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 13th December 2023 7.30pm at Faulkland Village Hall**

**Present:** Vice Chairman A Hucker, Cllrs F Green, V Curtis

**Also Present:** Somerset Councillor B Clarke**,** J Gregory Proper Officer plus 3 Members of the public

**Public Participation**

Items raised by the public:

Road Visibility regarding Curo van at Bishop Street

White Line removal

Hemington Church Grant – request to add to January agenda

Minutes for the Parish Magazine.

Parish Noticeboards

**23/24 91 Apologies for absence**

Cllr Francis and Cllr Hanley both had work commitments and sent apologies. Somerset Cllr P Ham gave apologies

**Resolved: Given the circumstances, apologies were accepted.**

**23/24 92 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: there were no declarations required for today’s agenda.**

**23/24 93 Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

To receive the minutes of the meeting held 8th November

**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 94 To receive County Councillors Report**

Change in agenda order to allow Cllr Clarke to attend another parish meeting.

His report commenced with a planning matter that the application behind the Faulkland was for planning to agree the recommendation. He would reiterate the Council’s stance and recommend that it goes to full planning which would be the first Tuesday in January.

His report thereafter contain a lot of content regarding the financial situation at Somerset, however points to note were:

Asset devolution, to continue to set a precept, sites found for the 505 homes, thermal imaging camera available FOC from Frome library and 108 million being looked at road repairs including additional signage which may be useful.

He also mentioned changes to waste collection – no change in frequency but a change to collection day for efficiency with no longer opportunities to come back and collect if not taken – more information to follow.

Cllr Clarke also passed on his condolences to Mark’s family and friends and paid tribute to a character and gentleman.

**Matters Arising**

1. Septic Tank Lid – job for the spring with some digging out required.

1. Traffic Matters

Junction lines removed after an 8 year battle. It was felt that this had been beneficial in slowing traffic and avoiding horn blowing as the road now looked narrow and prevented traffic from going through.

There had been a request from Hemington School for a grit bin on Southfield Hill. Cllr Hucker had retrieved an old bin in poor condition. He therefore proposed and was seconded by Cllr Green to purchase a new bin. He would also source grit following an inspection. Noting that Somerset as opposed to parishes carried out inspections this year.

1. Stables – Thanks expressed to Cllr Clare for his assistance – this had now been removed and the item can be removed from the agenda.
2. Banking Arrangements – With Mark passing and 2 signatories in attendance it was agreed to look at this further in a larger piece regarding recruitment.
3. Play Park –

Despite meetings arranged neither Idverde or Creative Play turned up. Cllr Hucker had a catalogue of photos indicating how the matting was not correctly installed and had “bubbled”. He would pass this via usb to the Clerk who was instructed to write to Creative with said photos indicated that the matter would be passed to insurers as there was some negligence in the laying of the matting.

A quotation for the tractor repairs from Andrew Pitman had been received at a cost of £330.00 plus £50 for paint. Debate was had regarding whether this was best use of money or whether a cab and bonnet could just be purchased. Clerk to look at previous supplier and find if they would look at replacement items.

Swings – ongoing agenda item

Goalposts – ongoing agenda item – work for the spring.

The Clerk reported that Cllr Hanley had cleared the tree stakes from the Recreation ground and Cllr Hucker had collected the strewn bits of the tractors and disposed of.

Clerk to chase the Inspection – a quotation had been sourced and inspection was thought as imminent.

1. Feasibility Study 20mph – registration window closed 31st August. Investigations were necessary with Mark’s partner to ascertain individuals for CSW and then look to re-establish.

**23/24 95**  **Reports**

1. **Chairman’s report**

Tribute was paid to Mark and his work to the Council. Mark had struggled on and off with health issues since COVID. Funeral arrangements had been made for the 5th January 2.45pm at Semington Crematorium then returning to the Faulkland Inn after. Cllr Curtis stated that Mark’s partner was sorting through correspondence and information but also had a tragic family matter in the offing so timing of requests was difficult at present. The Chair suspected a tough year ahead. It wasn’t the best time to consider the future and look at responsibilities until after the funeral but an advertisement for a Councillor would be made and for Somerset to be informed. Clerk would be instructed to place on website.

**23/24 96 Planning Applications for Consideration:**

Nothing to report/ previously covered by the County Councillors report and the Council would also reiterate their stance.

**23/24 97 Play Area**

Covered in item 23/24 94e.

**23/24 98 Finances**

The following payment schedule was presented for payment.

A list of jobs

Description automatically generated

**Resolved: Payment schedule agreed**

1. Balance on Accounts as at Balance on Accounts as at 31.10.23 £15554.99
2. Precept consideration was postponed til January as the deadline for submission had been pushed back to the 2nd February which allowed another month of budget review.

**23/24 99 Traffic/Highways/other**

Covered under matters arising 23/24 81b. Cllr Curtis stated that he had been in touch with Ian Biggerstaff of TAG and would liaise with us regarding matters going forward. Cllr Curtis would also try and pick up the CSW with Mark’s partner.

**23/24 100 Correspondence**

Nothing to report.

**23/24 101 Information / Items to Raise for consideration at the next meeting**

Action points to be transferred to the next meeting agenda:

Laverton Lorry, TAG, CSW, Play Park (swings, tractor, goalposts, matting, inspection), Defibulator costs, grit bin, phone box, potholes

Request to add: Hemington Church Grant

**23/24 102 Any Other Business**

The telephone box required glazing and painting. Glazing information would be passed to the clerk for action and painting would be carried out in better weather.

Potholes had been reported to the Clerk but futile in reporting in poor weather as action by Somerset would not be taken.

Clerk returning to work 3rd January following the festive break – agenda items to be promptly advised that week.

**23/24 103 Date of next Meeting**

10th January at 7.30pm

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.