

# HEMINGTON, HARDINGTON & FOXCOTE PARISH COUNCIL

## MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

held at 7.30pm on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> August 2020 at 19:30 (Remote Meeting - held over zoom & telephone)

COUNCILLORS PRESENT: M Corney (Chairman), V Curtis, M Francis, F Green and A Hucker (Vice Chairman).  
ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: A Barkshire (District Cllr) and J Howell, (Clerk).

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:** There was none.

08/20-21:019 **WELCOME & APOLOGIES**

The Chairman welcomed members to the remote/virtual meeting. Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Hayward and accepted.

08/20-21:020 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were none.

*Under the councils Code of Conduct in accordance with the Localism Act 2011 and The Relevant Authorities (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) Regulations 2012, SI No. 1464.*

08/20-21:021 **CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

RESOLVED: The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of 8<sup>th</sup> July 2020 were approved as a correct record and agreement given for them to be signed by the Chairman.

08/20-21:022 **REPORTS**

- a. The District Councillor provided a verbal report. Headlines included:
  - Leaders have been advised that Somerset is to go Unitary. District Councils are reported to be unhappy with the current proposal for 'One Somerset' and have been given 8 weeks to suggest and alternate model / proposal. No funds are available to develop a business case.
  - The transition is expected to start in April 2021 and complete in April 2022.
  - Towns and Parishes in theory could have more authority but may need to raise the precept to cover costs and services though at present there is no firm commitment funding transfer will take place with responsibilities.
  - There will be some level of consultation, but it is unclear what level at present. There is no intention of holding a referendum / poll.
  - The District Cllr reported that she was trying to find out when the District Council Business Case will be available for viewing.
  - Mendip District Council is forecasting losses of 2.5-3.5 million due to Covid-19.
- b. The Chairman provided a verbal report. Highlights included:
  - Enquiries with RSPB reference duck house. Has been advised that Mallards are wild birds. It is unlikely that wild ducks will take up residence in a duck house as they need to see all around to feel safe. Would use island which is already in place.
  - Speeding continues to be a priority and an issue in the Parish. Reports show speeding offences are consistently high.
  - An update was provided in relation to the position of A&SC and the PCC Sue Mountstevens for using the Auto SpeedWatch technology data. Two Police Forces are due to start trailing using the data for enforcement which is encouraging.
  - The Chairman will confirm latest position and draft the letter to the PCC to request A&SC reconsider their position.
- c. The Clerk provided an update on Planning Training.

08/20-21:023 **PLANNING**

- a. Members noted the following planning decision:

<b>2020/1105/FUL</b>	<b>Faulkland Farm Grove Lane Faulkland Frome BA3 5UU</b> A purpose-built agricultural portal type building for the use of dry cows and their calves.	<b>DECISION</b> Approval with Conditions: Standard Time Limit (Compliance) & Plans List (Compliance)
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- b. Members were asked to consider the following Planning Applications:

<b>2020/1448/HSE</b>	<b>Location:</b> Row Court Row Lane Laverton Bath BA2 7RA	<b>Proposal:</b> Demolition of outbuilding and replacement with new annexe. (Householder Application)
<b>2020/1449/LBC</b>	<b>Location:</b> Row Court Row Lane Laverton Bath BA2 7RA	<b>Proposal:</b> Demolition of outbuilding and replacement with new annexe. (Listed Building Consent)
<b>2020/1446/VRC</b>	<b>Location:</b> Land Between Faulkland Farm and Oaklea Faulkland Frome BA3 5UX	<b>Proposal:</b> Application to vary/remove part-condition 13 (hard and soft landscaping) and condition 14 (boundary treatments) of planning approval 2018/0331/FUL to replace stone wall with timber to rear of plot 8 and remove stone wall to front of plots 1 and 2. (Variation or Removal of Conditions).

**RESOLVED:** The Parish Council **recommend refusal of permission** of Planning Application 2020/1448/HSE & 2020/1449/LBC.

