

HEMINGTON, HARDINGTON & FOXCOTE PARISH COUNCIL

MENDIP DISTRICT OF THE COUNTY OF SOMERSET

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
held at 7.30pm on Wednesday 13 February 20123
at Faulkland Village Hall

Present: Councillors E. Drewe (Chairman), M. Brombley, F. Green, P. Roberts

In attendance: R Campbell (Clerk), 5 members of the public

1820 Apologies for absence

RESOLVED to accept the following apology for absence:
Cllr Knight (ill). Councillors sent their best wishes to Cllr Knight.

1821 Resignation and vacancy

(i) Councillors noted with regret the resignation of Dennis Perkins after nearly 30 years as councillor. The Chairman recalled Mr Perkins' help not only to him but to previous chairmen, particularly Ted Green. His realism, local knowledge and jovial nature would all be missed. A letter of thanks to be sent.

(ii) Cllr Drewe, noting that February's PC meeting had been postponed a week due to lack of a quorum, gave information from Mendip DC on the conditions for seeking an increase in the number of councillors. It would be possible to postpone election of a new councillor until MDC had done due diligence on this matter if the PC so requested.

RESOLVED that if advertisement of the casual vacancy caused by the resignation of Cllr Perkins did not produce a request to MDC for an election, co-option would be by vote of the whole parish council.

1822 Interests

There were no declarations of interest

1823 Minutes

RESOLVED that the minutes of the PC meeting of 9 January 2013 be accepted as a true record. They were signed by the chairman.

1824 Finance

(i) **RESOLVED** (proposed Cllr Brombley, 2nd Cllr Green) to pay the following:
R.C. Francis and Partners – hedge cutting at Faulkland Playing Field £30.00 inc. VAT
Chairman's allowance 2012/13 £100.00; staff salaries for February 2013

1825 Planning

The following approval by Mendip District Council (MDC) was noted.
2012/2755 Haywood Farm, Terry Hill, Radstock BA3 5UF. Erection of extension to poultry processing plant, reconfigured access roads and landscaped earth bund.

1826 Faulkland Playing Field

(i) Safety surface. The offer of free bark had been withdrawn. The value of the material to be offered had been greatly underestimated.
RoSPA had advised that grass is a perfectly satisfactory safety surface up to 1.5 metres fall height. The tower platform, at 1.45m, qualifies.
Safety inspectors Digley Associates, concurred, adding:

- Do not consider bark; grass must be 'sward'; bald patches will fail inspection
 - Enhance the grass by putting matting it can grow through at heavy-wear points
- RESOLVED** (proposed Cllr Brombley, 2nd Cllr Roberts to get Digley to inspect as is for £45 Matting samples to be obtained for March 13 meeting.

(ii) **RESOLVED** (proposed Cllr Roberts, 2nd Cllr Green) to accept Landscape Group's grass cutting quotation of £1,200 ex VAT for 2013

1827 Highways

(i) Requests had been made by Hemington School for grit bins on Tynning Hill. The school had been forced to shut during the snow as people could not get there.

RESOLVED to ask Somerset Education Department to request the County Surveyor to provide two grit bins, one on Tynning Hill, one on Black Hill.

(ii) Consideration to buying a new battery for the lower speed indicator device to be postponed to see if sunnier weather would resolve the problem with the solar panel.

1828 Rights of Way Nothing to report

1829 Allotments

RESOLVED to grant an allotment plot for a year in exchange for ploughing the land. The fence along the A366 to be put back when the ploughing has been done.

No water had yet been used. When it is, the cost will be split between the allotment holders. A tap to be put in. A new notice will be erected

Cllr Brombley suggested a community orchard if plots could not be let.

1830 Correspondence and reports

(i) Councillors noted the following correspondence received since the last meeting.

Mendip District Council (MDC) – Parishes Information Bulletin January 2013

Information on free insulation for the vulnerable until 31 March 2013

MDC – information on the green energy Heat Project

(ii) District Councillor's report

Cllr Drewe referred to funds released to the planning authority from the new homes levy, giving £350K for community projects. From this, the legacy fund will provide £200K for projects of £10K and over. In addition the £100K community environment fund would enable each ward councillor to distribute £2K in total over two years. Cllr Drewe would take soundings from parishes in his ward, including Hemington, on suitable projects.

(iii) Miscellaneous reports and information

- The broken Faulkland sign was dangerous. Highways will be chased again
- Residents of Fulwell Close had been stuck for two days in the snow. Would Mendip or Aster Housing fund grit bins?
- The idea of a community orchard on unused allotment land is a good one
- The road from Tuckers Grave to Keepers Cottage has serious potholes
- Cllr Drewe will ask for a map to ascertain how much of Bishop Street is adopted

1831 Future meetings

RESOLVED that the dates of the next two parish council meetings be as follows

Wednesday 13 March 2013 7.30pm, Faulkland Village Hall

Wednesday 10 April 2013 7.30pm, Faulkland Village Hall

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.43 pm