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 11th December 2024 7.30pm at Faulkland Village Hall**

**Present:** Cllrs Biggerstaff, Buckwell, Francis and Cross

**Also Present:** Somerset Councillor B Clarke,J Gregory Proper Officer plus 5 Members of the public

**Public Participation**

Matters raised;

Christmas Tree – being installed tomorrow by Cllr Green and Chris.

Reimbursement of Defib – will happen now that funds have been transferred.

**24/25 073 Welcome and apologies for absence**

Cllr Green sent apologies and had the Christmas Market, Cllr Hanley had work commitments.

**Resolved: Apologies noted and approved.**

**24/25 074 Membership of the Council**

Cllr Cross had completed paperwork that has gone to the Monitoring Officer at Somerset Council.

**24/25 075 Declarations of Interest**

**Resolved: No declarations advised for tonights meeting.**

**24/25 076 Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

To receive the minutes of the meeting held 14th November 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 with a written amendment removing Cllr Curtis as attending.**

**24/25 077 Report from Somerset Councillor B Clarke**

Was last here in September, financial situation at Somerset quite dire but there was more clarity over financial forecasts. Residents should be prepared with share rate increases.

Changes to the Council Tax Reduction Scheme mentioned with a revised 25% relief across the board (with exceptions).

Winter fuel payment to end March next year.

Advise Somerset of any grit bins that need filling.

Cllr Clarke requested feedback of precept increase so he could have an overview of all parishes in his catchment.

**24/25 078 Matters Arising from Previous Meeting**

* + 1. A366 TAG Group

Speed device fitted on A366. A high-tech device installed by the Police was in situ for around a week recording speeds in both directions, top speeds reached 88mph and 93mph for each direction. T Gibbs requested a copy of the data for plotting purposes. This has resulting in speed enforcement being much more interested. P Buckwell said thoughts on double white lines was shared at the Mendip Steering Group. Progress being made albeit slowly.

* + 1. CSW/ASW

Police were beginning to take more notice of CSW. ASW still has no recognition in the area. At the Steering Group statistics from villages were shared. It appeared that those with a 20mph zone had averages of 34mph and those in 30mph zones had averages of 44mph approx. so data was comparative for villages in 20 and 30mph areas.

The FASST Group had met this week looking at the potential locations for the SIDs as grant monies was due later this month. Any location needed highways approval and there was stipulations around how long it was left up and removal if it wasn’t in the right place. Existing poles were looked at first considering factors such as access, maintenance, quality of poles, maintenance of hedges, visibility of road and impact of flashing lights on property. Ultimately using the same poles as the existing VAR was preferable with the Ammerdown end VAR being repaired and moved slightly up and out. Forms to be completed by FASST group in liaison with the Clerk.

**Resolved: It proposed by Cllr Buckwell and seconded Cllr Cross with all in agreement that the VAR solar panel be looked at and replaced at a cost of c£80 if necessary.**

The CWS survey was also discussed at the FASST meeting with any action having a phased approach and giving each action time to have effect. SID’s would be installed and the impact considered before looking at the 20mph feasibility study . The latter would be consulted with parish members as this would be c£15k which would come from precept.

White line removal was discussed at FASST as it would be useful for the Highways Engineer when in attendance for the SID location to be aware of the problems at the NSP end of the village where lines have been removed. The clerk advised that there was some reason for this and had contacted traffic for the reasons. When the Engineer attends he may be able to give further insight into other measures for traffic calming.

* + 1. Councillor responsibilities

It was agreed the following:

Recreation Ground and play Area Cllr Cross (Cllr Buckwell)

Footpaths and Bridleways Cllr Biggerstaff (Cllr Francis)

Community Liaison Cllr Buckwell

Finance Cllr Hanley

Community assets bins defib etc) Cllr Hanley (Cllr Francis)

Traffic Cllr Biggerstaff

The Village Green and Pond   Cllr Green

Representative for the hamlets? Cllr Francis (Cllr Hanley)

The play area required a visual check once a week. T Hucker to be contacted regarding this and his role for the village handyman. Mindful of Cllr Buckwell being out of action for a period in the new year.

**24/25 079 Planning Matters for Consideration**

Notification Only

Certificate of Lawfulness for Proposed Development of single storey extension to rear of property with lean-to roof and rooflight,proposed materials to match those on the existing house. Foul and

surface water to connect into existing below ground drainage system.

**Location:** 3 Pond Cottages Bishop Street Faulkland Radstock Somerset

**24/25 080 Finances**

Finally monies had been transferred to Unity Bank and the Natwest Current account closed. The Clerk expressed her thanks to Tony Hucker for his help and patience with this matter.

To agree schedule of payments as indicated below:

J Gregory Salary & Expenses £358.28 (new pay rate)

(includes reimbursement of Hampshire Flags Union Jack)

HMRC PAYE £156.78

Town & Parish Websites Domain and Hosting £170.00

Budget and Precept – Deferred to January Meeting. Somerset advised today that precept requests was needed by 31st January which allowed a deeper delve into where the Council wanted to be.

**24/25 081 Other business Referred to the Clerk**

A resident had made a request for a replacement litter bin for the layby and a dog bin in Grove Road.

It was agreed for the Clerk to provide options and costs.

Both Cllr Biggerstaff and Cllr Buckwell had completed the SALC Training Governance and Finance this month both said that the course was very informative. The Clerk advised that further courses were available in the new year details of which would be circulated.

**24/25 082 Matters for consideration at the Next Meeting.**

Consider budget and set precept.

**24/25 083 Date of the next Meeting**

## 15th January 2025 7.30pm Faulkland Village Hall – week later than normal.

Attendees were thanked for their contribution and wished a Merry Christmas.

Meeting closed 8.45pm

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