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 12th April 2023 7.30pm at Faulkland Village Hall**

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

**Also Present:** County Cllr B Clarke**,** J Gregory Proper Officer plus 4 members of the public

**Public Participation**

Residents raised the Apple Tree Cottage application, thanked the Clerk for her work and asked if there was any further update to which there was nothing. County Cllr Clarke being in attendance stated that he would be happy to raise the issue as he was now a member of the new “Planning East” committee. The Clerk agreed to send information supplied by residents along with her own correspondence to County Cllr Clarke.

A resident asked if there was any plans to celebrate the Coronation in the village. Both the Parish Council and Village Hall committee had nothing planned but Cllr Hanley stated that the hall had free rental if anyone wished to set something up.

**23/24 01 Apologies for absence**

Apologies received from County Cllr Ham, Cllr Green had given apologies also but no reason listed

**Resolved: Both apologies were noted**

**23/24 02 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: No declarations received pecuniary or otherwise for tonight’s meeting.**

**23/24 03 Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

To receive the minutes of the meeting held 8th March 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.**

**23/24 04 Reports**

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

County Cllr Clarke stated that he was a new member of the “Planning East” committee for Somerset, with County Cllr Ham a substitute member. Meetings would still be held at the Mendip offices in Shepton Mallet and the offices still contained Planning Officers with some Somerset Planners moving in.

The next LCN date was unknown but when advised County Cllr Clarke encouraged attendance. He was keen to drop “Frome” from the LCN name to encourage more rural take up and at the last meeting there was 6 councillors representing 2 parishes from a total of 18.

County Cllr Ham has had a lengthy meeting with Sara Davis however the outcome of our specific issues was unknown however potholes were talked of generally and how they repair work can be improved

Somerset Unitary finances was at a 24 million deficit.

There was a COVID spring booster available.

A housing support scheme was available for those being discharged from hospital

Slides had been distributed on costs, considerations and process for a 20mph zone however costs, not necessarily from Somerset were in the region of 15k and probably cost prohibitive to a lot of small parishes without a considerable rise in precept.

1. **Chairman’s report**

The Chairman stated that he was absolutely appealed in the non receipt of emails from Sara Davis who appeared to show utter contempt for the village. There was a cursory response from Phil Ham. County Cllr Clarke stated that he cannot make her reply and how you proceed is a matter for you but would speak to County Cllr Ham again tomorrow.

**Resolved: The Council agreed this and for the Clerk to follow up as appropriate**.

Tim Gibbs from ASW stated that there were grants for installation of ASW from Avon and Somerset Constabulary.

**Action: The Chair would supply the Clerk with information so she could investigate whether this grant was applicable to ongoing costs with ASW.**

Avon and Somerset Constabulary have provided a caveat to issuing ASW fines and will only do so where there is a active Community Speedwatch. The Chair has contacted John Blake who was previously involved to try and resurrect the Community group and also try and retrieve the handheld device – which may need recertification. It was felt with the depth of feeling in the village that a Community Speedwatch group would be easy to develop.

**Action: Volunteers to be requested on both the PC Website and Village Facebook.**

**23/24 05 Planning Applications for Consideration:**

2022/2076/OUT Land at Tyning Hill to Faulkland

Outline Planning for the erection of 5no. residential dwellings with details of access.

Given the deadline for response this was circulated to members via email

**Resolved: with the majority decision to recommend REJECTION of this application not least there was insufficient consideration in cutting back the splay.**

2022/2392/FUL Change of Use from agricultural use to residential garden, installation of ground mounted solar panels, Chapel Farm Barn, Knoll Lane, Faulkland

Response date 3rd May

This application was received today and given the deadline for response was circulated for consideration. The matter was discussed in depth and noted the small development which was below ground level.

**Resolved: Agreed unanimously to recommend APPROVAL of the application**

**23/24 06 Play Area**

Septic tank lid needed replacement to a cast iron type rather than pressed steel.

The Clerk had circulated photos of a suggested fencing scheme. Cllr Hucker had marched out the area and was a “U” shape of approx. 60m long by 12m across. This would provide some indication of fencing required.

**Action: Clerk to investigate options and grant funding with Charltons and/or Jacksons**.

As monies was now available via grant and precept, a meeting with Creative Play to be sought.

**Action: Clerk to arrange date and advise…**

Goalposts were considered and the Clerk had made investigations with SASP for funding which would be through the Football Foundation. This had a requirement for a “turn up and play” session which would need organising. Cllr Hucker felt that the structure just needed straightening and painting – the latter being part of a further issue discussed under AOB

**23/24 07 Finances**

The following payment schedule was agreed:

Timeline

Description automatically generated

**Resolved: Payment schedule agreed**

Balance on Accounts as at 28.02.23 £18243.85.

The Clerk advised that YE accounts had not been finalised not least as the business reserve statement which included the final interest payment had not been received. A visit to Natwest had indicated the final interest payment and she confirmed that the 5k grant from Awards for All had been paid. She felt the accounts would be passed to the Auditor in the next week and available for signing off with the AGAR at the May meeting.

**23/24 08 Traffic/Highways/other**

Covered under Chairs Report 23/24 04b

Cllr Hucker had received correspondence from a number of residents at Cherry Garden Lane regarding an articulated lorry getting stuck for 24 hours. There was considerable damage in removing the vehicle to hedges, walls, verges. The residents were not specific on what action they wanted however wanted to know what could be done to avoid similar situations in the future. It was felt that Police may have been involved and perhaps seeking their views and/or recommendations would be the first step.

**Action: Clerk to determine Police involvement and views.**

**23/24 09 Correspondence**

Training opportunities available for Councillors

**Action: Clerk to circulate information**

The Clerk advised that she had received her CiLCA qualification and certificate.

Congratulations received from members present.

**23/24 10 Information / Items to Raise for consideration at the next meeting**

Action points to be transferred to the next meeting agenda

**23/24 11 Any Other Business**

Cllr Hucker stated that he felt that a carry forward of matters needed to be included in the next months agenda. For some years items get missed off and then lost. An example being that the goalposts were due to be painted – this was agreed but the action then lost so its not understood if the matter was progressed, completed or missed.

**Resolved: To keep a carry forward of items for future meetings until sign off complete.**

The Chair advised that he would like to purchase a new Union Jack flag for the green in time for the Coronation. Prices were around £50.

**Resolved: The meeting unanimously agreed this request**

**23/24 12 Date of next Meeting**

Due to Clerk availability the next meeting would be 24th May with the Annual Parish Meeting followed by the Annual Meeting of Council.

**Action: Clerk to confirm date with Hall Administrator**

**23/24 13 Close**

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

Meeting closed at 8.20pm

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