

HEMINGTON, HARDINGTON & FOXCOTE PARISH COUNCIL

MENDIP DISTRICT OF THE COUNTY OF SOMERSET

****DRAFT**** MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

held at 7.30pm on Wednesday 10th March 2021 (Remote Meeting - held over zoom & telephone)

COUNCILLORS PRESENT: M Corney (Chairman), V Curtis, M Francis, F Green and A Hucker (Vice Chairman).

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: District Councillor Alison Barkshire and J Howell (Clerk).

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was none.

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

03/20-21:125 WELCOME & APOLOGIES

The Chairman welcomed members to the meeting.

03/20-21:126 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none.

03/20-21:127 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

RESOLVED: The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of 10th February 2021 were approved as a correct record and agreement given for them to be signed by the Chairman.

03/20-21:128 PARISH COUNCIL VACANCY

Members note the vacancy. Clerk has requested an official notice of vacancy from Mendip District Council. (Now published on 12th March 2021). If no request for a poll has been received within 14 days, expressions of interest will be invited for co-option.

03/20-21:129 REPORTS

- a. The District Councillor Alison Barkshire provided a report. Highlights included:
 - Financial challenges for MDC as a result of coronavirus – income from carparking etc is down. Deficit to be covered by reserves and Council Tax is to increase for the 2021/22 financial year.
 - Council elections cancelled but the PCC election is to go ahead.
 - Mendip request to pilot universal basic income.
- a. The Chairman provided a report/update.

Review of speeding to be covered later in the meeting. Results both terrifying and sobering. TK paint has been dispatched. Invoice to follow. Letter relating to the duck sign – members to progress.
- b. The Clerk gave a short verbal report. Items included:
 - Parish Council website & speeding – information from the Police: <http://www.avonandsomerset.police.uk/SpeedingQuestions> (Parish Council website).
 - Correspondence – Public right of way enquiry.
 - Correspondence - Fly the Flag for Somerset Day.
 - Correspondence – Post Office grant enquiry.
 - Police: Mendip East Newsletter – March 2021.
 - Mendip District Council: Calendar of Public Meetings 2021-22.
 - SALC: Local public rights of way network.
 - New Planning Application – this will be dealt with under delegated powers.

The following draft minutes will be considered for approval at the next meeting of the Parish Council.

03/20-21:130 **PLANNING**

- a. There were no planning decisions from MDC.
b. Members were asked to consider the following Planning Application:

Planning Application	Location	Proposal
2021/0405/HSE	Mulberry House, High Street, Faulkland	Retrospective application to regularise position property curtilage.

The District Cllr reported that she had received a complaint from a resident. Members to walk the route / check details of complaint.

RESOLVED: The Parish Council will respond to this planning application using delegated powers.

- c. Members note the Norton St Philip Neighbourhood Plan
Publication of further modifications to the Norton St Philip Neighbourhood Plan. Comments are invited on the proposed further modification. The consultation will run between Wednesday 3rd March 2021 and Wednesday 14th April 2021. Documents are available on the Council's website www.mendip.gov.uk/neighbourhoodplanning

03/20-21:131 **POST BOX TURNER'S TOWER**

Request for the post box to be replaced. Update: Royal Mail are investigating. No further update.

03/20-21:132 **HIGHWAYS**

- a. The Chairman provided an update outlining measures already taken to tackle speeding in the parish
Actions in hand:
- Meeting request with Neighbourhood Policing Team: PC Toni Lines and PCSO Daniel Beck.
 - The Chairman has met with PCSO Daniel Beck, further meeting with PC Toni Lines to follow.
 - The Chairman provided a report: latest AutoSpeed Watch data. Report to be published on the Parish Council website and the Chairman will provide a quarterly report. 8,048 speeding offences recorded in excess of 38mph. 16 vehicles over 20 instances. 1 vehicle recorded 65 times in Faulkland and Norton St Philips. Clerk to liaise with the Police. Average 50mph for the last 6 months. Vote of thanks to Martin Tovey.

RESOLVED: Parish Council to publish AutoSpeed Watch report on a quarterly basis.

- b. Lorries in Laverton
Email correspondence to Somerset County Council copying in the Parish Council reference lorries in Laverton. Chairman to liaise with Woolverton and Norton St Philip PCs.

03/20-21:133 **TREE PLANTING INITIATIVE**

Order has been withdrawn due to the late spring delivery (resolved February 2021 PCM). The Clerk reported that the Parish Council will need to re-apply for Autumn delivery. Application window for November deliveries from late-April (and it will remain open until late-August). PC to revisit in April PCM with a view to application to be submitted for Autumn 2021 delivery.

