Hemington, Hardington   
& Foxcote Parish Council

Chairman: Ian Biggerstaff ianbigg01@gmail.com

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**M I N U T E S**

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

**Held on Wednesday 12th March 7.30pm at Faulkland Village Hall**

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

**Also Present:** Somerset Cllr B Clarke,J Gregory Proper Officer plus 6 Members of the public

**Public Participation**

Matters raised;

Defibrillator 3 monthly check confirmed by T Gibbs.

Planning application not on agenda for Upper Row Farm (subject to a round robin decision as the application was received after the agenda was issued).

Field at the back used for dog walking had a gap in the hedge but is no longer there. Not an official public footpath which goes alongside. Farmer given advice to put tractor wheel down through/markers. Obviously difficult with planting and sowing where there are footpaths and dog walkers who do not pick up after their dog. Leading to more signage necessary in village perhaps - to be added to April agenda.

Dog bins to become litter bins on the play area – not a consideration at this time given costs from Somerset to collect bins.

Lots of excitement at the emergence of the daffodils planted in the autumn – hoping to build on this for next year.

White lines causing a problem at the Norton St Phillip end of the village, with vehicles from the west cutting off the corner and large vehicles from the east mounting the pavement. This was not helped by an overgrown hedge causing Pedestrians to walk out further. Traffic had been asked as the Clerk felt there was a reason but would follow up – however traffic aren’t particularly helpful in commenting.

**24/25 103 Welcome and apologies for absence**

Cllr Buckwell sent apologies as she was currently not well.

**Resolved: Apologies noted and approved.**

**24/25 104 Declarations of Interest**

**Resolved: No declarations advised for tonight’s meeting.**

**24/25 105 Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

To receive the minutes of the meeting held 12th February 2025

**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 one amendment 24/25 096 Mayflower should read “Mayday” .**

**24/25 106 Report from Somerset Councillor B Clarke**

Cllr Clarke not in attendance – report circulated.

**24/25 107 Matters Arising from Previous Meeting**

* + 1. A366 TAG Group

Nick Cowling has now responded to correspondence with an acknowledgement for a reduction in speed (defacto stating there is an issue). Awaiting for further commentary from MP Anna Sabine before Norton St Phillip make a response. Cllr Hanley stated some stats given in that there were 85% of traffic doing less than 49mph, with an average speed under 44mph.

* + 1. CSW/ASW

ASW – dialogue with the NPCC regarding policy, Wiltshire putting forward some falsehoods which wasn’t helping. Avon and Somerset using heat maps but not specific targeting of vehicles. Lots of persuasion from Gloucestershire regarding ASW benefits.

CSW – Help given to distributing the pedestrian survey. Questions asked why Hemington, Hardington and Foxcote not included? P Buckwell said that he felt they could be and didn’t deliberately exclude them. Given they also have a link with the A366 Cllr Francis would deliver to Hemington and Hardington with CSW covering Foxcote.

CSW still covering sessions, but were keen for the Council to be making some planned action. One of the key matters would be the £500 assessment for 20mph and would help with fundraising this cost.

iii) Dog Bins/ Litter bin have been delivered V Curtis has kindly agreed to install and Cllr Green stated he may pick them up tomorrow.

iv) Grove Lane Bridleway was reported for fly tipping and vehicle access – this was on the system as a medium priority therefore ongoing.

v) Tractor has been kindly repaired and painted by T Hucker. Thanks expressed for his work. There was an expectation of a small charge involved although this had not been received.

vi) The mole man starting catching Monday and the playing field closed for 4 days, signs have been erected to avoid access.

v) We had made enquiries about S106 monies (as given to Nunney) unfortunately there was no “pot” available and Nunney S106 was funded by a development in the village.

vi) Fulwell Lane flooding has been reported to Highways

**24/25 108 Planning Matters for Consideration**

To consider the following planning applications:

New Application for consideration:

Proposal: Erection of single Storey agricultural barn

Location: 1 Holly Bank, Green Parlour Road, Hemington

Application number 2025/198

Deadline for response: 24th February

**Resolved: Following discussion Council were unanimous in their decision to recommend approval**

**Not on agenda**

Proposal: Temporary change of use of land from agricultural to dog

training/showing field for 50 days per calendar year & formation of

farm track.

Location: Upper Row Farm Row Lane Laverton Frome Somerset

Applicant: E Hendy

Application Type: Full Application

Application Number: 2025/0289/FUL

Comments are welcome by 28th March 2025**.**

This was not an agenda item so a round robin was necessary. There was nothing contentious about the application so Councillors felt no extension was necessary. Cllr Hanley asked questions regarding the roadway. In response the gateway would be back from the road offering good visibility both ways. Mr Drewe stated that the application was purely to keep within the law.

**Resolved: nothing contentious therefore Clerk to proceed with collating comments to comply with deadline.**

**24/25 109 Finances**

1. To present current financial statement and balance on accounts 28.02.25 (Natwest Res & Unity current Account £25168.91)
2. To agree schedule of payments as indicated below:

J Gregory Salary & Expenses £277.99 (net)

Savills Playing Field Rent £125.00

Village Hall Grant Roof Works £2500.00

In relation to the latter Cllr Cross indicated that the Village hall had secured grants of £9k, quotations were in the region of 18k plus VAT and the hall would use some of their reserves to make up the difference.

**Resolved: Proposed Cllr Biggerstaff and seconded Cllr Green that above payments be made**

1. Natwest advised that due to inactivity on the reserve account this was now in a holding account awaiting a decision from Council as to whether we wished to continue or transfer.

**Resolved: Cllr Hanley proposed that it be moved to Unity Bank seconded by Cllr Francis. As the signatories were no longer on Council we would send a copy of these minutes as proof of the decision to move.**

1. Somerset Council wished to charge us £405.60 including VAT for the collection of the bin on the green.

**Resolved: It was agreed by those present not to accept this charge at this time. Alternative arrangements would be sought.**

1. The Clerk advised the time line with regard to the year end. She hoped to close the books off for the 31st March, paperwork aligned and with the auditor for April and back to the Council for sign off in May.

**24/25 110 Other business Referred to the Clerk**

Resident at Hemington complained of collapsed drain. The Clerk had sought some clarification but there was no response. Cllr Francis would follow up as he knew which resident.

Cllr Biggerstaff stated that it would be useful for the parish to have a litter pick – it was decided that the 6th April would be a good date. Clerk to source pickers and bags.

The Clerk advised she was on Jury Service after Easter therefore contact during the day may be difficult.

The June meeting may need to be moved to accommodate annual leave.

**24/25 111 Matters for consideration at the Next Meeting.**

Dog poop signage

**24/25 112 Date of the next Meeting**

## 12th March 2025 with the Annual Parish Meeting at 7pm with Full Council to follow consecutively

Attendees were thanked for their contribution and attendance.

Meeting closed 9.05pm

A signed copy of the minutes can be viewed by arrangement via the Parish Clerk and a copy provid