

HEMINGTON, HARDINGTON & FOXCOTE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

held at 7.30pm on Wednesday 8th July 2020 at 19:30 (Remote Meeting - held over zoom & telephone)

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

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: None

The Chairman welcomes everyone to the Parish Council's first remote/virtual meeting. The first regular meeting of the Parish Council in the 2020-21 financial year (previous meetings cancelled due to Coronavirus).

07/20-21:001 APOLOGIES

There were none.

07/20-21:002 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

It was noted that for item 8.b 2020/0429/FUL Cllr Hucker had previously declared an interest and had no part in this response and for item 8.b 2020/1072/FUL Cllr Hucker and Cllr Corney had previously declared an interest and had no part in any discussion over this item. The Parish Council made no response to application 2020/1072/FUL.

07/20-21:003 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

RESOLVED: The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 11th March 2020 were approved as a correct record and agreement given for the minutes to be signed by the Chairman. These were duly signed on 9th July 2020.

07/20-21:004 COUNCIL VACANCY

RESOLVED: That the Parish Council co-opt Matthew Francis onto the Council. The Clerk will prepare the necessary paperwork for completion.

07/20-21:005 STANDING ORDERS

RESOLVED: That the Parish Council adopt the COVID-19 supplement to the Parish Councils Standing Orders, to run until May 2021.

07/20-21:006 ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING

Members were asked to consider arrangements for the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council in line with The Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020 ("the 2020 Regulations") which came in to force on 4 April.

RESOLVED: That the council defer the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council to May 2021 and continue with existing Chairman & roles until the meeting is held in May 2021.

07/20-21:007 REPORTS

- a. Members received a report from District Cllr Alison Barkshire. Highlights included:
MDC is working with SCC and other Somerset DC's, the police, and the fire service to identify possible adjustments to roads and pavements to assist in keeping social distance and to facilitate more people walking and cycling to destinations. Somerset has an initial £120k from Government for this, primarily aimed at temporary measures in the short term. <https://somersexnewsroom.com/2020/06/05/120k-for-temporary-measures-to-encourage-walking-and-cycling/> Frome TC has an interactive map where you can make suggestions / support existing suggestions. <https://walkridefrome.commonplace.is/comments>. MDC will be sending the PC a survey re bus routes, what we already have, and what we would like to see to improve transport links. The recycling centres have reverted to normal opening hours and next week will take all materials that were previously being processed. Somerset County Council's drive for 'One Somerset' – Unitary Authority.
- b. The Chairman provided a verbal report and praised the efforts of the local community to support each other during this unprecedented time adding that there was still a long way to go with the pandemic. The Chairman also updated members on the ongoing fly tipping activity / action and

recent deeply concerning ASB at Hollowpit Lane (restricted byway FR 6/3) which included off-road 4X4 activity and an assault. The Parish Council have since received authorisation for the installation of bollards at the location and these are now in place.

- c. The Clerk provided a short update. This included: Recent renewal of AutoSpeedWatch. Speeding in the parish – contact made with Rural beat team requesting increase in visibility and patrols. Correspondence received relating to a request for the purchase of a duck house and sign. Councillors to investigate whether the wild birds would use a duck house and make enquiries with RSPB and report back. It was noted that Cllr Hucker's connection had failed, and Cllr Hucker was absent from the meeting.

07/20-21:008 PLANNING

- a. Members noted the following planning decisions and information:

2019/2018/LBC	The Old Chapel, Faulkland To Norton St Philip Rd Proposed replacement of 8no. windows on the north-east and north-west elevations.	DECISION APPROVE
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- b. Members noted the planning responses sent to Mendip DC (in accordance with Standing Orders).

2020/0429/FUL	Land At 373747 154405 High Street Faulkland Frome Somerset Proposal: Erection of two dwellings	RESPONSE: Hemington, Hardington and Foxcote Parish Council object to Planning Application 2020/0429/FUL and recommend refusal of permission.
2020/1072/FUL	Plot 1 Rear of Cherry Tree Cottage High Street Faulkland Proposal: New detached two storey 4-bedroom dwelling and single open carport.	THE PARISH COUNCIL MADE NO RESPONSE TO THIS APPLICATION.

- c. Members were asked to consider the following Planning Application:

2020/1105/FUL	Faulkland Farm Grove Lane Faulkland Frome BA3 5UU A purpose-built agricultural portal type building for the use of dry cows and their calves.	RESPONSE REQUIRED BY 14th July 2020
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RESOLVED: That the Parish Council recommends approval of Planning Application 2020/1105/FUL, Faulkland Farm, Grove Lane, Faulkland, Frome, BA3 5UU adding that the Local Plan recognises the importance of supporting local agricultural businesses.

