

HEMINGTON, HARDINGTON & FOXCOTE PARISH COUNCIL

MENDIP DISTRICT OF THE COUNTY OF SOMERSET

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

held at 7.30pm on Wednesday 9 July 2014

at Faulkland Village Hall

Present: Councillors F. Green, A. Hall (Chairman), W. Haworth (from minute 2042)
T. Hucker, P. Roberts

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

Actions – marked A – are on the Clerk and on any Councillor whose initials appear at right →

2039 **Apologies**

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr V. Curtis, who was away.

2040 **Interests**

There were no declarations of interests

2041 **Vacancy**

RESOLVED unanimously to co-opt Wendy Haworth. She signed the declaration of acceptance of office and was welcomed to the Parish Council (PC), which now has a full complement of six members.

2042 **Minutes**

RESOLVED to accept the minutes of the PC meeting of 11/6/2014 as a true record. They were signed by the Chairman.

2043 **Matters arising/Clerk's report**

None

**Public
Forum**

The Chairman suspended the PC meeting and declared a Public Forum, which included the points noted below in *italic*. They do not form part of the minutes.

Mr Terry Drake, Speedwatch organiser, had been invited to come and talk. He included the following in his remarks and answers to questions.

- *There are 28 Speedwatch schemes in operation in the area, with six pending. There are not enough police to do the training.*
- *The 'hairdryer' speed guns are now old-fashioned and cannot be repaired. The new smartphone-size hand-held lasers are operated by a single red button which switches off after 30 seconds. A recall button gives the last ten numbers. The cost is £185.*
- *Information gathered is invaluable in building up a picture of speeding which can be used, for instance, when applying for speed humps. It also helps in getting speed enforcement officers (safety camera van or bike) out on site.*
- *The training course is 1.5 hours, ending with a period on the road.*
- *High vis. Jackets (which have their own effect), clickers, clipboards and forms are supplied*

- *One hour sessions are enough; there is administration to do afterwards. Mr Drake will attend a session to make sure everyone is happy. Include Bank Holidays in Speedwatch sessions: there are more speeding motorists.*

The Chairman asked for other public contributions; there were none at this stage.

The Chairman thanked Mr Drake and reconvened the PC meeting.

2045 **Highways**

part (i) This part item was taken next.

RESOLVED (FG/TH, unanimous) to purchase a laser speed gun at a cost of £185.00
Laura Piper has agreed to be Speedwatch Group co-ordinator.

A

2044 **Planning**

(i) The following application (PC recommendation refusal) is being appealed for non-determination: 2013/2551/OTS Land at Townsend, Faulkland, BA3 5XD. Outline application for the erection of 3 dwellings and garages served off private access at Lower Farm and replacement of agricultural access.

RESOLVED to submit the following to the appeal inspector:

"Following inspection of Mendip's Local Plan 2006-2029 (currently out for consultation on amendments only), considerable weight can now be given to it. Faulkland's housing quota has already been met and no more development should be permitted."

A

(ii) The following decision by Mendip DC was noted.

2014/0482/HSE Ashgrove, Grove Lane Faulkland Frome Somerset BA3 5UU.
Erection of a double garage. Approved.

2045 **Highways**

balance (ii) Councillors considered a request for horse drawn carriage signs on the A366. It was felt that signs specifically for carriages were not the best option.

RESOLVED to ask Somerset Highways to erect two signs saying 'Slow, horses', one at Tuckers Grave, one at Ruckley Ford.

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Highways also to be asked if the layby in the centre of Faulkland is Highways land and if so if it will be resurfaced.

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(iii) It was noted that:

- SCC Highways have ordered a replacement for the fire-damaged sign at Terry Hill Crossroads.
- SCC Highways confirm that the Faulkland to Terry Hill section is due to be surface dressed in July. The surface of the Faulkland to Tuckers Grave section is still too soft after scraping and will be allowed to harden before being surface dressed in 2015.

2046 **Village green, playing field and allotments**

(i) **Village Green**

- Cllr Hucker will talk to a resident living beside the Green to gauge reaction to his proposal to lay a parking mat (through which grass would grow) a car's width along the bottom of the green and a car's length down the far side. If reaction is favourable he will obtain costings for the PC to consider.
- Cllr Hall had met James Nash on site and Mr Nash's quote for tree pruning was awaited. The Clerk would meet Charlie Sammler the next morning, 10/7/14, to obtain another quote.

A TH

(ii) **Playing field**

- The annual play equipment inspection had been ordered at a cost of £100 + VAT.
- The concrete swing foundations had been removed, except for one to anchor the picnic table and benches, which Cllr Green will erect, assisted by Cllrs Hucker and Hall.
- Cllr Hucker considered that the concrete base of the former changing rooms is suitable for a skateboard area, if a ramp could be built up to it.

A FG,
TH, AH

(iii) **Allotments**

The annual rent of £150 had been charged to the allotment holders.

Cllr Hall said there were currently only two allotment holders, one of whom has done no work this year but intends to next year. The other plot is in poor condition. He suggested there were two courses of action:

- To get the land into a decent state so it can be worked.
- To prepare to return the land to the Ammerdown Estate.

He also suggested spraying with Roundup.

To be an August agenda item.

2047 **Notice board**

Cllr Curtis had offered to make a notice board over the winter to go outside Hemington Primary School. This was agreed. Cllr Curtis to be thanked.

2048 **Finance**

(i) Forms to add Cllr Hall to the list of cheque signatories were completed.

(ii) **RESOLVED** (PR/FG, unanimous) to pay the following items:

R. Campbell – refund of allotment rent £150.00

R. Watts – agreed work at Faulkland Playing Field £72.00

Staff salaries July 2014

2049 **Correspondence and reports**

(i) **Correspondence**

Councillors noted the following correspondence and information received since the meeting of 11/06/14. No actions were identified.

MDC – Statement that main modifications to local plan are available for inspection

NatWest – interest rate on business reserve a/c now 0.25%

Clerks and Councils Direct July 2014

(ii) **Reports**

- The hedge at Faulkland playing field needs cutting; Francis Bros to be asked
- Cllr Hall said that the barbecue and disco on Faulkland Green on 13/06/14 had been a great success. The village hall committee, Peter Simper and Gilly O'Connor to be thanked.
- Cllr Hall said that the closure of the shop brought into question the status of Faulkland as a Secondary Village. Mendip's planning policy team to be asked to consider changing this status.
- A 'footpath' sign had wrongly been erected on the bridleway (old county road) behind Faulkland Green. Rights of Way to be consulted.
- The grass at the corners at Terry Hill crossroads and outside Wild Orchard, was obscuring motorists' vision. Highways to be asked to cut it back.

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Next meeting

Wednesday 13 August 2014, 7.30pm, Faulkland Village Hall.

Agenda to include 'Better ways of communicating with the public'.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.40pm.

AA Andrew Hall