2015 agreed that the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of that date were a true record. They were signed by the Chairman.

2255 **Clerk's report**

All items were on the agenda.

2256 **County and District Councillors**

- Ward Councillor Drewe said that the Parish Council should not have commented on planning application 2015/1136/REM (minute 2227i) because the dispensations had not been signed before the item was considered.
- Cllr Drewe updated the Parish Council on proposals to license isolated activities such as layby burger vans, including the one at Terry Hill crossroads.

- He advised that an enforcement notice was about to be served in relation to a poultry house in the parish.
- The appeal in relation to the Retreat, Foxcote had been held the previous week. The result was not known.
- The appeal against refusal of a Certificate of Lawfulness for a barn at Charlton Farm had been unsuccessful. The owners can revert to permission for two holiday homes on the site. Mendip DC will have to pay the costs of the appeal as they did not respond within 56 days to a matter of notification.
- Permission was not needed to repair the damage to the outhouse at Tuckers Grave Inn, damaged by a spectacular piece of 'sideways parking'.

The Chairman thanked District Councillor Drewe for his report. Cllr Drewe left the meeting.

2257 **Faulkland Playing Field** It had been too wet to straighten the goalposts.

2258 **Planning**

(i) Applications None

(ii) Planning and enforcement decisions and updates Cllr Corney said that on reading minute 2241, paragraph four (District Councillor's conversation with Planning Officer), he had emailed the officer for clarification. Mr. U'Dell had replied as follows: "Councillor Drewe came into the office, could have been on Tuesday 10th November, and approached me for an update on the application. I merely confirmed to him that the application was still pending a decision and if the LPA was minded to recommend approval it would be coming to him as Ward Member as the Parish Council recommend refusal. I hope this clarifies the situation."

The Clerk confirmed that he had previously advised the Chairman that no recommendation had been sent to Mendip DC in relation to planning application 2015/1136/REM, though recommendations on previous applications relating to the West Farm site had been sent. After the meeting of 7 October he had asked councillors to ensure that signed requests for dispensations were received in time for due consideration.

All councillors said that they proposed to make a new application for dispensation in relation to the West Farm site, in which they considered they had a pecuniary interest due to the proximity of their properties.

It was agreed in principle to hold an extra meeting of Hemington Parish Council to consider application 2015/1136/REM (see minute 2264 below), subject to dispensation requests having been both received and approved, in the hope that any recommendation would still be considered by Mendip DC.

(iii) Mendip Local Plan Part II Councillors thoroughly approved Cllr Corney's consolidation of the consultation response, which had been circulated. To be sent to Mendip. Cllr Green left the meeting (8:25pm)

2259 **Highways and rights of way**

Updates

(i) None.

(ii) A response to the Parish Council's appeal, dated 28 September 2015, against the advice Somerset Highways had given the planning authority on application 2013/0914 West Farm, Faulkland, to be sought urgently

2260 **Rights of Way** Nothing to report.

2261 **Phone Box** The application was still with Mendip DC. The Clerk advised the conditions of the standard agreement. Cllr Corney took the agreement and will review it.

2262 **Finance**

(i) Financial statement The bank reconciliation was not to hand due to late arrival of the bank statement.

(ii) Sector-led audit procurement It was agreed to take no action and hence to be opted in to the sector-led audit procurement body from 2017

(iii) Budget 2016-17 Councillors considered the draft budget 2016-17 which had been circulated, line by line.

RESOLVED (proposed Cllr Hucker, 2nd Cllr Corney, unanimous) to approve the budget showing income of £8,152 and expenditure of £8,311 SUBJECT TO confirmation of the continuation of the temporary post office. Final approval to be given at the January meeting

(iv) Precept 2016-17

RESOLVED (proposed Cllr Hucker, 2nd Cllr Corney, unanimous) to set a precept of £7,750 for 2016-17 SUBJECT TO confirmation of the continuation of the temporary post office. Final approval to be given at the January meeting.

(v) **RESOLVED** (proposed Cllr Hucker, 2nd Cllr Corney, unanimous) to pay

<i>Cheque</i>	<i>Payee and item</i>	<i>£</i> *inc. VAT
967	Bristol Wessex Billing Services Ltd, final allotment bill	13.58*
968	The Landscape Group, grass cutting November 2015	259.99*
969	Clerk's salary (post dated) £221.70 expenses £5.00	226.70

2263 **Correspondence and reports**

(i) Correspondence since the last meeting was noted. The Mendip DC Parishes Bulletin had a list of Local Legacy Fund grants. Hemington PC had not been successful. After studying the list it was thought that a larger application should be made next year.

(ii) Reports

- Cllr Corney thanked Lynda LeRay for organising an enjoyable evening on 20 November in aid of Faulkland Village Hall.
- Cllr Curtis said Parking in Bishop Street at the mouth of the pond was blocking the public right of way. The matter to be kept under review and to be a January agenda item. There had been reports of otters at the pond.
- Hedge cutting to be chased urgently.

2264 **Next meeting**

Subject to confirmation, there will be an extra meeting of the Parish Council on Wednesday 16 January, to consider planning.

The date of the following Parish Council meeting was confirmed as Wednesday January 13 2016 at 7.30pm in Faulkland Village Hall. All welcome.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 8.55pm.