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 24th May 2023 7.40pm at Faulkland Village Hall**

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

**Also Present:** County Cllr B Clarke**,** J Gregory Proper Officer plus 5 members of the public

**Public Participation**

Residents raised condition of the pond which was covered in detail by the Chair at the last meeting.

**23/24 14 Election of Chairman**

Cllr Green proposed Cllr Mark Corney, this was seconded by Cllr Hucker. Cllr Corney was happy to serve but stated that this may be his last year as Chair.

**Resolved: Cllr Mark Corney appointed with a vote of 4 (unanimous)**

**23/24 15 Election of Vice Chair**

Cllr Corney proposed Cllr Tony Hucker for the post, this was seconded by Cllr Hanley. Cllr Hucker stated he would be happy to continue in the role.

**Resolved: Cllr Hucker appointed with a vote of 4 (unanimous)**

**23/24 17 Parish Council Membership**

Members were asked to advise any changes to the register of interests.

Resolved: No changes required

**Resolved: Cllr Hanley as Chair of the Village Hall committee declared an interest in item 23/24 23 – payment of Village Hall Insurance.**

The Acceptance of Office for the Chair and Vice Chair would be sent for signature

**Action: Clerk to Action**

**23/24 18 Declaration of interests**

To Declare interests, receive written dispensation requests for items of disclosable pecuniary interest under the Parish Council’s Code of Conduct

**Resolved: Cllr Hanley as Chair of the Village Hall committee declared an interest in item – payment of Village Hall Insurance.**

**23/24 19 Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

To receive the minutes of the meeting held 12TH April 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 20 Chairmans Report / Introduction**

The Chair advised that for Avon and Somerset Constabulary to take fine action they required the village to have an active Community Speedwatch. Volunteers were sparse and only 2 had signed up. Given 3 people were required to carry out the watch more people would be required. There was also some restrictions in times of day and visibility splay needed. Some members present said they would be interested and were advised to sign up via a link. Leading on from this there had been a formal invitation from Norton St Phillip who were resurrecting their Traffic Action Group regarding traffic moving along the A366 from the A36 and then to the B3139 which joins Kilmersdon parish to the White Post. Cllr Corney proposed that we look to join this group and couple with Kilmersdon, this was seconded by Cllr Hanley and meeting (4) voted in favour

**Resolved: To progress collaborative working with NSP and possibly Kilmersdon Parish regarding Traffic Action**

23/24 21 **Matters from previous meeting**

* 1. Planning Issue Raised by Resident – Apple Tree Cottage

It was advised by Cllr Clarke via email that the stance made by the Planning Department is unlikely to change and that any changes to what planning was agreed should be directed to enforcement.

**Action: This matter can now be closed**.

* 1. Septic Tank Lid Play Park

There had been no progress. It was proposed by Cllr Hucker to purchase such, seconded by Cllr Green with a vote of 4 councillors in favour

**Action: Cllr Hucker to purchase lid for fitting. C/f item to June Meeting**

* 1. Play Park Progress (see item 10 below for review of financial costings)
  2. Traffic Matters including progress from Cllr Clarke re: Sara Davis

The Chair explained to those present the situation which had been going on since 2017. Whilst County Councillor Clarke had been admirable in attending meetings the fact remains that we have not had a response from Sara Davis nor has there been any attempt to acknowledge. Cllr Hucker had provided a written schedule of dates and actions which he would type up. It was therefore proposed by Cllr Corney that an official complaint be made to Somerset CC, this was seconded by Cllr Hucker and the meeting (4) agreed unanimously. Cllr Hucker stated that a simultaneous email to customer services, her head of department and the CEO be made. If this had no action then the press would be involved as the next port of call.

**Action: Clerk to action complaint letter on receipt of typed schedule from Cllr Hucker. Addendum: Following Cllr Clarke’s late attendance after this matter was discussed it was agreed to delay the sending of such until after 5pm on Tuesday. C/f Item to June meeting**

* 1. Trapped Lorry at Laverton – progress report

Cllr Corney and the Clerk had met with residents at Laverton regarding their concerns in relation to 2 stuck articulated lorries which had caused considerable damage and 1 lorry was stuck for 2 days before a rescue team could reach them providing some anxiety for residents given the position of the lorry and other road users. The Clerk had written to Tellisford Parish as it was the signage within Woolverton coming off the A36 that could be improved and in one case one exit had no signage. The Clerk had progressed matters through Highways who had passed the matter to Traffic Management – this provided some concern as this was the department of Sara Davis – however the normal follow up requests would be made if we hadn’t heard anything

**Action: C/f item to June Meeting**

* 1. 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: This was being actioned. The item can be closed**

* 1. 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. Proposal made by Cllr Corney, seconded Cllr Curtis with all members (4) in agreement.

**Resolved: Flag to be purchased (retrospective request) Payment request to be made June meeting. This item can be closed**

23/24 22 **Planning Matters for consideration**

Update on applications from last meeting where appropriate:

2023/0661 Old Dairy Laverton, variation in conditions to design of pergola with alternative glazed openings. Given the deadline email comments provided which Supported this application.

