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 10th January 2024 7.30pm at Faulkland Village Hall**

**Present:** Vice Chairman A Hucker, Cllrs F Green, M Francis, M Hanley

**Also Present:** J Gregory Proper Officer plus 3 Members of the public

**Public Participation**

Items raised by the public:

None

**23/24 104 Apologies for absence**

Somerset Cllr Clarke was at another Parish this evening. Cllr Curtis had work commitments.

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

**23/24 105 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.**

**23/24 106 Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

To receive the minutes of the meeting held 13th December

**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 a manual correct to the spelling of Cllr Clarke (minuted as Clare).**

**23/24 107 To receive County Councillors Report**

A written report was received mostly addressing the financial situation at Somerset with possibilities mentioned of how they might bridge the shortfall with items such as council tax and parking increases, review of contracts, staff redundancies etc

**23/24 108 Matters Arising/ Updates**

1. Councillor Applications

No applications received via the advertisement process. Ian Biggerstaff who met the criteria as a Councillor was proposed by Cllr Hucker and seconded by Cllr Green. Mr Biggerstaff was in attendance as a member of the public and agreed his willingness to serve.

**Resolved: The council voted unanimously for the co-option of Ian Biggerstaff to Council – The Clerk was tasked with providing necessary documentation.**

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

1. Traffic /Highways Matters

Grit Bin – Delivered to the Clerk and Chair would agree transportation to site.

Laverton Lorry – The Chair reported that signage appeared sufficient from the main A369. A member of the public indicated that the “unsuitable” signage on the junction opposite Tuckers Grave was in the hedge. The Chair agreed to investigate. Signage top end of Hammer lane to Chickwell Lane obscured. Agreed for item to be removed from agenda.

CSW/TAG

Cllr Curtis was trying to obtain information from the former Chair’s partner regarding CSW members however with another family funeral today timing wasn’t ideal. Ian Biggerstaff indicated that he was part of the TAG group and would happily report further and represent Council going forward.

Feasibility Study 20mph – on hold

1. Banking Arrangements – On hold
2. Play Park

Inspection report from GB Sport was addressed by the Chair on a page by page basis.

Items for action included:

Mole hills – this would require temporary closure. Mole man to be actioned

Safety signs at the entrance to the playground to be considered

Football Posts – of which we are aware and will be addressing in Spring

Swings – given the rot and lack of seat it was agreed to remove at some point and a new set be added to the shopping list.

New tractor cost of £4k notified by the Clerk. Therefore it was proposed by the Chair and seconded by Cllr Francis that repairs to the old tractor be carried out.

**Resolved: Tractor repairs at £330 plus paint be actioned.**

Matting – Clerk to address

1. Telephone box – Glass purchased. It was stated that the phone box paint was down to the primer. A decorator would be sourced for this and the goalposts.
2. Defibrillator costs – circa 1.5k but the issue was perhaps the ongoing maintenance costs and location. It was agreed to revisit once the telephone box had been maintained as this could provide a power source.
3. Hemington Church Grant – No specific amount advised but any contribution welcome.

**Resolved: Proposed by the Chair and seconded by Cllr Green for a £500 payment from the 24/25 financial year. A vote was taken with 3 for and 1 abstaining.**

**23/24 109**  **Reports**

1. **Chairman’s report**

Cllr Hucker stated that he would be resigning from Council at the Annual Meeting.

**23/24 110 Planning Applications for Consideration:**

Nothing to report.

**23/24 111 Play Area**

Covered in item 23/24 108f with nothing further to report.

**23/24 112 Finances**

The following payment schedule was presented for payment.

J Gregory Salary £238.25

**Resolved: Payment schedule agreed**

1. Balance on Accounts as at Balance on Accounts as at 31.10.23 £15554.99 a statement for November had not been received and was therefore being chased by the Clerk.
2. To set the precept for 2024/25. Budget considerations were viewed on a line by line basis with some adjustments to figures set by the Clerk. Taking into account inflation the figure was £19614

**Resolved: Proposed by Cllr Hanley and seconded Cllr Francis to set the precept for 2024/25 at £19614 – all 4 councillors in attendance voted in favour.**

**23/24 113 Correspondence**

Nothing to report.

**23/24 114 Information / Items to Raise for consideration at the next meeting**

**23/24 115 Any Other Business**

The dog bin for back lane aka Bishop Street has a rotten post and now failing. A photo would be taken and passed to IB for reporting to Rights of Way /Ramblers who may assist.

**23/24 116 Date of next Meeting**

14th February 2023 at 7.30pm

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

Meeting closed at 8.35pm

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