

MINUTES OF MEETING OF HARDINGTON MANDEVILLE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 20th FEBRUARY 2024 IN THE VILLAGE HALL

Members are reminded that the Council has a general duty to consider the following matters in the exercise of any of its functions – Equal Opportunities (race, gender, sexual orientation, marital status & any disability); Crime & Disorder, Health & Safety and Human Rights.

Nancy Chapman, Parish Clerk

Present

Robin Carpenter (Chairperson), Robert Halls, Malcolm White, Richard Beatson, Mark Pollock, Peter Higgins and Joanna Szmaj.

In Attendance

Nancy Chapman (Parish Clerk) and three members of the public.

Before the meeting commenced there was an opportunity for the public to speak:

No items were brought for discussion.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None.

2. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 16th JANUARY 2024 (Already Circulated)

The minutes were approved as correct records of the meeting.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Higgins declared an interest in Section “6.a)ii) App No: 24/00157/HOU”.

4. MATTERS OF REPORT

Cllr Carpenter and Cllr Halls attended the recent LCN meeting on 25th January. The main agenda item was the update on Somerset council’s financial position. The Clerk has circulated the minutes to the Parish Council.

5. SOMERSET COUNCILLOR’S REPORTS (BY INVITATION)

The County Councillor’s reports have been previously circulated.

6. PLANNING AND PLANNING APPLICATIONS

a) Planning applications received:

i) App No: 23/02214/FUL The erection of a replacement two storey dwelling. Location: Orchard Cottage, Moor Lane. The Chairman explained that the current proposal intended to pull-down the existing cottage and start again from scratch. The new cottage will be further from the road. A resolution was passed to support the application.

Cllr Higgins left the meeting.

ii) App No: 24/00157/HOU Removal of existing single storey extensions to north and west elevations and construction of replacement two storey extensions along with internal alterations. (Revised scheme to approved planning application 22/00864/HOU) Location: Moor Farm, Moor Lane. A resolution was passed to support the application.

Cllr Higgins returned to the meeting.

b) No planning applications were received after the publication of this agenda.

c) Planning application for notification only: App No: 24/00180/PDE Proposal: Proposed rear extension (i) the projection of the rear extension beyond the rear wall is 5.60m (ii) the maximum height of the extension is 3.00m (iii) the height at the eaves of the extension is 2.40m Location: Olde Track Hill End.

d) App no 23/03128/HOU Garage for dwelling on North Lane, approved.

7. HIGHWAYS

a) Paul Humby submitted a comprehensive report detailing numerous potholes and surface issues. Paul felt that as usual repairs have been made, but unfortunately the repairs are usually sub-standard and don’t fully fix the issue. The Chairman commented that there are a lot of surface issue from Hill end to the A30.

- b) The edge of the lane near the sewage works in Wimborough Lane is still very dangerous. Some markings have been made for pothole repair in various places but these are inadequate. The chairman will contact our councilors to highlight our concerns.
- c) The edge of the highway has collapsed on Lyatts hill. This has also been notified to SC Highways previously.
- d) The Chairman reported an issue with blocked drains on Pig Hill. After recent rain, water was gushing out of the drain on the bend near the grit bin and flowing down the hill. This could potentially cause flooding to the village shop and houses. The grips and connecting drains need urgent clearing to prevent this happening again. The Chairman has emailed Somerset Council who have replied stating that they believe the under-road drains have been checked and are clear.
- e) Cllr Hall reported that the new “no through road” sign has been fixed to the fingerpost sign at the end of Moor Lane.
- f) The chairman reported that the grit bin on Elliots Drive have been damaged by recent hedge cutting. It was decided to contact the machine operator to attempt to get redress.
- g) A temporary road closure has been received for Lyatts Hill, Hardington Mandeville. The works are expected to commence on 11th March 2024 and last for 5 days to enable Wessex Water to install new connection.

8. FOOTPATHS

- a) Two new footpath gates have been installed on footpath Y10/4 (Malcom’s wood) to replace the damaged stiles.

9. PARISH ISSUES

- a) The Hardington Moor Notice Board right-hand door has come off and the left-hand door is cracked due to recent windy weather. The chairman has asked Ron Ahern to repair this.
- b) No current updates with the phone box refurbishment.
- c) No current updates to the ‘80th Anniversary of D-Day (6th June 2024)’ event.
- d) A committee meeting regarding the Party-in-the-Park (scheduled for 9th June 2024) is being held on Thursday March 14th, 7.30pm at the Royal Oak.

10. COMMUNITY FIELD

- a) It was decided a lorry-load of ‘grit’ would probably work out cheaper for re-surfacing the Bike area. It was agreed to look into this once the weather has improved.
- b) A parishioner had pointed out that there are 3 rotted fence posts near the BBQ area in the community field. Adam Taylor has kindly offered to replace these.
- c) Cllr White has asked Ben Turner to cut the hedges of the community field this spring.

11. FINANCE

- a) A resolution was passed to pay the following amounts-

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| - Somerset Council Ranger Scheme 15th January (£176.05 +VAT £35.21) | £211.26 |
| - Information Commissioner – Data protection renewal fee | £35.00 |

12. PARISH RANGER SCHEME

- a) The ranger reported the following jobs completed: strimmed and cleared around Church area, dug out gullies on Pig Hill, Strimmed around bench area, below Prospect Farm and collected roadside litter.
- b) Work proposal for March:
 - Clear gullies east from the top of Lyatts Hill.
 - Clear moss from Rectory Lane pavement.
- c) An email as been received from Somerset Council stating they are increasing the cost of the Parish Ranger Scheme from £23.79 per hour to £45.67 per hour (93% increase) due to increasing costs for the service. Several lower quoted rates have already been received for similar services and if was agreed the Clerk should follow these up.

13. CORRESPONDENCE

- a) Cllr White forwarded an information pack given details of the Rural England Prosperity Fund.

14. VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE UPDATE

- a) Karen Dodge gave details on the recent electricity costs included the latest invoice of £2455 for the last 3 months. Despite favorable rates, she believes the electric cost will still rise by 40-50% this year. She also included the quote for work to address the Village Hall damp patch (£494). She has asked the Parish Council to transfer the remaining reserves budgeting for the VHC, from the PC bank account to the VHC back account. This will include adding £98 to the £3279 currently held, (given that the budgeted amount originally included a potential insurance cost that did not fully cover the VHC insurance cost 'final amount'). A resolution was passed to transfer £3377.00 to the VHC account.
- b) There is a film night scheduled for 21st March ('One Love').

15. MATTERS OF REPORT & ITEMS OR NEXT MEETING

Chairman: None.

Councillors: None.

Clerk: None.

16. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING & CLOSURE

The meeting closed at 8.25pm. The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Tuesday, 19th February, 7.30pm at the Village Hall.