To consider the following planning applications:None

There was however concern raised regarding stables in the first field exiting the village on the right hand side. Criteria for stabling had been sources with one of the main aspects that they have to be moved every 28 days. This has not happened. It was proposed by Cllr Corney and seconded by Cllr Green that Planning Enforcement be advised. All members (4) voted in agreement.

**Action: Clerk to inform Planning Enforcement**

23/24 23 **Financial Matters**

To present current financial statement and balance on accounts – Due to no statement being provided this was not available.

To agree schedule of payments as indicated below:

Savills – Playing field Rent £125.00

Clerk – Salary April 2023 £238.25

Idverde – Grasscutting Aug missed bill £338.37

Kay Harvey – Internal Audit Fee £150.00

Town & Country Websites (Annual Website hosting) £160.00

**Resolved: Payment schedule Agreed**

To agree payment (on invoice) of Village Hall insurance cost £749.32. The Chair stated that we have been lucky with the VH and COVID payments now this has stopped then it was proposed by Cllr Corney, seconded by Cllr Hucker and agreed by those present that we pay the invoice. Cllr Hanley who took no part in discussions or voting stated that he would arrange the invoice.

**Resolved: Payment agreed and Cllr Hanley to arrange invoice.**

To review costings from Creative Play in relation to the Play park (2 quotations provided)

The value of the play park from Creative play was £23587.20

Our C/f figure was £22956.00

Plus Precept this year £17994.00

Draw down funds £ 3300.00

Total funds £44250.00

It was proposed by Cllr Corney and seconded by Cllr Curtis that the purchase at the above price be actioned. This was voted by members (4) and all in agreement

**Action: Clerk to advise Creative Play of the decision and preferred installation time of prior to school holidays.**

Year End Accounts signed by RFO giving figures of income £ 20013.01, expenditure £6973.50 and balance on accounts for the YE £ 22956.79 were received by the meeting.

The Internal Auditor Report had been received and as a result the meeting were happy to sign off Annual Governance Return for 2022/23.

It was agreed to set period of public notice for annual inspection period from 5th June to 14th July 2023

Consideration of changes to any Bank Mandate or banking arrangements were made but as there was no change in personnel there was no change to the mandate needed. However banking arrangements going forward needed to be considered and the Clerk was asked to prepare a paper on the benefits of Unity Bank

**23/24 24 Reports**

Chairman’s Report

Village Pond – this was discussed in detail with algae growth and bloom, the fact no ducks were present. Suggestions were made by residents in relation to options to keep it healthy going forward, the national pond survey and a volunteer group for the weekend to address removing some growth which would initially be placed on the bank for creatures to make their way back to the pond and then Cllr Green would collect and compost. The Clerk was instructed to look at the Environment Agency advise regarding blom

The Clerk reported that website issues can now been rectified and minutes etc were showing correctly.

County Councillor Report

Cllr Clarke had been delayed in attending the start of the meeting due to County commitments. He however gave a report on his move to the Planning Committee. Covered LCN meetings, redundancies within the 4 councils of 45 personnel mainly high earners with lots more redundancies to come. He advised that COVID boosters were still available for the over 75s. There was also discussion regarding the traffic issue and Sara Davis with Cllr Ham meeting her in the next day or so urging any complaint to be put on hold until next week. Realistically this was not an issue given the Clerk’s workload however some resistance was felt to allowing chance after chance but a 5pm deadline for response was given. Cllr Clarke would report this information to Cllr Ham.

**23/24 25 Internal Controls / Review**

The following was reviewed and confirmed fit for purpose:

• Standing Orders • Financial Regulations • Asset Register • Risk Assessment / Risk Management Schedule

The Clerk confirmed that the Parish Council is compliant with the Data Protection Act 2018, Freedom of Information Act 2000 and confirm that there have been no FOI requests for the 2020/21 financial year.

**23/24 26**  **Other business referred to the Clerk**

Village noticeboard

Cllr Hucker advised that the noticeboard at the Village Hall had no doors. Who did it belong to was the first question and it was thought that this was the Village hall as the Parish Board was in a central position in the village.

**23/24 27 Matters of Report and items for the next meeting.**

c/F Items

Septic Tank Lid

Traffic Matters

Lorry Laverton

Play Park Progress

Pond update

Planning Stables

Deferred Planning matter – Rose Cottage

Banking Arrangements

**23/24 28 Dates of future Meetings**

It was agreed Full Council meeting dates for the coming year would be held 2nd Wednesday in the Month. It was proposed by Cllr Corney and seconded by Cllr Green that the Hemington meeting in October return to Faulkland due to lack of interest from residents. This was voted by members (4) and agreed.

Half yearly budget considerations agreed for September and the 2024 Annual Parish Meeting May 2024

Minutes are available via the Parish Clerk and a copy provided on its website.