Hemington, Hardington   
& Foxcote Parish Council

Chairman: M Hanley [martinhanley@gmail.com](mailto:martinhanley@gmail.com)

Clerk: Jen Gregory 07912177288 [clerk.hemingtonpc@gmail.com](mailto:clerk.hemingtonpc@gmail.com)

**M I N U T E S**

**Of Hemington, Hardington & Foxcote Parish Council**

**Held on Wednesday 8th May 2024 7.30pm at Faulkland Village Hall**

**Present:** Cllrs Hanley, Biggerstaff, Green,

**Also Present:** Somerset Councillor B Clarke,J Gregory Proper Officer plus 4 Members of the public

**Public Participation**

Matters raised;

Footpath Cutting – whilst this had been reported it was suggested that a working group maintain it enough to keep open. Interest to be drummed up on Facebook.

Dog bin – check for security bolts and consider location.

Consider better community engagement using the Community Council for Somerset CCS and funding

Defibrillator sizing’s to be re-sent

Road broken up along area of the removed white line – clerk to report

**24/25 001 Election of Chair**

Cllr Biggerstaff took the Chair asked if anyone was prepared to stand Cllr Hanley acknowledged this request.

Cllr Green proposed, seconded by Cllr Biggerstaff

**Resolved: Cllr Hanley duly elected to the position unopposed and took the Chair for the remainder of the meeting.**

**24/25 002 Election of Vice Chair**

Cllr Hanley proposed Cllr Biggerstaff, seconded by Cllr Green. Cllr Biggerstaff was happy to serve

**Resolved: Cllr Biggerstaff duly elected to the position unopposed.**

**24/25 003 Councillor Vacancy**

Mrs Debbie Buckwell applied for the position unopposed and was proposed by Cllr Hanley and seconded Cllr Biggerstaff. Debbie introduced herself and her professional background to the meeting.

**Resolved: Debbie Buckwell duly co-opted to the position of Councillor**

**24/25 004 Apologies for absence**

Cllr Curtis was not in attendance due to work, Cllr Francis was attending Badminton Horse Trials. Somerset Councillor Ham gave apologies

**Action: Apologies noted and accepted given the circumstances.**

**24/25 005 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: Cllr Biggerstaff declared an interest in the Planning application regarding the holiday let at Chickwell Lane.**

**24/25 006 Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

To receive the minutes of the meeting held 10th April 2024

**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. There was a written addendum to the minutes to include Cllr Francis.**

**24/25 007 To receive County Councillors Report**

Cllr Clarke gave a verbal report as Somerset Councillor he was responsible for 14 parishes mainly condensed into the first two weeks of the month. Will continue to attend where possible with occasional movement to other parish meetings. A brief was given of the financial situation at Somerset which saw them staying solvent for the time being. There was some investment into the battery factory at Bridgwater. Some items of note included:

* Hardship fund to close end of September. (Cllr Buckwell would speak to the Church and Parish Magazine)
* Leaflets regarding free blood pressure monitors (To distribute at pub etc)
* Red imaging cameras also available FOC at libraries
* Roadside grasscutting being reduced (with the exception of junction areas where it posed a safety issue)
* Waste Collections changing (residents should have received a letter)

Leading on from the above Suez the waste Contractor have indicated that they cannot afford to maintain levels of the new contract. This may mean that waste collections will be reduced or a possible new contractor.

* LCN’s whilst the Council have not attended there has been some good feedback from Norton St Philip parish (Cllr Biggerstaff to follow up)

**24/25 008 Matters Arising/ Updates**

1. TAG/CSW

The CSW group has expanded to 13 with 2 new members waiting training and safety equipment. Last month there were 12 sessions and 1 training session. Data is interesting and very time/day driven. The site for carrying out CSW is The Green however authorisation has been given to move to the pub to record those coming from Turners Tower. Further sites can be looked at if necessary.

Additional equipment is being pursued as the group was one of the highest with 3 sessions per week.

There has been engagement with residents whilst out and some discrepancy between speed and expectation. However the group provided a presence that deterred speeders. There were some options for highways such as rumble strips which we can look at further down the line.

