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 13th July 2022 7.30pm at Faulkland Village Hall**

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

**Also Present:** County and DistrictCllrs B Clarke and A Berkshire**,** J Gregory Proper Officer plus 5 members of the public

**Public Participation**

A question was made of the mobile library service, Clerk to investigate and respond.

**07/22.23 001 Apologies for absence**

Cllr Corney gave apologies as he was called away on a medical emergency and Cllr Francis was swamped with farming at this time of year

**Resolved: Apologies noted and, in the circumstances, accepted**

**07/22.23 002 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.**

**07/22.23 003 Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

To receive the minutes of the meeting held 8th June

**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 with the amendment to deletion of the following “Cllr Curtis had installed the septic tank lid”**

**07/22.23 004 Reports**

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

Welcome was expressed to Barry Clarke, Cllr Clarke was our representative from the new Unitary authority along with Cllr Philip Ham.

Cllr Berkshire gave an update on the position with the new Unitary authority and stated that there was a shortfall originally of 28 million however with the coming together of the 5 district councils this deficit had almost doubled. It was the intention to get the essentials in place for a year from now and optimise by 2025.

Mendip were installing 23 electric car charging points notably 6 in Frome.

Some interesting data was provided as Somerset had purchased new street cleaners and as a result 120 tonnes more rubbish was collected off the streets as a result.

There had been a population increase of 10.1% above the national average in Somerset. With over 65s at 25% in Somerset being 7% higher than the national average which would impact on services such as health and hospitals.

There was a new website launched for journey planning across the County taking into consideration not only public transport but also car share schemes, charity and community transport options. Clerk would post this detail on the website

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

With Cllr Corney not in attendance no report was given.

**07/22.23 005 Planning Applications for Consideration**

No planning updates or considerations were needed.

**07/22.23 006 Play Area**

Cllr Hucker stated that the playground needed urgent attention. Looking back he noted that the playground was once a vibrant space, there was lots of different equipment, crawl through tunnels, climbing areas etc however in the Parish Plan in 2007 it was noted as being in poor condition, it has deteriorated badly in recent months and the current spell of hot weather has caused further damage (photographs circulated). It was no longer functionable, hazards noted from the photos and would need to be removed with exceptions. There was some question over whether the Council could self build and the Clerk would investigate with the insurance provider what the legal requirement would be. Grants would need to be applied for but we would need to know what equipment the children of the village wanted and perhaps Hemington school could help in this regard. District and County Councillors suggesting the Clerk contact both Kilmersdon and Doulting Clerks has they have both had recent experiences with play areas and grant funding.

**Resolved: It was agreed to address urgent matters after the meeting with a view to all but the tractor being repaired and removed**.

Actions: Clerk to investigate insurance requirement, Hemington School questionnaire, playground inspection, grant funding, contact with other Clerks re experiences.

Cllr Curtis would address the septic tank lid which had been purchased.

**07/22.23 007 Finances**

The following payment schedule was agreed:

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**Resolved: Payment schedule agreed**

There had been no payments during May so the Cashbook figure 30.05.22 £24,402.82 remained the same. Bank statements had not been received in time for a bank reconciliation ahead of the agenda being issued.

**07/22.23 008 Traffic/Highways/other**

Cllr Corney had some information on VAS and SID’s but was not in attendance to provide detail.

Cllr Hucker stated that there had been a collision outside of the hairdressers, one of many minor prangs in this area and it appears that the piece of road from the Inn to the Green has been contentious for some time. On researching previous minutes in September 2015 there was a request to Highways to provide white gutter lines and no middle white line to create the illusion of a narrower road. In June 2017 a request not to reinstate the white line in the same area and in August 2018 a request to remove the white line following data provided of faster speeds since its installation.

**Resolved: It was agreed to approach Highways regarding this point and re-open negotiations regarding the white line removal and installation of gutter lines.**

**07/22.23 009 Correspondence**

Webinars were available from Somerset Sustainable Land Management Series - Mendip District Council is working in partnership with The Farm Carbon Toolkit looking at better understanding agricultural emissions and mitigation measures whilst aimed at Farmers anyone could attend for better understanding. The Clerk would post details on the website.

The Clerk reported that feedback on Lavender Close was slow, numbers were low but there was a theme in most of the comments that made reference to the badger sett and its closure. Members in attendance were asked to encourage neighbours etc to comment.

**07/22.23 010 Information / Items to Raise for consideration at the next meeting**

Play park progress

Information on SIDs etc

**07/22.23 011 Any Other Business**

The post box at Turners Tower had finally been replaced.

Cllr Clarke stated that there were blood pressure monitors available for use.

LCN’s were encouraged for the Council to become involved with and for the rural communities to speak out on what they wanted to see included in meetings.

There had been 3.8million invested into healthcare in Somerset – a wide ranging pool of funding from people struggling with energy costs, those not able to get online to claim and free school lunches. The clerk would be sent some information for posting on the website.

Cllr Hucker stated that there were potholes on the road from Tuckers Grave to the Knoll along the side of the road. Photos would be sent to the Clerk to progress with Highways.

**07/22.23.012 Date of next Meeting**

The next meeting would be held on the 11th August at 7.30pm

**07/22.23 013 Close**

The Chairman thanked all those present for their time and contribution.

Meeting closed at 815pm

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