03/20-21:134 **FINANCES**

- a. **RESOLVED: The Parish Council approved the payment schedule for March 2021.**

Cheque	Paid to	Amount
1180	Mrs J Howell Basic pay, phone, work from home expense, printer ink. Zoom professional.	£303.78
1181	Faulkland Village Hall Committee VillageGuard insurance for Faulkland Village Hall (1/6/20 - 31/5/21)	£691.99
1182	Savills Faulkland Playing Field rental 25/03/2021 - 24/03/2022	£125.00
Total payments for March 2021		£1,120.77

- b. **RESOLVED: The Parish Council approved the latest financial statement. (Bank reconciliation to 31/02/2021 - £8,600.58).**
c. The Clerk reported VAT refund submitted for £308.18.

The following draft minutes will be considered for approval at the next meeting of the Parish Council.

03/20-21:135 **INTERNAL AUDIT**

The Clerk reported on arrangements for the 2020/21 internal audit. Cheques, payment schedules and bank reconciliations have been signed socially distanced in all weathers and there has been no opportunity to undertake the check and test / dip sampling that would have gone ahead prior to coronavirus restrictions. Monthly reports provided.

03/20-21:136 **GRASS CUTTING CONTRACT**

RESOLVED: The Parish Council approved the quotation from Idverde for the 3yr contract supplied at £1,691.93 per year for 3 years (2021\22, 2022\23 and 2023\24).

03/20-21:137 **VILLAGE CLEAN UP DAY – MARCH 2021**

Members discussed plans for the Village Clean Up Day, with support from MDC who provide bags etc and arrange the pick-up of the rubbish bags. (Decision deferred from previous PCM due to Coronavirus). Cllr Tony Hucker has offered to provide litter pickers for those who wish to undertake litter picks individually and these will be left outside Cllr Hucker's house in March. Clerk to raise litter from Frome to Radstock Rd with SCC.

RESOLVED: The Parish Council defer item to Autumn due to coronavirus.

03/20-21:138 **SOMERSET UNITARISATION**

Residents and businesses in Somerset are currently served by a two-tier system of local government. Somerset County Council is responsible for services such as adult and children's social care, maintaining roads and libraries, and the District Councils – Mendip, Sedgemoor, Somerset West and Taunton and South Somerset - are responsible for services such as rubbish collection, housing and planning and environmental health. The Secretary of State received two proposals from councils in Somerset: The four district councils - Mendip, Sedgemoor, Somerset West and Taunton and South Somerset – jointly submitted a proposal for two unitary councils: Eastern Somerset comprising the area covered by Mendip and South Somerset District Councils and Western Somerset comprising area covered by Sedgemoor and Somerset West & Taunton District Councils. Somerset County Council submitted a proposal for a single unitary council for the area of Somerset County. You can respond to one or both proposals.

Secretary of State is required to consult on proposals and views are invited by of all those interested in these proposals, including local residents, town and parish councils, businesses, and the voluntary sector. Please use the link <https://consult.communities.gov.uk/governance-reform-and-democracy/somerset/> to respond to the consultation, or you can email your response to the questions in this consultation to unitaryconsultation@communities.gov.uk

RESOLVED: Parish Council response to be collated by the Chairman / Clerk. Comments from members requested by 28th March 2021.

03/20-21:139 **MENDIP LOCAL PLAN PART II: Sites and Policies**

The Chairman provided an update. Consultation on Additional Main Modifications. The consultation will be open from Tuesday 9th February and close at 5pm Monday 22nd March 2021.

03/20-21:140 **CENSUS 2021**

Members noted the 2021 census. The census will take place on 21st March 2021. It is a once-in-a-decade opportunity to gather a detailed 'snapshot' of the population of Somerset and its characteristics. The information collected is used in planning and funding local services in our area, such as health, education, and transport. You can find out more here:

<https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/UKONS/bulletins/2c0a642>

03/20-21:141 **SOMERSET'S NEW JOINT STRATEGIC NEEDS ASSESSMENT (JSNA)**

Somerset: Our County 2019/20

The Clerks introduced that the JSNA seeks to investigate the impact of climate change on health and wellbeing to the county and ways this could be mitigated. You can find out more here:

<http://www.somersetintelligence.org.uk/jsna/>

03/20-21:142 **CORONAVIRUS**

Latest advice / information. No further update on whether remote meetings will be extended past May 2021. Await further update. Potential for the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council to take place in May before the current coronavirus legislation expires if required.

The following draft minutes will be considered for approval at the next meeting of the Parish Council.

03/20-21:143 **INFORMATION / ITEMS TO RAISE FOR CONSIDERATION AT THE NEXT MEETING**

- Communications strategy (Parish Council website, social media, and other updates).
- Potholes and dog mess - Grove Lane.
- 'Quiet Lanes' Legislation – raised by District Cllr. MDC are looking to develop a network of paths designated as being a quiet lane identified for walkers and cyclists. Members to give the initiative some thought for the next meeting.

03/20-21:144 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Members noted the next meeting of the Parish Council will take place at 7.30pm on Wednesday 14th April 2021. There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting. The Chairman thanked members for attending.

These minutes are in draft form and will be considered for approval at the next Parish Council Meeting.

Minutes are available on the Parish Council website.