

*MINUTES OF MEETING OF HARDINGTON MANDEVILLE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY
16th JANUARY 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 and Joanna Szmaj.

In Attendance

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

Before the meeting commenced there was an opportunity for the public to speak: Andrew Middleton commented that the Somerset County Road closure fees for the Hardington Summer fayre has increased from £200 to £575 in the last year. The Chairman responded that Somerset Council are clearly doing every thing they can to decrease their losses!

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None.

2. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 21st NOVEMBER 2023 (Already Circulated)

The minutes were approved as correct records of the meeting.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

4. MATTERS OF REPORT

None.

5. SOMERSET COUNTY 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: 23/02620/OUT Outline application for a proposed dwelling, all matters reserved.
Location: Land North Of Peach Tree Cottage North Lane Applicant: Mr K Sealy.

The Chairman explained that this was the second application for a new dwelling for the same site (the previous one was in October 2020). This new application was for a smaller house than the previous one, which the PC had objected too. A resolution was passed to support the planning application, subject to consideration being made for the following:

- The house is very close to the boundary of the property immediately north of the site. Ideally the PC would like the new dwelling to be located further to the south.
- The PC believes the new dwelling could be dug-down and sited lower, so that the roof-ridge is no longer so high against the other houses on this road.
- The PC feel the house would benefit for a hip roof on the North end to reduce the main impact on the other dwelling.
- The PC are keen to see the finish material in natural stone and with reclaimed roof tiles, rather than a rendered finish, as this is more in-keeping with other houses on the road.

- ii) App No: 23/03128/HOU Erection Of A Garage. Location: Land North Of Peach Tree Cottage North Lane Applicant: Mrs J Manuel. The Chairman reported that there is already a concrete hard-standing (with foundations) in place, available for 3 cars. A resolution was passed to support the application
 - iii) App No: 23/03116/HOU Alterations and two storey rear extension. Location: Smithfields High Street. A resolution was passed to support the application.
- b) No planning applications were received after the publication of this agenda.

7. HIGHWAYS

- a) Paul Humby submitted a comprehensive report detailing numerous potholes and surface issues.
- b) The Chairman reported a highways issue on the corner by the sewage works on Wimborough Lane. The road edge on the South side has disappeared, so there is a deep drop to the bed of the ditch where it flows under the road, right on the edge of the lane. The drains here are also blocked and it would only take a bit of ice to cause a wheel to slip off the tarmac. The fence on the North side has also collapsed. This has been reported to SC Highways.
- 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 agreed to email the Somerset County Councilors to chase the above issues.
- e) The clerk agreed to put a note in the messenger asking people to use the grit bins when it is icy!

8. FOOTPATHS

- a) Cllr White raised a concern that the footpath from Moor Lane to North Lane was missing a fence near the stream, and thought this was a safety issue. Cllr Carpenter replied that this was private land and that there was no responsibility to provide a fence here.

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) The chairman reported that there is a new defibrillator installed in an external cabinet through the small gate to the right of 'the Shed', at Brookfield, Lyatts Hill. The PC thanked the Brooks Family and also Umbrella Homes Residents Trust for kindly donating it. It has been registered with the National Defibrillator Network which means in the case of an emergency the Ambulance Service can give you the cabinet code and direct you to collect it.
- c) The Mandeville Arms phone box is currently housing a Christmas tree and so there is no further progress with the phone box refurbishment for now!
- d) No current updates to the '80th Anniversary of D-Day (6th June 2024)' event.
- e) A resolution was passed to support Street Fayre Committee (acting as a sub-committee to the Parish Council) to hold street fayre on 6th July 2024.

10. COMMUNITY FIELD

- a) The chairman thanked Peter Higgin for kindly fixing the Zipline trolley.
- b) The chairman thanked Malcolm White and his team for fixing the right-hand side rotted post of the gateway into Community field.
- c) It was agreed to discuss the bike track repairs at February's meeting.

11. FINANCE

- a) Bank Reconciliation at 31st December 2023 (postponed until February's meeting).
- b) Budget Analysis at 31st December 2023 (postponed until February's meeting).
- c) Version 2 of the draft budget for 2023-24 was discussed. Somerset Council have indicated that they may considered 'service devolution' over the next financial year. This might involve the Parish Council have to take-on some of the tasks that are 'devolved' (no further details of this have been received so far). Cllr Beatson asked if the PC will consider giving £500 for graveyard maintenance, as in previous years. The Clerk replied this could be met from the general reserve amount. Following discussion, a resolution was passed to raise the precept by 10.65% to £16,000 (will increase band D payment from £50.81-£55.54 =£4.73).
- d) A Resolution was passed to pay the following amounts-
 - N Chapman (Salary, Expenses and Mileage) £1176.44

12. PARISH RANGER SCHEME

- a) The ranger reported the following jobs completed: Leaf clearance, strimmed untidy places, cleared phone boxes, cleared drains and grit spreaded.
- b) Work proposal for February:
 - Y10/46 stile at West End of Partway Lane needs clearing (and possibly repair).
 - Y10/44 gate into field off drive needs clearing.
 - Clear moss from Rectory Lane pavement.

13. CORRESPONDENCE

- a) The next LCN meeting is being held at 7pm on Thursday 25th January at Ilchester Town Hall

14. VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE UPDATE

New lights with motion sensors have been fitted to the Village Hall side-car park. The leak to the roof has also been found.

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 8.10pm. The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Tuesday, 20th January, 7.30pm at the Village Hall.

After the meeting, there was an opportunity for the public to speak:

Karen Dodge reported that the Village Hall Committee has been successful in finding a new electricity supplier with reasonable rates.