Hemington, Hardington   
& Foxcote Parish Council

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**M I N U T E S**

**Of Hemington, Hardington & Foxcote Parish Council**

**Held on Wednesday 15th December at Faulkland Village Hall**

**Present:** Chair M Corney, Cllrs M Francis, V Curtis, M Hanley, T Hucker

**Also Present:** J Gregory Proper Officer plus 6 members of the public

**Public Participation**

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. Members asked for a view on the sale of land behind Lavender Close. The Chairman indicated this would be briefed later in his report.

**12/21.22 090 Apologies for absence**

Cllr Green gave apologies and the reason was COVID related.

**Resolved: The apology was accepted by the Council**

**12/21.22 091 Declarations of Interest**

Members were asked to advise any Declarations of interest in today’s agenda items or any pecuniary interests in line with Councils’ Code of Conduct.

**Resolved: It was noted that no declarations, pecuniary or otherwise were received.**

**12/21.22 092 Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

To receive the minutes of the meeting held 17th November

**Resolved: Minutes of the previous meeting was signed by the Chairman as a correct record in the presence of the Proper Officer and meeting attendees.**

**12/21.22 093 Reports**

1. **To receive the District Councillors Report**

Non attendance from Cllr Barkshire.

**b. To Receive the Chairman’s Report**

The Chair advised that 100 trees had been planted successfully at the Recreation field, approximately 20 members of the public attended which the Council formally acknowledged their support and help

The Christmas tree would be put up tomorrow in time for Carols on Friday at 6.30pm

Martin Tovey was stepping down with his work with AutospeedWatch and has been extremely instrumental in his work with weekly reporting and with a system that is being adopted by other constabulary’s locally and will only be a matter of time before its adopted by Avon & Somerset. It was noted that there had been a drop in speeding from late summer however a lot may be contributed to the time of year but was a different trend to previous. Cllr Hanley and the Clerk would be looking at the role to see what is involved.

In respect of Lavender Close we are very aware of the Savills sign at the site, there is also a pre-planning application received by Mendip which MDC does not have to advise council’s of because its commercially sensitive. We know we are limited to 20 new house in Faulkland as part of the Local plan and are already over-prescribed. Of note is a particularly large badger sett along the west side and according to Natural England there can be no development within 30m of active badgers so this may prevent access to the site. However the Council are not in favour of any further development and would be watching with interest. The next notable date was the end of January when tenders were due in.

In relation to traffic Mike Pullin has orally indicated he would attend one of our meetings. In order to get the best from this a list of discussion items would be presented. County Councillor Phillip Ham would also be asked to attend.

The Freedom of Information request was back and it may be necessary to change the wording as there was contradicting figures to those previously advised with around ¼ of the accidents not reported.

**c. To Receive the Clerk’s Report**

The Clerk advised the following:

Actions from the previous meeting had been instigated

**12/21.22 094 Planning Applications for Consideration**

To consider the following applications:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 2021/2508 | Erection of front extension to existing garage | 3 Lavender Close, Faulkland | Deadline 14.12.21 |

**Resolved: This was pre-circulated with the Council advising there was no objection**

**12/21.22 095 Play Area**

Quotations ranging from circa 20k to 35k had been received. It was suggested to defer to January meeting and consider a sub-committee to progress

**Resolved: It was agreed to defer discussions and consider sub-committee at the January meeting.**

Septic Tank lid there had been no progress but Cllr Curtis would measure and provide quotations

**Resolved: Cllr Curtis to progress quotations for the next meeting.**

General inspections of the play area had been carried out and there was nothing to report.

**12/21.22 096 Finances**

The following payment schedule was agreed:

Table

Description automatically generated with medium confidence

Bank Reconciliation as at 31st October indicated £9448.31 in the current account, £3504.06 in the business reserve with £530.20 in unpaid cheques.

The move to online banking wasn’t proving to be a particularly smooth process, progress was being made albeit slow due to technical issues and lack of support. A possible visit to the local branch was suggested

We have received a resignation from Bridget Bowen, the auditor. A new auditor would need to be sourced to look at accounts. If the meeting knew of anyone in the village suitable to get in touch with the Chair.

The precept was discussed and the Clerk gave a brief of the financial situation but even by raising the precept would need to have considerable grant funding for the play park if it was to go ahead at the costs provided.

**Resolved: The meeting agreed to raise the precept to £14569**

**12/21.22 097 Traffic/Highways**

The “big” dog bin for Bishop Street had been delivered and Cllr Curtis would install this and move the new one to Grove Road.

**Resolved: The Clerk would chase Mendip for the new dog bin pick up in Grove Road.**

Larger AutoSpeedWatch signage had been installed and it was felt that this did make a big difference however general road signage was still poor and the Clerk would chase Highways as an inspection was advised.

**Resolved: Clerk to follow up with Highways**

**12/21.22 097 Correspondence**

The following had been circulated to members prior to the meeting

Hassage Grit Bin

Public Announcement Re Avian Flu

Bridget Bowen resignation as Internal Auditor

Somerset SCO draft text reference LGA

**Resolved: Noted and understood by members**

**12/21.22 098 Information / Items to Raise for consideration at the next meeting**

Play park Sub-committee and quotations to be added to the next agenda

**Resolved: Clerk to add to January Agenda.**

**12/21.22 098 Any Other Business**

Cllr Curtis asked reference hedge at Lansdown view . The Clerk advised that Aster homes had been contacted but a follow up could be made

**Resolved: Clerk to follow up with Aster Homes**

Cllr Hucker stated that Bristol Water had marked the road outside his house as a leak of 200 litres a day had been identified there would be traffic lights as a result.

Following previous calls of the work carried out by Martin Tovey it was proposed, seconded and agreed that a token of appreciation be sought and presented.

**Resolved: Chair to source an appropriate gift**

Cllr Hucker said that a litter bin at the layby towards Norton St Philip would be useful and welcomed addition as the one already there was full and overflowing.

**Resolved: Clerk to source bins and prices ahead of next meeting**

**12/21.22 099 Date of next Meeting**

The next meeting would be held on the 12th January at Faulkland Village Hall

**12/21.22 100 Close**

The Chairman thanked all those present for their time and wished everyone a safe and Merry Christmas.

Meeting closed at 8.25pm

A signed copy of the minutes can be viewed by arrangement via the Parish Clerk and on its website.