

MINUTES OF MEETING OF HARDINGTON MANDEVILLE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 20th JANUARY 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 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:

No items were brought for discussion.

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Malcolm White and Tina Steel.

2. **MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 18th NOVEMBER 2025 (Already Circulated)**

The minutes were approved as correct records of the meeting.

3. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None

4. **PARISH COUNCIL VACANCY**

The Parish Council passed a resolution to co-opt Ria Pandey onto the Parish Council. Ria then signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office and joined the meeting.

5. **MATTERS OF REPORT**

The Chairman reported that he attended the LCN meeting on 18th December and that he was disappointed that it was poorly attended. The LCN still has no chairman and was held by the LCN officers.

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

No update.

7. **PLANNING AND PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

- a) Planning applications received after publication of the agenda:
- i) Planning App: 25/02885/FUL Proposal: Demolition of Existing Agricultural building and the erection of a replacement building for the housing of young stock. Location Lime Kiln Farm, Broad Hill. A resolution was passed that there were no objections.
- b) Following the clerk sending a letter of complaint re the PC objections over a planning application, a response was received from Somerset Council Planning Department, justifying their reasons. There was nothing much more that could be done.

8. **HIGHWAYS**

a) The Chairman reported that he had submitted a report for a Pothole the near the Royal Oak Farm entrance on Moor Lane. Cllr Pandey reported that there was also a large pothole on Broadacres, near the junction of Cold Harbor Lane and she agreed to report it.

The Chairman reported that a farmer has placed a large tractor tyre preventing people from driving along the highway from North Lane to Moor Lane, which is still being used by delivery vehicles who often get stuck! He agreed to contact Somerset Highways asking for a 'No Through Road' sign for this path.

9. FOOTPATHS

- a) The contractor is waiting for dry weather to lay the new tarmac on the footpath between Moor Lane to the village shop.
- b) The Chairman has received two issues regarding footpaths. 1) Ref 84657 Y10/46 The bridge has been reported as being overgrown. It was agreed the ranger could clear it. 2) 16029 Y10/32 There was an issue with the footpath gate. The chairman agreed to follow this up.

10. PARISH ISSUES

The Chairman is having problems replying to emails from his 'Hardington.net' on his phone. Cllr Roberts agreed to have a look at this. The Chairman reported that Parish Online had quoted £250 +VAT for 'Gov.uk' emails address and a website for the first year (£350 per year following this). This would mean that the PC would have to pay for the village website and the PC website. The Chairman stated that he would look into this further.

11. COMMUNITY FIELD

- a) The chairman reported that there was significant gravel movement in the community field car park due to heavy rain. The ranger has now replaced the gravel.
- b) The Chairman thanked Royal Oak Farm for clearing the drain near the community field.

12. FINANCE

- a) The latest budget plan was discussed. Unfortunately, the general reserves were now quite low, and in order to meet the budget plan for next year, a precept of £20,600 was required (previous year was £17,500). This would result in an increase for a band D property from £61.06 to £71.06. A resolution was passed to approve the Precept of £20,600.
- b) A resolution was passed to donate £500 towards the Octagon Theatre redevelopment funding.
- c) A resolution was passed to pay the following invoices:

- Jon Backhouse - Ranger (December)	£268.00
- N Chapman Oct-Dec salary and expenses	£1,067.46
- King Electrical Cont.Ltd -VHC Projector cable (£480.00+VAT £96.00)	£576.00
- Somerset Council – Community Licence	£70.00

13. PARISH RANGER SCHEME

- a) The Ranger has installed the new dog litter bin near the church triangle, secured the metal bench on cold harbour lane onto the concrete base, painted the 'St James Terrace' sign, replaced the perspex on the notice board, replaced the gravel that was washed away by heavy rain in the community field, trimmed and cleared leaves.
- b) The new ranger tasks for next month include clearing the Y10/46 bridge, clearing the roadside ditch on Wimborough Lane opposite the sewerage works (which may need rodding), clearing the path to the left hand side of the Village Hall entrance and unblocking any drains.

14. CORRESPONDENCE

The clerk reported that she had received a request for the PC to ask if the black rubbish bins outside of Manor Farm could be kept inside the farm as they look untidy when left out on the road. It was agreed the clerk should contact the residents regarding this.

15. VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE UPDATE

The coffee morning raised £240 in November and £160 in December. The Rotary Club donated £522 for the sale of raffle tickets. The Garden Club donated £480. The next film is the Roses to be shown on 17th February. November's electricity bill was £765 and December's was £1098. The new cladding has been installed and the emergency lighting has been installed at the accessibility entrance.

16. MATTERS OF REPORT & ITEMS OR NEXT MEETING

Chairman: None.

Councillors: None.

Clerk: None.

17. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING & CLOSURE

The meeting closed at 8.30pm. There will be no meeting in December. The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Tuesday, 17th February at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.