Hemington, Hardington
& Foxcote Parish Council

Chairman: Ian Biggerstaff ianbigg01@gmail.com

 Clerk: Jen Gregory 07912177288 clerk.hemingtonpc@gmail.com

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**M I N U T E S**

**Of Hemington, Hardington & Foxcote Parish Council (Annual Council)**

**Held on Wednesday 14th May 7.30pm at Faulkland Village Hall**

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

**Also Present:** J Gregory Proper Officer plus 8 Members of the public

 **Public Participation**

Matters raised;

All residents in attendance spoke of their unhappiness with the pub development. We heard of the well attended events and reasons why Faulkland was chosen as a place to live along with its heritage and meaning for a village.

**25/26 001 Appoint a Chair and Vice Chair**

Vice Chair Cllr Hanley took this element of the meeting to appoint a Chair. Cllr Biggerstaff was nominated, seconded by Cllr Buckwell, Cllr Biggerstaff confirmed his ability to serve and was duly appointed as Chair and took the meeting, starting with nominating Cllr Hanley for Vice Chair, seconded by Cllr Cross. Cllr Hanley confirmed his willingness to serve.

**Resolved: Both Cllr Biggerstaff as Chair and Cllr Hanley as Vice Chair were duly appointed to their respective roles**.

**25/26 002 Welcome and apologies for absence**

Cllr Francis advised work commitments as his apologies for absence. Somerset Cllr Clarke had another parish meeting.

**Resolved: Apologies accepted and duly noted.**

**Public Participation**

Items raised by residents

Cutting of the green/playing field – covered under item 25/26 vi

Ducklings - £500 had been raised by crowd funding. Currently 14 ducklings in residence. Charltons will be donating some gates which will make the area more accessible. It was suggested that some of the £500 be used towards installation at the “difficult” part of the pond area. A duck house was suggested but a pontoon would be a better option to avoid foxes and vermin allowing the ducks some safety. Oli Dawson would be contacted at Somerset footpaths regarding the gate

Duck sign – installed and concreted in - thanks to the painter for making this colourful.

Phone Box – covered under item 25/26 v

**25/26 003 Declarations of Interest**

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

**25/26 004 Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

 To receive the minutes of the meeting held 9th April 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 noting Cllr Green was in attendance**

**25/26 005 Report from Somerset Councillor B Clarke**

Written report duly noted in Cllr Clarke’s absence.

**25/26 006 Matters Arising from Previous Meeting**

* + 1. A366 TAG Group

This item covers off part of item ii) below. Sara Davis and Gary Warren were met by the Chair and Clerk to initially discuss the white lining. This was agreed and white lines would be reinstalled on the bend leaving the village.

The feasibility study and 20mph was discussed at some length noting SC use telemetry data from sat navs in cars to form decisions. It was DoT guidance that 20mph would not be possible for speeds above 24mph – there was currently only the area at the hairdressers that provided a 24mph average. Options were limited and not helped by a straight road. We were encouraged to use was available to us namely the SID’s and the CSW.

A 50mph was proposed

on the NSP road and advisory 40mph on the bends. The “hidden dip” would be removed also.

Lots of discussion generally around the signage and particularly the 20mph and some questions are to be formulated back to Sara/Gary. However there was a parting thought to not fixate on a number whether that be 20mph or 30mph but have the objective of bring speeds down.

* + 1. CSW/ASW

CSW are looking for more volunteers. CSW was also picking up PSV and use of mobile telephones and reporting that to the authorities.

The SID application regarding sites would be sent tomorrow. T Ayres had offered a position in his garden for one of the posts.

Whilst we haven’t received funding as yet the Clerk was chasing. P Buckwell said he would pick this up also with Ashley Rae.

In terms of ASW subscriptions were due, the data of which was helpful in effecting times for CSW monitoring.

iii) Dog Bins/ Litter bin have been installed however a resident in conversation with Idverde operator had advised that on the say so of his Manager the bin in the layby had been removed. We have not been advised of this and indeed we funded the cost.

iv) Grove Lane Bridleway was reported for fly tipping and vehicle access – Ongoing

v) Phone box – there was more damage to glass. There had been an offer of polycarbonate however T Hucker who was going to carry out repairs said he preferred glass. Some remedial action necessary with P Buckwell having some poly options. Clerk would ascertain Tony’s intention regarding repairs and repainting given weather improvements. There was some agreement that polycarbonate may be a better solution.

vi) Playfield and Green Grasscutting

 Due to cuts at Somerset the operations site for Idverde at Waterlip was closing and works transferred to Bath, a quotation email had been sent to the wrong address however on chasing this the cost had increased by 50%. Much discussion amongst council with Cllr Green stating he would cut the green as an interim action, Cllr Hanley would mow inside the Village Hall section. Which left the play field – appropriate responses to be made on Facebook with the set up of a Parish Council facebook group. A statement would also be made on the website. In the meantime quotes to be advised possibly using a neighbouring councils operative

 Resolved: If quote is cheaper that Idverde to go on and accept.

vii) Minutes and Parish News – to be drafted and sent within a couple of days of the meeting. Website to indicate new meeting date early on.

viii) ACV update Faulkland Inn. Nomination accepted with a decision within 8 weeks.

ix) Noticeboards – both had none or limited Perspex. It was agreed to re-contact resident that had some off cuts to see if that was possible. The Village Hall noticeboard did belong to the Village Hall.

 **25/26 007 Planning Matters for Consideration**

To consider the following planning applications: None as at 14.05.25

**25/26 008 Finances**

1. To present current financial statement and balance on accounts
2. To agree schedule of payments as indicated below:

J Gregory Salary £262.99

K Harvey Internal Audit £175.00

SALC Training £75.00

SALC Annual Subscription £327.98

Village Hall Grant £2500.00

HMRC PAYE £58.00

Cllr Cross stated that a contractor had been engaged and work was imminent on the village hall roof.

The Clerk asked that the ASW subscription be paid on production of the invoice as this was time sensitive in maintaining continuity of the package.

**Resolved: All Payment agreed.**

1. Year end audit completed taking us back to the exempt category with an advisory from the internal Auditor to complete PAYE monthly.
2. Year end AGAR Exemption form completed and signed by Internal Auditor.

**Resolved: AGAR Exemption form agreed and signed by the Chair in the presence of the meeting.**

1. Inspection period suggest and agreed for 3rd June to 14th July
2. The Clerk had tried to close the Natwest Reserve Account advising that individuals had passed away or left. However a new mandate form had to be agreed and this was signed by Cllr Francis (existing signatory) and Cllr Biggerstaff (new signatory)

**25/26 009 Other business Referred to the Clerk**

It was suggested that Councillors provide a council email address to avoid confusion if there was a FOI.

**25/26 010 Matters for consideration at the Next Meeting.**

**25/26 011 Date of the next Meeting**

## 11th June 2025.

 Clerk annual leave 13th – 20th June

 Clerk Jury Service starting 23rd June

Attendees were thanked for their contribution and attendance.

Meeting closed 8.50pm

A signed copy of the minutes can be viewed by arrangement via the Parish Clerk.