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 14th June 2023 7.30pm at Faulkland Village Hall**

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

**Also Present:** J Gregory Proper Officer plus 5 members of the public

**Public Participation**

Chris Cloak Parish Warden with Hardington Vale PCC requested that the meeting consider a grant of £500 to Hemington Church. He stated this was a vital asset to the community. Currently other Parish Councils neighbouring Hemington support its upkeep. This item was considered under item 23/24 32h.

Ian Biggerstaff asked the situation with regard to the TAG group which was also listed under 23/24 32g.

**23/24 29 Apologies for absence**

Apologies received from County Cllr Clarke who was attending Coleford PC tonight. Cllr Corney had a work commitment .

**Resolved: Both apologies were noted and in the case of Cllr Corney apologies were accepted**

**23/24 30 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 31 Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

To receive the minutes of the meeting held 24th May 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 32 Matters Arising**

1. Septic Tank Lid – Ongoing. Non in stock Cllr Hucker sourcing suppliers
2. Traffic Matters including complaint – Response received – continuing agenda item to look at whether the actions are carried out. It appears that there was a break down in communications however the following aspects would be dealt with this financial year:

Centre white line removal through the village – on a programme of 2023/24 works. Extent of which is on the A366 from its junctions with Tyning Hill to Lower Farm.

Junction refurbishment – on a programme.

Refurbishment of various SLOW markings – already complete.

30mph entry treatment – markings from the west will be refurbished and replicated from the eastern approach.

Double white line system - given the penalty charges under section 36 of the Road Traffic Act 1988 we must only install these in accordance with Department for Transport (DfT)criteria. In short, they must only be installed where driver visibility is restricted, or we have received data that suggests there are several overtaking incidents. Whilst acknowledging there are bends along this section, all of which will be highlighted with appropriate warning signing and lining as part of the scheme, most of the route does not fit into the restricted visibility criteria and will not be considered.

Bends near Mount Pleasant – refer to the above. Appropriate warning signs to be introduced.

Speed limit between Faulkland and Norton St Philip – we must adhere to the DfT criteria to ensure consistency throughout. The Road Safety team continually monitor incidents and other factors on all our strategic network (roughly 2500km), from which each route is profiled and prioritised. We need to be mindful that in some cases there are no engineering measures that avoid incidents taking place such as drink/drug driving, medical episodes but to name a few, so by viewing routes holistically and identifying any trends it allows their team to target their resources. Having assessed and discussed this section of road it does not meet criteria.

20mph speed limit in Faulkland – the Parish will shortly be receiving an email regarding this.

Non-compliance of speed limit - It is noted that you currently have Autospeedwatch installed though these are yet to be supported by A&S Police. It is ultimately down to the Police to enforce the speed limit. I mentioned to you about the use of SIDs

1. Laverton Lorry – Ongoing as part of above
2. Play Park – Ongoing installation 3rd July and a pre-installation survey carried out by Creative Play on Monday with Cllr Hanley and the Clerk in attendance – mainly to look at the area, access and measure for Heras panels. To advise that the equipment will be craned in from over the hedge. Skip and smaller vehicles will enter the field. Cllr Francis has agreed to supply water in a bowser. There will be also welfare on site. Subsequent to this survey equipment has been moved around due to the unevenness of the ground.
3. Pond – Has been cleaned and volunteer group set up. Thanks expressed by Chair in his report.

**Action: matter closed**

1. Banking arrangements – the clerk circulated a paper looking at pro’s and con’s of a move to Unity Bank. In brief Council were reliant on cheques, problems and timings receiving statements and expectations in terms of quick payments sometimes needed. The downside of the account that it was £18 a quarter however provided dual authorisations and did negate the need for stationery and postal charges.

**Resolved: Proposed by Cllr Hucker, seconded by Cllr Green with members (5) all in agreement of the transfer of funds to Unity.**

1. After some discussion regarding the TAG (Traffic Action Group) it was agreed for the Chair to follow this up as he was leading on this project.

**Action: It was agreed for the Clerk to send IB the complaint response and procedure on highways enquiries in a redacted manner**.

1. Hemington Grant – 6 monthly review. We had already heard from Mr Cloak on this matter and Cllr Hanley presented a counter argument supported by a written view from the Chair as to why funds should not be provided. Cllr Green spoke in favour of a payment and the Clerk gave a wider perspective of what was happening in other parishes.

**Resolved: Given there was no payment in the last financial year the proposal from Cllr Green was that we provide a grant now of £200, justified as being last year’s and this year’s original £100 donation and that we take a further view after the play park installation, this was seconded by Cllr Hucker. This was carried by a vote of (4) in favour and (1) against.**

1. Stables – Planning enforcement contacted no response.

**23/24 33**  **Reports**

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

A procedure had been circulated from Cllr Clarke regarding enquiries to Highways, Transport, reporting defects etc

1. **Chairman’s report**

Cllr Corney had provided a written report for tonight’s meeting. His paragraph on the “complaint” had been superseded by further comment from Somerset.

He thanked those who helped clear the pond and to Cllr Francis who had provided barley bales to help keep it clean. There was a volunteer group who had come forward to make this a regular feature.

Work on the play park was schedule for installation which would start on the 3rd and was covered in item 24/24 32d

**23/24 34 Planning Applications for Consideration:**

2023/0880/HSE Two storey single storey side rear extension Rose Cottage. Ms Patsy Mehring.

Following discussion it was felt that the household had took on board previous application comments.

**Resolved: with a unanimous decision to recommend approval.**

**23/24 35 Play Area**

Quotation for fencing had been circulated. Other contractors contacted awaiting a response.

The quotation received was in excess of 7k. Cllr Francis questioned the need for fencing and proposed the Clerk to look into the legalities of such.

**Action: it was agreed to add to next months agenda for advice and a decision to be made.**

**23/24 36 Finances**

The following payment schedule was agreed:

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Description automatically generated

**Resolved: Payment schedule agreed**

Balance on Accounts as at 30.04.23 £40663.49 reconciliation provided.

**23/24 37 Traffic/Highways/other**

Covered under matters arising 23/24 32b

**23/24 38 Correspondence**

Nothing to report.

**23/24 39 Information / Items to Raise for consideration at the next meeting**

Action points to be transferred to the next meeting agenda

Request to add: Village Hall Funding

ASW Batteries

**23/24 40 Any Other Business**

As part of the response to our complaint wig wag lights had been installed outside Hemington School. This is something we were not informed about.

**23/24 41 Date of next Meeting**

12th July. Note agenda will be issued week commencing 26th June due to annual leave by the Clerk.

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

Meeting closed at 8.57pm

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