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 9th November 2022 at Faulkland Village Hall**

**Present:** Chair M Corney Cllrs T Hucker F Green, M Francis

**Also Present:** County Councillor Clarke,District Cllr A Berkshire, J Gregory Proper Officer plus 2 members of the public

**Public Participation**

Enquiries were made of Lavender Close development but no communication or progress was known.

Parking was enquired about in relation to the terraced housing on the north side of the High Street. The chair responded that residents had priority but nothing was enforceable.

Clerk to check email address for Parish News as abridged versions of the minutes were not being printed.

**11/22.23 001 Apologies for absence**

Cllr Hanley had given apologies for a work commitment and Cllr Curtis had travel delays.

**Resolved; Apologies noted and in the circumstances absence authorised.**

**11/22.23 002 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.**

**11/22.23 003 Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

To receive the minutes of the meeting held 12th October 2022

**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.**

**11/22.23 004 Reports**

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

Cllr Berkshire stated that work in Unitary behind the scenes was taking longer than expected. A consultation regarding MP boundaries was live noting that Frome had dropped Somerton but was proposed to include Radstock.

County Cllr Clarke stated that he had sent the Clerk some information on grant funding which the Clerk confirmed had been received.

County Cllr Ham was intending to speak with Sara Davis at Traffic regarding the issue with white lines either Friday or this Monday. The clerk confirmed that no further correspondence had been received from Cllr Ham or Sara Davis. The Chair stated that this would be raised as an agenda point later in the meeting.

The LCN may have a boundary sometime around April 23. Unfortunately there were delays following the appointment of the CEO. The consultation outcome was that no one really like any of the given options.

It was muted that because of the unitary shortfall that potential savings could be made with parishes taking some responsibility however parishes felt generally that it was unfair to burden them even more. It was reported that precept setting should continue as normal despite talk in the press of the abandoning the price cap.

1. Chairman’s report

What can only be described as a “battle” continues with Natwest Bank regarding online access. However printed forms are being sent to complete the process. The clerk noted that we have already completed and sent one set of forms!

An action point for the Chair was to contact Ashley Reay – Co-ordinator of Speedwatch to ask how Avon and Somerset Constabulary would be acting on data. With regard to stats for ASM there was a slight drop in the number of speeders. Data would hopefully be provided at the next meeting.

The Vice Chair had attended a Planning Forum organised by MDC which covered how they would work under Unitary. It was noted that MDC planning department would continue as normal with local guidance on economic, sustainability etc being incorporated into a Unitary plan eventually. Ultimately there would be no change for the parish in the immediate future but considerations were being made for planning revisions to take place within the next 5 years.

**11/22.23 005 Planning Applications for Consideration**

**Erection of 1no. dwellinghouse**

Land At 373747 154405 High Street Faulkland Frome Somerset

Application Number:2022/1714/FUL

**Representations had been made to enforcement regarding a mini digger on site that appeared to have dug footings / drainage. Cllr Berkshire said that she had also made representations given the proximity of the listed building to the Conservation Officer.**

**11/22.23 006 Play Area**

Analysis of the children’s survey was discussed noting the top responses covering climbing, running, exploring and places to chat. Play equipment from Creative Play was discussed and with VAT would be a total of £14,400 – this was the suggested aim. The equipment covered toddler and child double swing, climber tower with slide and a rocker in the shape of a dragon. Concern was expressed regarding quality however given the priority of the work needed there had to be a starting point. Fencing was also needed and would be an extra. It was agreed to progress with the equipment and get that in situ then look at fencing and any other requirements. Various grant awarding bodies was discussed which the Clerk would explore.

**Action: Clerk to start grant applications**

**Resolved: Cost of £14400 for play park to be spent – using 5k precept increase and grant funding**

**11/22.23 007 Finances**

The following payment schedule was agreed:

Table

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**Resolved: Payment schedule agreed**

Balance on Accounts as at 30.09.22 £20554.03 – the Statement had not been received for October so again we were working a month behind.

**11/22.23 008 Traffic/Highways/other**

The clerk stated that a final email to Sara Davis had been sent with the implications of non-response. Cllr Clarke reiterated his previous statement that Cllr Ham was due to make contact. The Chair enforced by other members of the Council felt that the total disregard for support and uncourteous non-response over an extended period was not acceptable and felt the need to escalate. Cllr Clarke said that this would need to go to the Monitoring Officer at Mendip (Scott Aldridge).

**Action: Chair to liaise with Clerk regarding complaint**

As previously stated Ashley Reay would be asked to supply stats in relation to Avon and Somerset Constabulary and Autospeed Watch summons / warnings etc.

**11/22.23 009 Correspondence**

The post office was again considered. Cllr Berkshire had kindly contacted Mells Sub Post Office who reported that just 1 person was using the facility but that they wanted to keep it open. User experience of the PO wasn’t good and the fact they don’t use the advertising board or turn up every week wasn’t helpful.

**Action: Agreed to revisit with all council members in attendance.**

**11/22.23 010 Information / Items to Raise for consideration at the next meeting**

Post office - Review of Usage

ASW – Stats from Ashley Rae

Grant giving application update

**11/22.23 011 Any Other Business**

The Hemington meeting was discussed given the location, turn out and time of year when it was being held consideration was given to moving it to lighter nights. It was felt that unless the residents of Hemington requested a meeting that Faulkland would be the main stage for meetings.

Commercial rubbish was being burnt behind the pub. The Chair would pick this up and speak with the Landlord.

Cllr Green advised the meeting that Andrew Joliffe had recently passed away. This may impact the giving of the Christmas Tree and currently didn’t know what was happening but something to just bear in mind that a new supplier may need sourcing.

A resident of Hassage stated that their grit bin wasn’t level. Cllr Hucker would investigate.

Fly Tipping was still a problem at Lippiatt Hill. The clerk would address and make further representations.

**11/22.23.012 Date of next Meeting**

The next meeting would be held on the 14th December at Faulkland Village Hall.

**11/22.23 013 Close**

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

Meeting closed at 8.15pm

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