A conversation was to be had with ASW to look at an “average speed check” between the two ASW units so re-configuration may be necessary.

Cllr Hanley currently monitored the ASW data and needed more volunteers to help as the data is cleared after 30 days. The option was for 4 users in total. The CSW group would look at supporting this.

1. Banking Arrangements – With various changes to personnel over the past few months and the need to be more timely with payments providing some ease of use it had previously been agreed to move to Unity Bank. It was proposed (Cllr Hanley) and seconded (Cllr Green) that this be resolved with new signatories to include Cllr Hanley, Biggerstaff and Francis.

**Resolved: Action to be taken to open a new Account with Unity Bank with those listed above as signatories**.

1. Play Park

Matting – With independent inspections and meeting British safety standards on installation any insurance claim would fail. Idverde had been instructed to raise the height of the mower and any further damage would be at their cost.

The swing gate from the road to the field was considered and felt that a spring was not needed.

Septic tank / swings / Tractor – Tony Hucker would install the Septic Tank lid. Cllr Green would dig out the swings in due course and the Clerk reported that the Tractor had been refurbished and awaited collection.

Cllr Hanley suggested that Tony Hucker be appointed as Village Caretaker / Warden. Members felt this a good idea and Tony Hucker was pleased to fill this position and would continue to log pot holes etc with the Clerk.

1. Defibrillator

The Clerk had sourced some prices of various outdoor units included locked and unlocked. Given the location outward dimensions were needed to establish if this created any issue with pedestrians.

**Action: Clerk to advise on dimensions**

1. Telephone Box

Had been re-glazed by Cllr Hucker who would paint in better weather**.**

**24/25 009**  **Reports**

1. **Chairman’s report**

Cllr Hanley had nothing to report but was pleased to take the position and feel there was lots of opportunities to work better to serve the community

**24/25 010 Planning Applications for Consideration:**

2024/0398 Chickwell Lane to Wells Road

Holiday Let Cabin

We had made reports to Enforcement regarding the hedge to be told that this was part of a permitted development for an agricultural barn. It felt that one means was serving another and this was further reported and a response awaited.

**24/25 011 Finances**

No statement received in time for meeting.

To agree schedule of payments as indicated below:

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**Resolved : Finance schedule agreed.**

To receive YE End Accounts signed by RFO giving figures of YE balance £15440.13 income £25454 expenditure £32971

**Resolved: Proposed by Cllr Hanley, seconded Cllr Biggerstaff and all in agreement to adopt the statement of accounts for the 2023/24**

To receive Internal Auditor Report and as a result Sign off Annual Governance Return for 2023/24 – report given highlighting HMRC payments to be done on a monthly basis to keep track and consideration given to moving forward with online banking system to help with monthly banking reconciliations in time for meetings.

**Resolved: Proposed Cllr Hanley and seconded Cllr Green to sign off appropriate AGAR for the 23/24 financial year.**

To set period of public notice for annual inspection period; suggested dates 3rd June to 12th July 2024

**Resolved: The above agreed and Clerk to arrange.**

**24/25 012 Correspondence**

Nothing to report

**24/25 013**  **Internal Controls**

a. To review the following and confirm fit for purpose:

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

b. To confirm 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 23/224 financial year.

**Resolved: All fit for purpose and no FOI requests**

**24/25 013 Information / Items to Raise for consideration at the next meeting**

Allocation of Councillor responsibilities deferred to June meeting (due to number of councillors present and time restraints this evening.)

Consideration to be given to engagement in other hamlets in Parish with a meeting attendance (preferably in summertime) .

Consideration given to someone within the village jazzing up the website and having responsibility.

**24/25 014 Any Other Business**

Cllr Green had been advised by residents at Turners Tower that they were experiencing more issues with speeding that side of the village. CSW would give consideration to another “authorised area” along this stretch.

**23/24 150 Date of next Meeting**

7th May for Annual Council Meeting

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

Meeting closed at 8.58pm

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