

MINUTES OF MEETING OF HARDINGTON MANDEVILLE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY
17th OCTOBER 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, Joanna Szmaj, Richard Beatson and Mark Pollock

In Attendance

Lucy Gibbons (Locum Parish Clerk) 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

Oliver Patrick and Mike Hewitson (Somerset Councillors) and Cllr Peter Higgins.

2. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 19th SEPTEMBER 2023 (Already Circulated)

The minutes were approved as correct records of the meeting.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

4. MATTERS OF REPORT

None.

5. DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORTS (BY INVITATION)

As circulated.

6. PLANNING AND PLANNING APPLICATIONS

a) Planning App: 23/02475/FUL Change of use of land from agricultural to residential and construction of an agricultural workers dwelling in place of that approved under Application No. 12/02396/FUL. Location: Lime Kiln Farm Broad Hill Applicant: Mr W Turner (comments by 24th October 2023). Councillors agreed to support this application subject to the Agricultural Tie remaining in place permanently. The new design, being a bungalow, is an improvement to that which currently has planning permission.

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

7. HIGHWAYS

a) No report has been received. RC reported that a 40-ton lorry got lost and then got stuck at Nursery Gardens in Moor Lane, causing considerable damage. The 'No through Road' sign is missing at the end of Moor Lane. This was reported to Somerset Council who said that they currently have no funds to replace signs. LG to contact Highways and object to this response and ask for an urgent replacement.

b) Grit Bins have been installed at Bishops Lane and top of High Street. NG to check that these will be filled.

c) Discussion took place regarding speeding traffic and restrictions. We received the following report from Gary Warren (Somerset Council Traffic Engineering Officer) talking about Hardington speed restrictions. Here is the summary:

1) Gary looked at the Somerset County Software, 'Speed Compliance tool' and he was able to tell us that the average speed through the village is 21mph. He feels this is usual. Hardington roads are 'self-calming' due to the nature of the bends and corners. It is occasional delivery vehicles or agricultural vehicles that are speeding.

2) Based on this he feels there would be 'no benefit' to Hardington in implementing a 20mph speed restriction.

3) If we decide to go ahead with the speed restriction, it would involve installing repeater signs (stating '20mph' or '30mph') every 200 metres and a cost of £150 each. A 'very' rough price for the main areas of the village would be £5000-£7500.

4) This would not cover all areas, and houses in rural remote roads will not benefit (putting restrictions here will mean traffic will 'lose respect' for the main areas of restrictions).

5) Somerset Council are the Local Authority and they will liaise with the police (the police are generally happy to go with the authority recommendation).

A full assessment will cost £500, so Councillors agreed that given the initial report above, this would be a waste of Parish Council funds.

8. FOOTPATHS

a) Footpath Y10/4 (Malcolm's wood) there is a broken stile. RC has requested that the stiles are replaced with gates. The stiles at Y44 and Y46 are completely overgrown by hedges. RC will ask the Ranger to clear these.

9. PARISH ISSUES

a) Phone box refurbishment. MW has fitted the straps to stop the door swinging open. The self-closer on the door is not working. A block has been placed in front of it to stop it opening. RH will investigate fixing or replacing the self-closing mechanism.

b) Bonfire Night Event. It was felt that there is not enough time to organise an event for this year.

c) MP gave details of the proposal for the 80th Anniversary of D-Day (6th June 2024). At 21:15 beacons will be lit throughout the country. It has been suggested that a fish and Chip meal will follow. MP will contact the Royal Oak to ask if they would be able to cater for the event and share the cost of the beacon. A resolution was taken to support this event.

10. COMMUNITY FIELD

a) Zipline trolley (2 x Pulley wheels required £82.36 (net)). These have arrived. PH will re-assemble the trolley with the new pulley wheels as soon as he is able.

b) Right-hand side of gateway into Community field has rotted. This will not be easy to remove. MW to ask James White if he can dig out the concrete and replace the post. RC requested that a post saver sleeve is used. (NC to get a price for a replacement post and post saver sleeves).

c) Bike track repairs. This has been weed killed but still needs some work to restore it fully.

d) No other issues were raised.

11. FINANCE

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

- Somerset Council – 04/09/23 Parish Ranger Scheme (£176.05 +VAT£35.21)	£211.26
- SALC 2023/2024 Affiliation Fee	£167.74
- N Chapman Salary & Expenses	£961.17
- N Chapman Reimbursement for 2 x Grit Bins (£265.98+ VAT£53.20)	£319.18
- DJ Lines -Reimbursement for Village well wall repair (50%)	£250.00
- R Carpenter – Reimbursement for Playdale 2 X Zipline Pulleys	£98.83

12. PARISH RANGER SCHEME

- a) Work completed October. We have not yet received a report for this months work.
- b) Work proposal for November
 - 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

None received.

14. VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE UPDATE

There is a coffee morning on the 28th October. There is a film night on the 19th October. The committee are waiting for a quote for automatic lighting at the side of the Hall.

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 8.45pm. The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Tuesday, 21st November at the Village Hall. (JS apologies)