

*MINUTES OF MEETING OF HARDINGTON MANDEVILLE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 21<sup>st</sup> NOVEMBER 2023 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, Peter Higgins, Richard Beatson and Mark Pollock

**In Attendance**

Nancy Chapman (Parish Clerk), Mike Hewitson (Somerset Councillor) and two members of the public.

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

No questions were raised.

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Joanna Szmaj and Oliver Patrick (Somerset Councillor).

**2. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 17<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2023 (Already Circulated)**

The minutes were approved as correct records of the meeting.

**3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None.

**4. MATTERS OF REPORT**

The latest LCN minutes (1<sup>st</sup> November 2023) have been circulated. The next meeting is scheduled for the 5th January (but this maybe postponed until later).

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

The County Councillor's reports have been previously circulated. Cllr Hewitson discussed the financial 'emergency' that Somerset Council is experiencing due to overspend on 'Adult Social Care and Children Services'. He gave details of what options they had to consider in the next year. The 'Asset and service devolution', that all Parish Council's have received letters about recently, was one of the options that maybe considered. This may affect Parish Council budget planning for next year, when trying to determine the precept.

**6. PLANNING AND PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

a) Planning application received: App No: 23/02846/HOU Removal of existing porch and construction of new extension to front of property and new detached garage. Location: Pine Barton Broadstone Lane. One Councilor thought the proposed height of the garage, might make it more difficult to see the highway as it is on the corner of the lane. A resolution was passed to approve the planning application.

b) No planning applications were received after the publication of this agenda.

**7. HIGHWAYS**

a) Paul Humby said there were several new potholes on the highway report. One of the potholes had been dismissed, as it was not seen to be bad enough to rectify. PH said he would write to say the Parish Council would like this re-assessed.

b) The Chairman wrote complaining to Somerset Highways, regarding the mound of dirt left behind from a recent project. The response said that they had no-where to dispose of this mound. The Chairman thought they could have done a better job to remove it, rather than kill the grass underneath were it was left.

c) RC reported that Highways and agreed to fix a 'No through Road' sign to the end of Moor Lane (following a 40-ton lorry that got lost and then got stuck at Nursery Gardens in Moor Lane, causing considerable damage). The Chairman is keen to see a 'No articulated lorries' sign located somewhere just past the Royal Oak Farm.

## **8. FOOTPATHS**

a) RC has requested that two of the stiles are replaced with gates for footpath Y10/4 (Malcolm's wood).

## **9. PARISH ISSUES**

a) With regards to the phone box refurbishment, the self-closer on the door is not working. MW will investigate fixing and replace if necessary.

b) MP gave details of the proposal for the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of D-Day (6<sup>th</sup> June 2024). At 21:15 beacons will be lit throughout the country. A beacon will be lit in Hardington (at the top of the ridge) but only one person will be allowed near it (to light it). MP said that Martin is happy to provide Fish and Chip supper in the pub..

c) Mr and Mrs J.Lines thanked the Parish Council for helping to fund half of the Village Well wall rebuild.

d) The Chairman thanked those people involved in the organization of the Firework-night event held at the Royal Oak this year.

## **10. COMMUNITY FIELD**

a) PH will re-hang the mended Zipline trolley once it is dry enough to use a ladder in the field.

b) The right-hand side of the gateway into Community field has rotted. MW has agreed to dig-up the rotted post and replaced with another one. RC requested that a post-saver-sleeve is used. A resolution was passed for MW to purchase the new post and post-saver sleeve.

c) It was agreed to discuss the bike track repairs at January's meeting.

## **11. FINANCE**

a) 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'. Several councilors were keen to raise it 50% (from £14,460 to £21,690). This would result in a 'Band D' houses paying an extra £25 a year (from £50 to £75). Other Councilors thought an increase of 10% (to £16,000) would be more reasonable. Following discussion, it was agreed not to make a decision on precept at this time. The Clerk agreed to assess the 'Devolution opportunities' breakdown (that Somerset county had provided), and work out which were relevant to Hardington Parish Council, before attempting to set the precept.

b) A second CIL payment of £775.10 has been paid from the 'Land North of Tall Elms' development

c) A Resolution was passed to pay the following amounts-

- Somerset Council – 09/10/23 Parish Ranger Scheme (£176.05 +VAT£35.21)	£211.26
- Village Hall Committee Insurance	£1508.06
- Somerset Council – Community Annual Premises Licence	£70.00

## **12. PARISH RANGER SCHEME**

- a) The Ranger apologise that she wasn't able to visit Hardington in November, due to flooding in the area.
- b) Work proposal for December:
- Clear new curbed gullies on Primrose Hill
  - 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.
  - Strim around the phone box.

## **13. CORRESPONDENCE**

The Clerk reported that Somerset Council have sent details of the 'Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG)'. From January 2024 planning applications submitted for new development in England will be required to achieve at least 10% BNG. There is an online survey allowing people to express their views on Somerset Council's draft BNG Guidance Note.

## **14. VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE UPDATE**

There is a coffee morning on the 25<sup>th</sup> November. There is a film night on the 14<sup>th</sup> December, Barbie(!)

## **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 8.40pm. There is no Parish Meeting in December. The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Tuesday, 16<sup>th</sup> January, 7.30pm at the Village Hall.