

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 5th May 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, J Howell (Clerk) and one resident.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was none.

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

- 05/21-22:001. **ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN**
RESOLVED: The Parish Council elected Mark Corney as Chairman for this municipal year.
The Chairman will be invited to formally subscribe a declaration of acceptance of that office.
- 05/21-22:002. **ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRMAN**
RESOLVED: The Parish Council elected Tony Hucker as Vice Chairman for this municipal year.
The Vice Chairman will be invited to formally subscribe a declaration of acceptance of that office.
- 05/21-22:003. **WELCOME & APOLOGIES**
The Chairman welcomed members and one resident to the meeting.
- 05/21-22:004. **PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP & VACANCY**
No updated Register of Interests were provided.
Members reviewed expressions of interest for the Parish Council Vacancy.
RESOLVED: The Parish Council co-opted Martin Hanley as a Councillor to Hemington, Hardington and Foxcote Parish Council.
- 05/21-22:005. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**
Cllr F Green declared an interest in agenda item 12.c. Planning Application 2021/0763/FUL. Cllr Green advised that he would not take part in any discussion nor vote on this matter.
- 05/21-22:006. **CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**
RESOLVED: The Parish Council approved the minutes of the ordinary Parish Council Meeting of 10th March 2021 as a correct record and agreement given for them to be signed by the Chairman.
- 05/21-22:007. **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT / INTRODUCTION**
The Chairman provided a short report. Highlights included:
- Thanks to members and the Clerk for getting to grips with remote meetings.
 - Village Hall Cttee paying insurance for this financial year. The Parish Council gave thanks.
 - AutoSpeedWatch – 600 speeding offences per week on average.

05/21-22:008. **DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**

The District Cllr Alison Barkshire provided a short report. MDC have faced challenged due to Covid-19 over the past year and staff have been diverted to the vaccination programme / services to deliver business grants. Plans to poll residents to determine which Unitary solution is preferred. The Chairman asked for support in progressing an enforcement matter. Cllr Barkshire will liaise with Planning Enforcement.

05/21-22:009. **CLERK'S REPORT**

The Clerk provided a brief verbal report. Items included: Request to MDC for litter pick Frome to Radstock Rd. Fly tipping and action taken. Correspondence: Play Area, Post Box – Turners Tower. Request with Royal Mail to replace stolen post box.

05/21-22:0010. **INTERNAL CONTROL / OPERATING PROCEDURES**

- a. RESOLVED: The Parish Council approved the following policies / operating procedures as fit for purpose:
- Standing Orders.
 - Financial Regulations.
 - Asset Register.
 - Risk Assessment / Risk Management Schedule.
- b. RESOLVED: The Parish Council confirmed compliance with the Data Protection Act 2018, Freedom of Information Act 2000 and also confirmed that there have been no FOI requests for the 2020/21 financial year.
- c. Members briefly discussed a communications strategy. The Parish Council now have a use friendly website which is simple to update. This is the main media used for Parish Council news / updates as well as statutory notices and publications.

05/21-22:0011. **INSURANCE**

RESOLVED: The Parish Council approved insurance renewal starting 1st June 2021 - 5-year long-term agreement fixed at £430.97 per year with Zurich Municipal.

05/21-22:0012. **PLANNING**

- a. There were no planning decisions to note from MDC.
- b. Members noted the Planning responses made by Parish Council to MDC using delegated powers.

Planning Application	Location	Proposal and PC response
2021/0405/HSE	Mulberry House, High Street, Faulkland	Retrospective application to regularise position property curtilage. PC response: <u>recommend refusal</u>
2021/0438/HSE	Marrow Pole House Chickwell Lane To Row Lane Hemington	Conversion of garage and store to yoga studio, with raising of roof line. PC response: <u>recommend approval</u>
2021/0533/HSE	3 Wild Orchard Faulkland To Norton St Philip Road Faulkland	Proposed first floor extension, associated alterations to roof and exterior cladding. PC response: <u>no objection</u>

- c. Members were asked to consider the following Planning Application:

Planning Application	Location	Proposal & deadline for response to MDC
2021/0763/FUL	Somerset Lavender Horse Pond Farm Bishop Street, Faulkland.	Erection of shop E(a), workshop E(c)(iii) and Cafe E(b). Deadline: 15th May 2021

RESOLVED: The Parish Council recommended approval of Planning Application 2021/0763/FUL.

