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 8th February 2023 at Faulkland Village Hall**

**Present:** Chair M Corney, Cllrs A Hucker, M Hanley, F Green, V Curtis, M Francis

**Also Present:** County Councillor Clarke, District Councillor Berkshire,J Gregory Proper Officer plus 1 member of the public

**Public Participation**

There was nothing raised in the public participation session.

**02/22.23 001 Apologies for absence**

All Parish Councillors were in attendance. County Councillor Ham sent apologies.

**02/22.23 002 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: Cllr Corney advised the meeting that had a historic link with the previous archaeological assessment of today’s Planning Application (Rose Cottage)**

**02/22.23 003 Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

To receive the minutes of the meeting held 11th January 2023

**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.**

**02/22.23 004 Reports**

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

Cllr Clarke advised that SCC projected deficit at the year-end would be 37 million.

The area’s LCN would be meeting tomorrow in Frome at 7pm for those interested.

He reported that he had sent round a request from Phil Ham for the parish to compile their road defects by the end of the month. Cllr Corney would address further under his report.

There was a heating allowance available for those using oil.

Also circulated was notes on the agenda of Governance and Constitution meeting next week. A large document of circa 380 pages, relevant sections included the strategic move to LCN’s and planning into 4 areas of North, South, East and West primarily these were the current districts of Mendip, Sedgemoor etc.

1. **District Councillors Report**

Cllr Berkshire was deeply unhappy with a move by Somerset CC under the new Unitary that any developments above 10 houses would be decided at strategic level. Objectors currently have a 3 minute slot each this would be reduced to 3 minutes in total.

1. Chairman’s report

Following on from County Cllr Clarke’s comment regarding collation of road defects, the Clerk and himself had a drive through arranged for next Wednesday. The Chair also touched on the bad service and the fact we haven’t seen a Highways Inspector from 2017 when indeed the minutes at the time shows that Chris Betty the Highways Officer agreed a number of issues which have not transpired, coupled with correspondence in 2019 regarding speed limits plus our recent requests which have not even been acknowledge it was very unsatisfactory and this will also be included. Cllr Hucker had pictures of potholes which he would send across.

Paint originally ordered approx. 2 years ago for the telephone box was now back in stock. An order had been sent and goods expected shortly.

**02/22.23 005 Planning Applications for Consideration**

2023/0171 Two storey side and rear extension, Rose Cottage, Faulkland.

The application was discussed in detail.

**Resolved: Objection recorded 5 votes against the development, 1 non voter (conflicted) on the grounds that it was a separate building but with a common entrance in effect it was a diagonally linked detached house.**

**02/22.23 006 Play Area**

Cllr Curtis reported that the septic tank lid had been fitted.

The Clerk requested any further ideas for grant applications. We had been given the 3k but ideally wanted this around the 5k mark.

**02/22.23 007 Finances**

The following payment schedule was agreed:

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**Resolved: Payment schedule agreed**

Balance on Accounts as at 31.12.22 £18879.05 no statement received for January as yet.

The Chair advised that he could be free to look at online banking at Natwest, Cllr Hucker also offered support. County Councillor Clarke mentioned Unity Bank. The Clerk explained that this was a great banking system with authorisation controls, however the downside for those with a small precept was the charges around £6 per month. It was agreed to consider this should Natwest prove uneventful.

**02/22.23 008 Traffic/Highways/other**

Elements previously reported under 02/22.23 004(c)

Cllr Hucker reported that the Grit bin at Knoll Crossroads had been moved, with the Clerk reporting that requests for replenishment of the bin had been carried out today.

The Chair suggested that as part of the road defects that we request Hemington Hill be gritted. The School had to close during the recent cold snap because the hill was dangerous.

**02/22.23 009 Correspondence**

Cllr Berkshire had made contact with Mells Sub-Post office the outpost staff was currently on sick leave. As the Parish Council had advertised the consultation on its website and the sporadic nature of the service felt that there was no real benefit to the community.

**Action: Clerk to request ceasing of the Service from 1st April 2023**

**02/22.23 010 Information / Items to Raise for consideration at the next meeting**

**02/22.23 011 Any Other Business**

Annual Litter Pick

**Resolved for 12th March 11am at the Village Hall. Clerk to arrange bags and pickers**

The Faulkland Inn was operating as a shop during opening hours, essentials were welcomed as were the weekend newspapers.

The dog bin on Grove Lane was overflowing. Clerk would address with MDC.

The Clerk advised completion of her Certificate in Local Council Administration (CiLCA) qualification

Cllr Curtis advised that Brian Sevious had a stroke. Brian had served the Parish Council for many years. The Council expressed their best wishes for a speedy recovery.

**02/22.23.012 Date of next Meeting**

The next meeting would be held on the 8th March 2023 at Faulkland Village Hall.

**02/22.23 013 Close**

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

Meeting closed at 8.10pm

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