

HEMINGTON, HARDINGTON & FOXCOTE PARISH COUNCIL

MENDIP DISTRICT OF THE COUNTY OF SOMERSET

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

held at 8.00pm on Wednesday 18 May 2011
at Faulkland Village Hall

Present: Councillors M. Brombley (Vice-chair), E. Drewe (Chairman), F. Green, D. Perkins, P. Roberts

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

1558 Quorum

Six elected councillors were present, forming a quorum

1559 Election of Chair

Cllr Edward Drewe, Chairman of the previous Council, called for nominations for Chair. Cllr Drewe was proposed by Cllr Perkins and seconded by Cllr Roberts. There were no other nominations and Cllr Drewe was elected unanimously.

He thanked his fellow councillors and welcomed new Councillors Francis Green and Philip Roberts.

1560 Acceptance of Office

All councillors present signed a declaration of acceptance of office.

1561 Apologies

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Jim Knight, who was unwell.

1562 Declarations of Interest

None

1563 Election of Vice-Chair

Cllr Maggie Brombley was proposed by Cllr Dennis Perkins and seconded by Cllr Drewe. There were no other nominations. She was elected unanimously and thanked the council.

1564 Minutes

Minutes of the meeting of the council held on 13 April 2011 were **approved** and signed by the chairman.

1565 Planning

(ii) The following applications were considered.

2011/0959 (full planning permission) and **2011/1095** (listed building consent) Highchurch Farm, Chickwell Lane, Hemington BA3 5XT. Remove recently constructed roof and bay window. Construction of first floor extension to create additional bedroom. Erection of a single storey kitchen extension and detached double garage with covered way. Associated internal and external alterations.

Parish Council recommendations: both approval

(ii) The following approvals by Mendip District Council were noted.

2011/0293 (householder planning permission), 0296 (listed building consent) The Old Rectory, Foxcote, BA3 5YE. Proposed alterations and single storey extension to existing dwelling house and conversion of existing garden rooms to Pool Room and construction of swimming pool.

1566 Finance

(i) The audited parish council accounts for the year ended 31 March 2011 were **approved** and signed by the chairman and responsible financial officer. The Hon Auditor, Mr Nick Brown, to be thanked.

(ii) The Annual Governance Statement was considered line by line, **agreed** and signed.

(iii) **Agreed** that Cllr Knight be added to the current cheque signatories, Cllrs Brombley, Drewe and Perkins.

(iv) The clerk's salary for May was **approved** for payment, proposed Cllr Brombley, 2nd Cllr Green. Cheques in favour of the clerk and HM Revenue & Customs were signed by Cllrs Brombley and Perkins at the end of the meeting.

1567 Faulkland playing field

Further vandalism to the children's play equipment at Faulkland Playing Field was reported. The following points were discussed.

* The cost of moving the equipment to a different site, and where that might be

* The possibility of surveillance; a parishioner's offer to investigate a webcam was accepted

* Cllr Children must be brought into the equation; if they claim ownership, they can sort the problem

* No parents of those who use the play equipment were present

* Younger children did not go to the playing field on their own due to fear of older ones

* The cost of future insurance

Agreed to postpone the discussion until the next meeting while further information about insurance and other matters was obtained.

Police patrols to be asked to divert past the playing field.

1568 Skatepark

It was agreed that this would be an attraction for older children.

Concerns were expressed about vandalism, and the cost of providing and running it. Cllr Drewe will find out if grants for play equipment are still available from Mendip.

Midsomer Norton skateboard park was reported to be closing, with drug users cited as a reason.

1569 Highways

Nothing to report

1570 Allotments

Further expressions of interest had been received. It was hoped to have a draft lease to consider at the next meeting.

1571 Repairs and Renewals

A flagpole for Faulkland Green had been received and moved to Cllr Green's farm to await stripping.

1572 Correspondence and reports

(i) Councillors reviewed the following correspondence received since the last meeting. Mendip DC – Parishes Information Bulletin May 2011; 'Clerks and Councils Direct' May 2011, Western Power Distribution – invitation to stakeholder workshop; Somerset Association of Local Councils – note on future of Public Audit; Somerset CC – guide to buses serving Frome; Mendip & Sedgemoor Community Support Newsletter Spring 2011 (download).

A letter had been received that day complaining about children playing on Faulkland Green. An acknowledgement will be sent.

(ii) Reports.

Byways were becoming overgrown. Cllr Brombley reminded councillors that a brushcutter was available.

There was a chicken ark across a footpath at Hemington, with trees planted nearby 'Flying cattle' on the Hardington to Hemington bridleway had been reported to the rights of way officer

Progress on clearing obstructions on the restricted bridleway to Buckland Dinham was still awaited.

1573 Date of next meeting

Agreed for Wednesday 8 June, Faulkland Village Hall, 7.30pm.

The chairman closed the meeting at 8.58pm