

*MINUTES OF MEETING OF HARDINGTON MANDEVILLE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 18th NOVEMBER 2025 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, Tina Steel, Mark Pollock and Malcolm White.

**In Attendance**

Nancy Chapman and 2 members 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**

None.

2. **MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 21st OCTOBER 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 has one councillor vacancy.

5. **MATTERS OF REPORT**

Cllr Carpenter attended a meeting with Sue Murrison (Chairman of the Closworth Parish Meeting), Cllr Patrick and Cllr Hewittson to discuss the subject of Closworth, Sutton Bingham and Pendermer currently not belonging to a Parish Council. Sue Murrison intends to put together a proposal for this, which will then require a local governance review and a ballot for the 120 dwellings within these parishes.

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

The Somerset Councilor's reports have been previously circulated.

7. **PLANNING AND PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

- a) There were no planning applications received after publication of this agenda.
- b) Planning Application 25/01452/FUL Proposed formation of access and erection of 2 private dwellings at Windmill Cottage, High Street has been approved with conditions.

Cllr Pollock commented that despite the Parish Council objecting to this, this has made no difference to Somerset Council Planning department. This subject was discussed and a resolution was passed to write to Somerset Council Planning department, stating that the Parish Council are not happy that their opinion on this application has made no difference once again.

8. **HIGHWAYS**

- a) Somerset Council Highways have now rodded the blocked drain on Pig Hill.

## **9. FOOTPATHS**

- a) The Contractor is due to start work sometime soon on laying further tarmac for the footpath between Moor Lane to the Village shop.
- b) The missing signpost on Y10/41 at the south end of Holtens has been replaced by the ranger.
- c) Cllr Pollock reported that the gate on the footpath near 'Waterfalls' is broken and no longer shuts. The Clerk agreed to contact the East Coker Clerk as this was in their Parish.

## **10. PARISH ISSUES**

- a) It would appear that the metal bench at the bottom on Penn lane may have been subject to potential theft as the bolts at the bottom, fixing the bench to its foundation have been undone and the metal slats have been raised. It was not thought that it was unsafe to sit on, and it was agreed to ask the ranger to resecure the bench to its foundation.

## **11. COMMUNITY FIELD**

- a) Cllr White agreed to chase the trimming of the Community field hedges.

## **12. FINANCE**

- a) The budget plan was discussed. The Parish Council were keen to only increase the precept by the rate of inflation (4%), however in order to meet current budget figures it would need to be closer to 10%. It was agreed the Clerk would look to see what can be reduced in order to get closer to 4% and this could be discussed again at January's meeting.
- b) A resolution was passed to pay the following invoices:

- Jon Backhouse - Ranger (November) labour £225.00 +Materials £38.88	£263.88
- SALC Councillor Training Part 1	£25.00
- SALC Councillor Training Part 2	£25.00
- Somerset Council Bin emptying (Jul-Sept) £169.00+ VAT£33.80	£202.80

## **13. PARISH RANGER SCHEME**

- a) The Ranger has installed the replacement footpath sign at Holtens, cleared around the grit bins on the High street, repaired the community field wooden tunnel, cleared several drains and cleared up fallen leaves. It was decided that the larger oak benches (at the Community Field) have deteriorated too much and that it was not worth trying to save them.
- b) The new ranger tasks for next month included installing the new dog litter bin at the 'triangle', replacing the Perspex board for the notice board opposite the Mandeville arm and unblocking any drains.

## **14. CORRESPONDENCE**

None.

## **15. VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE UPDATE**

The last film night raised £215.67. The next film is the Ballad of Wallis Island to be shown on 20<sup>th</sup> November. The last electricity bill was £337 (previous one was £115). The new garage door has been installed. The VHC are now getting quotes for the cladding above the front door.

## **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, 20th January at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.