

MINUTES OF MEETING OF HARDINGTON MANDEVILLE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 17th MARCH 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, Ria Pandey, Tina Steel and Mark Pollock.

In Attendance

Nancy Chapman and 4 members of the public.

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

The Vicar, Phil Macaulay of the Coker Ridge Benefice introduced himself to the Parish Council.

A member of the street fayre committee reported that they are hoping to hold the street fayre on the 4th July, but currently have not paid for the license to close the road (£700 for two years), as they are currently quite short of volunteers to help out.

A member of the VHC committee stated that they are due a 5 year electrical check. Also, the solar panel inverter has now failed (which after 10 years is not that unusual!). This could cost around £1000 to replace.

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Malcolm White.

2. **MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 17th FEBRUARY 2026 (Already Circulated)**

The minutes were approved as correct records of the meeting.

3. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None

4. **MATTERS OF REPORT**

The Chairman attended the 'LCN Highways working group' and he gave a summary of it.

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

The Somerset Councillor's reports have been previously circulated.

6. **PLANNING AND PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

a) There were no planning applications received after publication of the agenda.

7. **HIGHWAYS**

The Chairman reported that Brook bridge near the shop was starting to collapse. Various potholes were discussed including those on Lyatts, Royal Oak farm entrance, Hill End and also the road towards the A30.

8. **FOOTPATHS**

a) No issues arising.

9. PARISH ISSUES

- a) 'Parish Online' were unable to attend the PC meeting. Following discussion, it was agreed that Cllr Pandy will help set up the new website and emails by liaising with Parish online and the Hardington Webmaster.
- b) A resolution was passed to allow the Street Fayre Committee (acting as a sub-committee to the Parish Council) to hold the street Fayre on 4th July 2026.

10. COMMUNITY FIELD

- a) The heavy-rain movement of gravel in the community field car park was discussed. A quote has been received for the tarmacing of the carpark. As per standing orders, two further quotes would need to be received. The use of 'Driveway grids' was also suggested (similar to those used at Westbay carparks). This may be cheaper than tarmac. It was agreed to get quotes for this also.
- b) The Clerk has chased up the contractors, asking them to do the first cut of the field and also weedkill the paths and car park.

11. FINANCE

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

- Jon Backhouse – Ranger (February – Labour £225.00 + materials £34.25)	£259.25
- Jon Backhouse – Ranger (March – Labour £225.00 + materials £23.60)	£248.60
- Somerset Council – Bin Emptying Jan-Mar £169.00 + VAT £33.80)	£202.80

12. PARISH RANGER SCHEME

- a) The ranger strimmed the path from Moor Lane to the shop, repaired the notice board and rebuilt a small wall where water was eroding the outflow into Chinnock Brook on the bridleway from North Lane to the Moor. It was resolved to obtain some gravel to cover the exposed drain improve the surface here.
- b) The Ranger has reported that he will be working in the community field in order to finish of tasks raised from the Annual inspection.

13. CORRESPONDENCE

No issues arising.

14. VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE UPDATE

The last coffee morning raised £315. The next one is on the 28th March. The last film night raised £213. The next film night is Downtown Abbey to be shown on the 19th March. February's electricity bill was £898.45. The 100 Club tickets will go on sale in May.

15. MATTERS OF REPORT & ITEMS OR NEXT MEETING

Chairman: None.

Councillors:

- 1) The planning application for the replacement barn at Limekiln farm has been approved.
- 2) The Clerk agreed to put a post on local facebook groups asking people not to ride their horses in the nature reserve as this has happened several times recently.

Clerk: None.

16. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING & CLOSURE

The meeting closed at 8.20pm. The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Tuesday, 21st April at the Village Hall, following the Annual Meeting of the Parish.