05/21-22:0013. **HIGHWAYS**

- a. Measures to tackle speeding in the parish
- The Chairman summarised key points from the recent meeting with PC Toni Lines from the Neighbourhood Policing Team. (A report had been circulated).
 - The Chairman reported he would be supplying a regular summary report using AutoSpeedWatch. PC Lines has confirmed that requests for double white lines/reduction of speed limit is not a Police matter and SCC approach Police for views of recommended changes once a request has been made from Parish Council and suitability is being assessed.

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

RESOLVED: The Parish Council will approach District Cllr, County Cllr and Local MP for support to tackle speeding in the village to include proposals to include double white lines/reduction of speed limit. The Chairman will draft a letter.

- b. Potholes and dog mess reported at Grove Lane. Clerk to log with SCC for repair. Cllr to supply the Clerk with details.

05/21-22:0014. **PLAY AREA**

- a. Members discussed the Play Area – currently closed. This included a condition report / risk assessment from Cllr Hucker. Further action required was considered.
RESOLVED: The Parish Council agreed to remove Play Area equipment including one tall tower and rope wall. A contingency budget of £500 was approved. Members arranged to meet on Monday 10th May to examine and plan for removal to ensure safety of those using the Play Area.
- b. Members noted that one quotation has been received and discussed grant funding opportunities. *Quote requests for replacement play equipment have been submitted to five companies.* The Chairman summarised research undertaken in relation to grant funding opportunities.
RESOLVED: That the Chairman/Clerk progress grant funding applications.

05/21-22:0015. **TREE PLANTING INITIATIVE**

Members discussed plans for application to The Woodland Trust for **Working Wood Tree Pack** (105 saplings - (rowan, silver birch, wild cherry, common oak, field maple, grey willow) for Autumn delivery. A Cllr offered that any excess saplings could be planted in the corner field at the bottom of Grove Lane to increase the number of trees in the parish. *Note: Original order withdrawn due to the late spring delivery (resolved February 2021 PCM). The Parish Council need to re-apply for Autumn delivery. Application window for November deliveries from late-April (and it will remain open until late-August).*
The Parish Council confirmed that the Clerk should now apply for Autumn delivery.

05/21-22:0016. **AUTO SPEED WATCH**

RESOLVED: The Parish Council approved renewal of Auto Speed Watch scheme at £296.00 (£148 per unit for 12 months of data connectivity).

05/21-22:0017. **FINANCES**

- a. RESOLVED: The Parish Council approved the payment schedule for April 2021 (contractual so payment made) and for May 2021.

Cheque	Paid to	Amount
1183	Mrs J Howell Basic pay, phone, work from home expense, printer ink. Zoom professional.	£303.78
Total payments April 2021 reported to PC May 2021		£303.78

Cheque	Paid to	Amount
1184	Mrs J Howell Basic pay, phone, work from home expense, printer ink. Zoom professional.	£303.78
1185	Annual Insurance Premium Item 11	£430.97
1186	AutoSpeedWatch Data connectivity 12 months 2 units	£296.00
Total payments approved May 2021		£1,030.75

- b. The Parish Council approved the latest financial statement. (*Bank reconciliation to 30/04/2021*).
c. Members noted the VAT refund from HMRC - £398.18.

05/21-22:0018. **INTERNAL AUDIT**

The internal audit will take place from 17th May. The AGAR will be presented at the June PCM.

05/21-22:0019. **SOMERSET UNITARISATION**

Members noted the proposal to hold a local poll (referendum) on future of local government in Somerset.

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

The proposal for a local poll to give every elector in Somerset a vote on the two options for the future shape of local government in the county is now to be considered by district councils by 7th May 2021. The proposal recommends the holding of a local poll, with voting online or by post, starting on 18 May and ending on 4 June 2021.

05/21-22:0020. **CORONAVIRUS AND RETURN TO IN PERSON MEETINGS**

The Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020 do not apply to meetings on or after 7 May 2021. The Annual Meeting of the Parish Council is being held a week earlier than usual – on prior to the expiry of regulations that allow remote meetings.

RESOLVED: The Parish Council will hold an in-person meeting in June 2021.

05/21-22:0021. **INFORMATION / ITEMS TO RAISE FOR CONSIDERATION AT THE NEXT MEETING**

- Sign for the new development in Faulkland.
- Licencing matter.

05/21-22:0022. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Parish Council will take place at 7.30pm on Wednesday 9th June 2021 at the Village Hall, Faulkland. 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.