

MINUTES OF MEETING OF HARDINGTON MANDEVILLE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 17th FEBRUARY 2026 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 (Chairman), Jo Szmaj, Robert Halls, Malcolm White, Ria Pandey, Tina Steel and Mark Pollock.

In Attendance

Nancy Chapman and 1 member of the public.

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

Helen Howell gave details about her recently submitted planning application for a new stable block to replace the existing one (which was too old to repair). This was a similar footprint to the existing one and would be finished in timber rather than white render.

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

None.

2. **MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 20th JANUARY 2026 (Already Circulated)**

A minor change was made to section 17) to remove a sentence, before the minutes were approved as correct records of the meeting.

3. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None

4. **MATTERS OF REPORT**

None

5. **SOMERSET COUNCILLOR'S REPORTS (BY INVITATION)**

The Somerset Councillor's reports have been previously circulated.

6. **PLANNING AND PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

- a) Planning application received after publication of the agenda:
- i) App No: 26/00267/FUL Proposal: Demolition of existing stable block and hay store, and erection of replacement stable block. Location: Hillcroft House Broad Hill. A resolution was passed that there were no objections.

7. **HIGHWAYS**

Highways have confirmed that the 'No Through Road' sign for the highway between North Lane to Moor Lane has been approved and will hopefully be installed sometime soon.

The Chairman reported that he has submitted a report for a pothole, near the Royal Oak Farm entrance on Moor Lane. This has still not been repaired and the drain nearby is also collapsing. He has also reported several potholes on Lyatts Hill. The Clerk reported that the recently repaired river-bank on Lyatts has now been washed away due to heavy rain. Will Brooks has reported this to highways, but has received a reply stating it was now 'fixed' (which isn't the case). Cllr Pandey reported that there was a large pothole near the new houses at Tall Elms.

8. FOOTPATHS

- a) The contractor has completed the tarmacing of the footpath between Moor Lane and the village shop.
- b) The Ramblers Association have written to many PC's regarding the possible omission of R'sOW from the definitive maps. In Hardington Coldharbour Lane and Common Lane are both in the process of being modified as Restricted Byways (All classes of vehicle without an engine). Another 6 routes have been suggested as being R'sOW, but it is very unlikely that there is anyone still alive who can provide any evidence of use. The Chairman has replied accordingly.

9. PARISH ISSUES

The Chairman reported that Parish Online had quoted £250 +VAT for 'Gov.uk' emails address and a website for the first year (£352 per year following this). He has spoken the website manager regarding changing other village organisations to the new 'Parish Council' website and he is happy to help support this. It was suggested that the domain names would be '@hardingtonPC.gov.uk' to keep it fairly simple. It was decided to discuss this at the next meeting ideally with a representative from ParishOnLine and perhaps our webmaster.

10. COMMUNITY FIELD

- a) The chairman reported that once again there was significant gravel movement in the community field car park due to heavy rain. The Chairman has suggested this could be solved by laying tarmac on the first 4-5 metres of the car park to allow surface water to run off into the road without displacing gravel. The Clerk suggested speaking to a drainage expert who could evaluate whether this would solve the existing problem. The clerk agreed to arrange for a suitable person to meet with the chairman to discuss.

11. FINANCE

- a) A resolution was passed to pay the following invoices:

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|---|---------|
| - Jon Backhouse - Ranger (January) | £268.00 |
| - Information Commissioner's Office – data protection fee (£52.00 - £5.00 for DD) | £52.00 |
| - R Hyatt - Tarmacing of footpath between Moor Lane & Village shop. | £950.00 |

12. PARISH RANGER SCHEME

- a) No update was received from the Ranger so far.
- b) The new ranger tasks for next month include mending the door on the notice board opposite the Mandeville Arms and also repairs to the ditch on the Moor Lane to North Lane bridleway, where the rain has washed the large stones away.

13. CORRESPONDENCE

The clerk reported that an email from Yeovil-without Parish Council has been received, asking neighbouring PCs to cosign a joint letter to the Secretary of State regarding the New Medium Helicopter programme and the future of Leonardo Helicopters UK in Yeovil. They have asked them to award the contract to Leonardo without further delay. A resolution was approved to cosign on the joint letter being sent by Yeovil Without Parish Council.

14. VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE UPDATE

The last coffee morning raised £265. The next film is the Roses to be shown on 19th February. The following film night is Downtown Abbey on the 19th March. January's electricity bill was £1260.

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 8.35pm. The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Tuesday, 17th March at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.