Whilst the Parish Council would have no objection with the replacement of the outbuilding *in principle*, the Parish Council consider the application should be refused is due to the proposed height of the proposed annex. When viewing the elevation drawings, the proposed plan is double the height of the existing outbuilding. The Parish Council are concerned that this would overshadow / overlook neighbouring property and would also have an adverse impact on the listed building. The Parish Council would however reconsider a response to the application if the height of the structure were revised.

**RESOLVED:** The Parish Council **support** Planning Application 2020/1446/VRC.

08/20-21:024 **FINANCES**

- a. Members approved the payment schedule for August 2020. *NOTE:* Total due to J Howell updated at the meeting to include the £2.40 VAT for zoom.

<b>Cheque</b>	<b>Paid to</b>	<b>Amount</b>
1166	Mrs J Howell Basic pay, phone, work from home expense, printer ink. Zoom professional at 11.99 + 2.40 VAT	£298.18
1167	IDVERDE Grass cutting contract invoices: GM785479 & GM785478	£588.48
<b>Total payments for August 2020</b>		<b>£886.66</b>

- b. Members noted the latest financial statement. (*Bank reconciliation to 31/07/2020 £13,497.02*).

08/20-21:025 **PLAY AREA**

Cllr Hucker to undertake risk assessment prior to re-opening of Play Area if risk assessment allows. The Clerk has prepared and circulated advisory signs to be used alongside risk assessment outcome.

08/20-21:026 **TREE PLANTING INITIATIVE**

The Clerk provided a brief update on grants available from The Woodland Trust. Proposal is to plant saplings in a row on the south side of the Playing Field. Clerk to liaise with Cllr Hayward.

08/20-21:027 **GOVERNANCE AND ADMINISTRATION**

**RESOLVED** - Following review, the Parish Council:

- Approved the Standing Orders (together with the Covid-19 supplement approved at the July 2020 meeting).
- Approved the Financial Regulations.
- Declared compliance with the Data Protection Act 2018, Freedom of Information Act 2000.
- The Clerk confirmed there had been no FOI requests for the 2019/20 financial year.

08/20-21:028 **PROPOSAL FOR 'ONE SOMERSET' UNITARY AUTHORITY**

The Chairman outlined that members had received a letter from Cllr David Fothergill - One Somerset Business case together with a Joint Statement from the Leaders of Mendip District Council, Sedgemoor District Council, Somerset West & Taunton Council and South Somerset District Council. Press release available: <https://www.mendip.gov.uk/article/9384/30-07-20-Joint-Statement-from-the-leaders-of-Mendip-District-Council-Sedgemoor-District-Council-Somerset-West-Taunton-Council-and-South-Somerset-District-Council>

This item was superseded by the report from District Cllr Barkshire. The Parish Council await further news. If there is a window for consultation the Parish Council would wish to consider and submit a response.

- 08/20-21:029 **WEBSITE UPGRADE**  
Members briefly considered the upgrade of website in line with Accessibility Regulations. There was broad agreement the upgrade is necessary to upload information and documents and provide more information to residents as well as comply with Accessibility Regulations. At present the website is updated in code and cannot be updated through a content management system. One quote was received. The Clerk will obtain two further quotes.
- 08/20-21:030 **INFORMATION / ITEMS TO RAISE FOR CONSIDERATION AT THE NEXT MEETING**  
White lines Park Lane – need repainting.  
Street lighting West Farm.
- 08/20-21:031 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**  
The next meeting of the Parish Council will take place at 7.30pm on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> September 2020.
- 08/20-21:032 **CONFIDENTIAL ITEM**  
RECOMMENDED: That under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act, 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information falling within those paragraphs indicated in Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act, 1972, as amended – HR / contractual item.
- 08/20-21:033 **HR MATTER**  
RESOLVED: The Parish Council approved the Clerk's probationary period.

There being no further business, at 8.16pm the Chairman closed the meeting.

Minutes are available on the Parish Council website.