07/20-21:009 ANNUAL RETURN 2019/20 – CERTIFICATE OF EXEMPTION

RESOLVED: The Parish Council approved the certificate of exemption in line with eligibility criteria. Members agreed that the Chairman and Responsible Financial Officer sign the Certificate of exemption.

07/20-21:010 ANNUAL RETURN 2019/20 – ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

RESOLVED: The Parish Council approved the Annual Governance Statement. Members agreed that the Chairman and the Clerk sign the Annual Governance Statement.

07/20-21:011 ANNUAL RETURN 2019/20 – ANNUAL ACCOUNTING STATEMENT

RESOLVED: The Parish Council approved the Annual Accounting Statement. This section was prepared and signed by the Responsible Financial Officer before the meeting. Members agreed that the Chairman signs the Annual Governance Statement.

07/20-21:012 INTERNAL AUDIT

The Parish Council received the internal audit report and noted the content. Members approved the completion of the bank reconciliation to 31/03/2020 and accepted the statement of variances. It was agreed that the Notice of Rights of Public Inspection would be published on 9th July 2020 commencing on Monday 13th July 2020 and ending on Friday 21st August 2020.

07/20-21:013 FINANCES

- d. Members noted the payments and receipts for April, May, and June totalling £1,968.45 made in line with Financial Regulations in the absence of a regular Parish Council Meeting due to Coronavirus (report supplied).

- e. RESOLVED: The Parish Council approved the payment schedule for July 2020:

Cheque	Paid to	Amount
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1164	Mrs J Howell Basic pay, phone, work from home expense, printer ink. Upgrade to zoom professional at 11.99 + VAT	£290.18
Total payments for July 2020		£290.18

- f. The Parish Council noted the increase in the home working allowance for the Clerk (new HMRC rate).

07/20-21:014 TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT CONSULTATION

Members discussed responses received from the Traffic Management Consultation. A majority were against double yellow lines and a smaller majority against mini roundabouts. The Chairman advised he had received a petition from residents asking the council to consider chicanes. Members were asked to consider what actions or approaches to take next in relation to speeding in the village. It was agreed that the ideas raised in the traffic management consultation are not pursued further at this stage and the Parish Council look at what other ways to control traffic flow through the village. Action: Clerk to enquire with highways the suitability / position with chicanes given the A366 is designated an emergency vehicle route.

RESOLVED: That the Parish Council write to the PCC of Avon and Somerset Constabulary and ask the PCC to reconsider the use of AutoSpeedWatch data and ask again for an explanation as to why Avon and Somerset Constabulary do not feel able to use the data.

07/20-21:015 GRANT REQUEST

a. The Parish Council considered a grant application from PCC of Foxcote with Shoscombe for £100 towards the maintenance and upkeep of St James the Less Churchyard in Foxcote. Members noted NALC Advice Note L01-18 – Financial Assistance to the Church.

RESOLVED: The Parish Council approved the grant to PCC of Foxcote with Shoscombe for £100 *Payment approved and made in accordance with its powers under section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972, which, in the opinion of the Council, is in the interests of the area of its inhabitants and will benefit them in a manner commensurate with expenditure.*

b. RESOLVED: The Parish Council approved the adoption of a simple grants policy.

07/20-21:016 GOVERNANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

RESOLVED: The Parish Council noted the renewal of Parish Council Insurance with Zurich at £448.60 and approved this as fit for purpose.

RESOLVED: The Parish Council approved the updated Asset Register.

RESOLVED: The Parish Council approved the updated Risk Management Schedule.

Members discussed the guidance circulated around re-opening of play areas.

RESOLVED: That the Parish Council delegate responsibility for conducting a Risk Assessment to Cllr Hucker. Subject to a satisfactory outcome the Play Area may be re-opened with advisory signage prepared (subject to regular safety checks in line with policy and continued annual inspections and maintenance).

07/20-21:017 INFORMATION / ITEMS TO RAISE FOR CONSIDERATION AT THE NEXT MEETING

This item must be information only. Any matter that requires a decision must be set as an agenda item for the following meeting. To include:

- REVIEW and APPROVAL of FINANCIAL REGULATIONS.
- DECLARE compliance with the Data Protection Act 2018, Freedom of Information Act 2000 and confirm number of FOI requests for the 2019/20 financial year.
- Website upgrade.
- Tree Planting Initiative.
- Clerk Probation.

07/20-21:018 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Due to the impact of coronavirus and recent cancelled meetings, there will be a remote / electronic meeting in August. The meeting will take place on Wednesday 12th August 2020 at 7.30pm. Joining instructions will be available on the agenda and members and residents alike may join over zoom or by using their telephone.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting.

Minutes approved 12th August 2020.