

HEMINGTON, HARDINGTON & FOXCOTE PARISH COUNCIL

MENDIP DISTRICT OF THE COUNTY OF SOMERSET

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
held at 7.30pm on Wednesday 15 May 2013
at Faulkland Village Hall

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

In attendance: R Campbell (Clerk), 15 members of the public

1857 Chair

Cllr Edward Drewe was proposed as Chairman for the coming year by Cllr Philip Roberts (2nd Cllr Maggie Brombley). There were no other nominations. He indicated his willingness to serve, was elected unanimously and signed the declaration of acceptance of office.

1858 Apologies/Resignation

(i) Cllr Jim Knight had written tendering his resignation due to ill health. The Chairman said this was accepted with great regret. When he, Cllr Drewe, had joined the Parish Council (PC) in the 1990s he had taken Cllr Knight, with his realistic attitude to problems, as a very useful guide. The PC would miss his wise advice.

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

1859 Declarations of Interest

None. No councillor wished to update their register of interests.

1860 Vice-chair

Cllr Brombley was proposed as Vice-chairman by Cllr Francis Green (2nd Cllr Hucker). There were no other nominations. She indicated her willingness to serve and was elected unanimously.

1861 Minutes RESOLVED that the minutes of the Parish Council (PC) meeting of 10 April 2013 be accepted as a true record, with the following amendment: the date of the meeting was corrected from 20123 to 2013. The minutes were signed by the chairman.

1862 County and District Councillors' reports

County: none. Cllr Drewe reported that he had stood in for Rode and Norton St Philip Ward during the recent vacancy.

1863 Parish Council Insurance

RESOLVED to accept the quotation by AON (insurer Allianz) for PC insurance for the coming year. New gates and, when in place, table and seats at Faulkland Playing Field to be added to the policy.

1864 Finance

(i) RESOLVED to accept the audited parish council accounts for the year ended 31 March 2013 (proposed Cllr Brombley, 2nd Cllr Roberts). Mr Nick Brown to be thanked for carrying out the internal audit.

(ii) The Annual Governance Statement was considered by councillors line by line, approved and signed by the Chairman.

(iii) RESOLVED (proposed Cllr Roberts, 2nd Cllr Brombley) to pay the following:
AON – PC insurance 2013/14 £643.94 (budget £700)
Staff salaries May 2013

1865 Planning

The application for 18 houses at West Farm had been posted on Mendip's website and details received by the PC after the agenda had been published. This application would be considered in June.

(i) The following application was considered:

2012/0578 (listed building consent) The Old Chapel, Faulkland, Radstock, BA3 5XD
Repairs to remove causes of damp and condensation and to bring the building more in keeping with its original fabric and look. PC recommendation: **approval**

(ii) The following decision by Mendip District Council (MDC) was noted.

2013/0794 Old Barn Foxcote. Erection of agricultural building. Prior approval not required.

1866 Faulkland Playing Field

(i) RESOLVED to purchase a circular wooden table and attached seating for eight from Charltons at a cost of £247 (less any discount) with a grant to be provided from the residual funds of the now closed youth club.

The unit to be fixed to the ground with large skewers, which Cllr Drewe would obtain. Delivery to coincide with pegging or, if not, be made pro tem to Cllr Green's farm.

Clerk to check if delivered flat pack or made up.

(ii) The safety inspector had been changed due to an adverse report on the original one from an insurer. The Inspection Company to be chased up.

1867 Highways

(i) Mrs Le Ray had arranged a meeting with Somerset Highways area maintenance manager re Bishop Street potholes on 17/6/13 at 10.30am. PC reps were invited to attend and number of items for discussion identified, to be reported on at the June meeting.

(ii) Councillors again noted the increase in local fly tipping following restriction of hours and imposition of a charge at the Coleford Recycling Centre.

(iii) It will be possible to fund a grit bin for Fulwell Lane from the District Councillor's community budget. Somerset Education to be chased re providing bins on the two hills down to Hemington School.

1868 Rights of Way

Nothing to report

1869 Allotments

The empty plots had been ploughed and a rotavator was being lent by a parishioner. Water was available on site and matters were now progressing well.

1870 Correspondence and reports

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

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

Clerks and Councils Direct May 2013

Avon & Somerset Police and Crime Commissioner – Police and Crime Plan 2013-17

Police District Commander – letter 10/5/13

SALC Summary of Queen's Speech; note on reforms of Community Infrastructure Levy

(ii) Miscellaneous reports

Cllr Drewe noted that when considering the West Farm application it would be necessary to include the community benefits to be applied for under the Section 106 agreement should permission be granted by Mendip. If it is refused and appealed, the inspector will ask this question.

Members of the public, invited to speak, then made the following points about the proposed West Farm development ahead of the PC's June consideration of the application:

- Faulkland will no longer be a close-knit community if allowed to develop like Norton St Philip
- Green fields should not be taken out of production when there is already a shortage of wheat
- Faulkland should not become like Peasedown
- Who is on the planning board and what are they guided by? Cllr Drewe said he was a member and they were guided by national and local planning policy.

Cllr Drewe explained that following a challenge to Mendip's rolling 5-year supply of buildable land in their emerging local plan, the planning inspector had said, and Mendip agreed, that little weight could be given to the local plan for the time being and that the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) would be the prime guidance in deciding planning applications. He considered the Government should have allowed the old local policy to remain in place until the new one was ready.

- Was there now any point in objecting? Cllr Drewe explained the financial consequences of a refusal being overturned on appeal
- We can't go on building to the point where we become unable to feed ourselves
- Climate change should be taken into account: grain fields had been ruined and had had to be replanted this year
- Local infrastructure was inadequate for the proposed development
- There was concern about storm drains
- There was poor water pressure
- It was amazing that matters had got so far already
- Concerns were expressed about the 21 day period for objecting which ended on 1/6/13.
- Can the PC make its own mind up? Answer: yes
- Does the community have a voice on the planning board? Cllr Drewe said, as a member of that board, he would not take part in the PC's discussion or vote on the proposed development at West Farm and would vote as instructed at Mendip.
- On another topic, was there any more information on the proposed building of a house on the triangle of land near the phone box: no

Public participation ended. The format for June would be changed to have a public forum near the beginning of the meeting. The West Farm applicant would be invited to present, followed by public participation, including questioning the applicant. The PC meeting would then resume and consider the application.

1871 Future meetings

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

Wednesday 12 June 2013 7.30pm, Faulkland Village Hall

Wednesday 4 July 2013 (note first Wednesday of month) 7.30pm, Faulkland Village Hall

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.16 pm