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 2nd August 2023 7.30pm at Faulkland Village Hall**

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

**Also Present:** Somerset Councillor B Clarke**,** J Gregory Proper Officer plus 2 members of the public

**Public Participation**

Tree planting scheme was mentioned although the current condition of the previous tree planting needed assessing. Details of the scheme would be given to the Clerk for information.

**23/24 42 Apologies for absence**

All members were in attendance. .

**23/24 43 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 44 Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

To receive the minutes of the meeting held 14th June 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 with an amendment that Cllr Green was in attendance.**

**23/24 45 Matters Arising**

1. Septic Tank Lid – Ongoing.
2. Traffic Matters including complaint – Council felt a number of issues remained:
3. Assessment of road A366 and not being able to contribute – Request we see the assessment reports
4. Still not being included in discussions resulting in signage and lineage not necessarily in the correct place and works are exceedingly slow
5. Communications poor generally

**Resolved: Clerk in conjunction with Chair to draft a letter to G Warren in response highlighting above issues**

1. Laverton Lorry – Signage was awaited as part of above. Agreed to remain on agenda until satisfactory conclusion of matters
2. Play Park –Installation completed and sign off certificate provided.
3. Banking arrangements – in progress – awaiting sign off and ID information from Cllr Hucker to progress and subsequently supplied at meeting.
4. TAG (Traffic Action Group) This was followed up by the Chairman who in liaison with TAG were looking at common areas of interest predominately the A366 Tuckers to Mount pleasant but with a broader aspect for our parish including Terry Hill. NSP had submitted a FOI for latest records which would be compared to the 2019 data provided to our Parish. However it was noted that unless there was a hospital case that nothing is recorded..
5. 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. Somerset Councillor B Clarke stated that Andrew Dearing would be a Somerset contact on the matter.

**23/24 46**  **Reports**

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

With the 5 councils being brought together in Somerset there was a 20 million overspend from reserves and at the time of writing Somerset had a deficit of 8 million.

Phosphate mitigation would free up some housing need in the South of the County however 505 homes were earmarked for the old “Mendip” area.

There had been testing of take away cafes for allergen rules were a high percentage not compliant.

The LCN for Frome had met to discuss its initial set up, obviously in its initial stages however Shepton Mallet were a little more advanced and aspects to take back from their success.

1. **Chairman’s report**

The Chair highlighted the completion of the play park. The sign off had been completed and all that contributed were thanked for their efforts. Cllr Hucker felt that little interest had been shown in the Recreation Field and expressed his dissatisfaction with Council generally. There had been calls for a adult seating area from residents. An official opening ceremony was suggested and the Clerk would source dates noting the contribution of the pupils at the local school.

A meeting with the local PCSO was planned to look at various issues including police speed radar patrols, concerns of loud teenage girls in the park amongst others.

**Action: Clerk to circulate proposed opening ceremony dates**

**23/24 47 Planning Applications for Consideration:**

A late application for amendment to conditions was provided however received today

**Resolved: Clerk to action a request for extension to take beyond the next full council meeting.**

**23/24 48 Play Area**

Three aspects of discussion:

1. Fencing – mixed views on whether it was to be provided or not and cost a big factor within that. There was no ROSPA requirement in doing so
2. The tractor, swings and seating needed discussion about moving and condition.
3. Inspection schedule – Creative play had an offer for independent inspectors which would include all equipment on the park including tractor etc

**Action: Clerk to contact more fencing contractors regarding quotations/ Agenda item for September regarding movement of existing equipment and condition / Look at inspection costs from Creative Play**

**23/24 49 Finances**

The following payment schedule was agreed and for transparency a list provided of all payments made and agreed at the June Meeting.

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**Resolved: Payment schedule agreed**

Balance on Accounts as at 30.06.23 £38328.53 - reconciliation complete for June.

Cllr Green stated that he felt a VAT return necessary given the Creative Play invoice amount.

Resolved; Proposed by Cllr Green, Seconded Cllr Curtis for VAT claim to be made by the Clerk

**23/24 50 Traffic/Highways/other**

Covered under matters arising 45b/c

**23/24 51 Correspondence**

Village Hall Grant – It would be helpful to establish ownership. Clerk given authority to perform a Land Registry Search

ASW Batteries – Chair to speak with Tim regarding the need for new batteries and if necessary authorisation given to purchase. It was noted that ASW reported 130 incidents in one day and a matter that would be addressed with the Police PCSO next week.

**23/24 52 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 53 Any Other Business**

For information Traffic had informed us that a local resident was coming to them direct. They have since advised the process and asked for the Council to pick up directly also. This has been actioned

The poultry farm towards Terry Hill was discussed but investigations indicated that planning was not necessary as it was within the agricultural permitted development regulations.

Cllr Francis stated that residents in Foxcote advised that the verge cutting did not reach the border with BANES – The clerk would pick this up with Highways.

The Clerk mentioned that RA’s should be taking place with regard to the playing field. Cllr Hucker said that this was being done. It would be helpful to have a report each meeting and minute any findings. It was also suggested in view of previous comments that all Councillors take a month each in making inspections.

**23/24 54 Date of next Meeting**

13th September 2023 at 7.30pm Faulkland Village Hall.

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.