

MINUTES OF MEETING OF HARDINGTON MANDEVILLE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 19th
MAY 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), Malcolm White, Robert Halls, Ria Pandey and Jo Szmaj.

In Attendance

Nancy Chapman and 1 member of the public.

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

A parishioner asked the council if it was necessary to keep the internal gate of the community field locked as recently, an ambulance was looking to bring a stretcher into the field following a callout. The Chairman replied the it was locked because several years ago, unauthorized cars had entered the field and caused damage to the grass. The Chairman also thought that the pedestrian gate was plenty wide enough for a stretcher. The Chairman agreed to pass the code on to Daphne (and also to any local people that might require it).

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Mark Pollock and Sarah Duncan.

2. **ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN AND SIGNING OF DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE**

Robin Carpenter was elected as Chairman and signed the declaration of acceptance of office.

3. **ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

- a) Joanna Szmaj was elected as Vice Chairman.
- b) Robert Halls was elected as Village Hall Representative.
- c) No Highways Representative was elected.
- d) Robin Carpenter agreed to continue as Footpaths Representative.
- e) Malcolm White agreed to continue as Parish Environment Officer.

4. **MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 21st APRIL 2026 (Already Circulated)**

The minutes were approved as correct records of the meeting.

5. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None

6. **PARISH COUNCIL VACANCY**

It was decided to postpone the co-option until the next meeting as the person interested in joining the council was unable to attend the meeting, and not all councilors have had the chance to meet her.

7. **MATTERS OF REPORT**

The Chairman reported that Nigel Timmis has kindly offered to take on the role of 'chairman' for Clossworth meeting (including Pendomer).

8. SOMERSET COUNCILLOR'S REPORTS (BY INVITATION)

The Somerset Councillor's reports have been previously circulated.

9. PLANNING AND PLANNING APPLICATIONS

- a) Planning applications received:
 - i) Planning App No: 26/00762/OUT Proposal: Outline Application with some matters reserved except access, landscaping & scale for the proposed erection of two detached, four bedroom two storey dwellings with double garages and parking Location: Land OS 1317 Lyatts Hill Applicant: Mrs Jones. Councillors discussed this application. There was a view that the gap between the houses was small, and with 2 4-bedroom houses the gardens would also be small. There were no neighbour objections known of. A resolution was passed to support the application.
- b) There were no planning applications received after publication of the agenda.

10. HIGHWAYS

- a) A Road Closure Notice was received for the High Street. The road is expected to be closed on 04/06/2026. 6.5 hours (09:00 - 15:30) to enable Wessex Water to carry out remedial defect works.
- b) Councillors have reported several potholes around the village and reported them. Contractors have also been unblocking the drains on Primrose hill.

11. FOOTPATHS

- a) Cllr White and Cllr Pollock have agreed to help spread the gravel onto North Lane/Moor Lane bridleway to help support the rainwater drain.
- b) The Chairman reported that there is application to divert a bridleway on land in near Lower Pen Hill farm, Pendomer.

12. PARISH ISSUES

- a) Cllr Pandey reported that 'Parish Online' have set-up the new website and email addresses. She will make sure that all the existing content of the previous website has been carried across to the new website.

13. COMMUNITY FIELD

- a) A resolution was passed to approve Halycon's price increase from £2005.20 to £2085.36 (from £167.10 to £173.78 monthly direct debit).
- b) The Clerk is in the process of obtaining quotes for the work to prevent the movement of gravel in the community field car park due to heavy rain. This includes quotes for tarmacing of the carpark, and also the use of 'Driveway grids' (similar to those used at Westbay carparks).
- c) Unfortunately due to weed growth over the last few years, the Bike track is slowly disappearing! It was decided that a digger is required to scrape the top surface off, so that a weed-control membrane can be used, before laying a self-compacted gravel. The clerk agreed to obtain quotes for the this.

14. FINANCE

- a) There were no comments on the Annual Internal Audit Report. As both Income and Expenditure are above the £25,000 threshold, the clerk reported that an external audit is necessary.
- b) A resolution was passed to approve the Annual Governance Statement.
- c) A resolution was passed to approve the Accounting Statements.
- d) A resolution was passed to approve the Parish Council Insurance due 1st June 2026 ££554.46 - (previous year £544.04)
- e) A resolution was passed to pay the following invoices:

- Richard Keylock – Internal Audit (£87.00 +VAT£17.40)	£104.40
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f) The clerk reported that the monthly cost of the PC hiring the village hall will increase by £1 an hour (will now cost £26.00, previously £24.00).

15. PARISH RANGER SCHEME

- a) No report received.
- b) The Chairman has some further wall-support work for the Ranger on the North Lane/Moor Lane Bridleway. The footpath off Penn Lane and also Rectory Lane requires strimming.

16. CORRESPONDENCE

No issues arising.

17. VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE UPDATE

The village hall coffee morning on 25th April raised £330. The next coffee morning is on Saturday 30th May. The two April films made a loss. The Jungle Book lost £69.36 and Fiddler on the Roof lost £21.16. The next film night is ‘Song Sung Blue’ to be shown on the 20th May. All 100 club tickets have now been sold. April’s energy bill was £374.67.

The water leak in the car park has now been repaired thanks to Tom Turner. The Clerk agreed to write to him expressing the thanks of behalf of the PC.

18. MATTERS OF REPORT & ITEMS OR NEXT MEETING

Chairman: None.

Councillors: None

Clerk: None.

19. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING & CLOSURE

The meeting closed at 8.45pm. The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Tuesday, 16th June at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.