

MINUTES OF MEETING OF HARDINGTON MANDEVILLE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 19th SEPTEMBER 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, Peter Higgins, Malcolm White and Mike Hewitson (Somerset Councillor).

In Attendance

Nancy Chapman (Parish Clerk) and 1 Member of the Public.

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

A parishioner spoke of his concern for safety, given the number of speeding vehicles going through the village. He has had two crashes this year in Ridge lane and at Lyatts cross. He was stationary for both, and was hit by speeding white courier's vans! He would like the PC to revisit the issue of speed restrictions (or lack of them) within Hardington.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Joanna Szmaj, Richard Beatson, Mark Pollock and Oliver Patrick.

2. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 15th AUGUST 2023 (Already Circulated)

A minor amendment was made to section 14 to read '...amended from £4500 to £5400 for the 2023/24 precept'. The minutes were then 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)

Cllr Hewitson and Cllr Patrick 'county-wide' report was previously circulated. Somerset Council is warning that it will have to draw on reserves for the second successive year to fund the rising cost of both Adult and Children's social care. The papers reveal that the Council drew £18 million from reserves last year to fund spending beyond the 2022/23 budgets in Adult and Children's care services. On a positive note, Recycling in Somerset is at an all-time-high. There is a public meeting in West Coker this Thursday, to discuss the proposed application for the solar farm adjacent to Camp Road to provide power for Leonardo Helicopters.

6. PLANNING AND PLANNING APPLICATIONS

- a) Planning App: 23/01912/S73 Proposal: S73 application for amendments to planning permission for the erection of 1 No. dwelling to allow for the variation of and condition 3 of outline permission 20/00903/OUT and conditions 1 and 4 of reserved matters approval 21/01194/REM. Location: Walnut Tree Farm Lyatts Hill. Due to planning deadlines, councillors were asked to comment by email. There were no objections.
- b) No planning applications were received after the publication of this agenda.

7. HIGHWAYS

- a) PH's monthly report was circulated.
- b) Discussion took place regarding speeding traffic and restrictions. Councillors are keen to have restriction of 20mph within the parish boundaries. Evidence will be needed and collated to support this issue. The Clerk agreed to make enquiries as to how this should be done.
- c) Bridge Close Farm Lane is subject to an urgent closure notice from 20th-23rd September to allow Wessex water to replace a pipe.

8. FOOTPATHS

- a) A bag of gravel was purchased for the footpath, near the Community field main entrance, to solve the uneven surface issues, which were causing problems for wheelchairs etc. Thanks to Robin, Robert and Nigel for assisting in spreading the gravel along the path.
- b) There is a broken stile on footpath Y10/4 (Malcom's wood) that needs mending. A second footplate needs attaching.

9. PARISH ISSUES

- a) The PC is keen to find volunteers to help paint the Red phone box. Robin has obtained an A2 size copy of the village map, which will be placed in the box.
- b) MP will give details of the proposal for the 80th Anniversary of D-Day (6th June 2024), at the PC October meeting.

10. COMMUNITY FIELD

- a) The Community field has now been weed-killed by the grass-keep maintainers. The clerk agreed to contact KM Dyke to ask them to spray the area of path that was missed near the pedestrian gate.
- b) Unfortunately the Zip line is not usable as the trolley is not moving freely. Playdale (who supplied and fitted the zipline) will charge £150 to visit the site (further charges will be made to mend the zipline). The Chairman has received quotes from other websites (Zipline shop etc), and they have quoted £229 - £250 to replace the trolley. This would require detaching the wire, which we could not do ourselves. Cllr Higgins agreed to look into other options for repair.

11. FINANCE

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

- Somerset Council – 7 th August Parish Ranger Scheme (£176.05 +VAT£35.21)	£211.26
- R Carpenter – Re-imburse for footpath gravel (£39.96 +VAT£7.99)	£47.95

12. PARISH RANGER SCHEME

- a) Work completed for September includes: Strim phone boxes, Church triangle and North Lane bank. leaf-blown around village hall. Strim Moor Lane and cut back hedges.
- b) Work proposed for October includes: 1) Site newly purchased grit bins at top of high street and bishops lane. 2) Y10/20Winyard to Prospect Farm - strim between 1st and 2nd stile, Y10/4 Malcolms wood – Second stile needs another footplate (The Chairman will ask Somerset County footpaths, if these stiles can be replace with gates).

13. CORRESPONDENCE

The Chairman has asked people with a little time on their hands to consider volunteering to drive people to medical appointments within Somerset (contact details are :07855 285464 Website: www.volunteering.somerset.gov.uk/drive)

14. VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE UPDATE

A coronation plaque has now been received and will be erected. The VHC are appealing to the ombudsman regarding electricity bills, complaining that the recent invoices are based on estimates, rather than against meter readings that have been supplied.

15. MATTERS OF REPORT & ITEMS OR NEXT MEETING

Chairman: None.

Councillors: Cllr Halls noted the ‘hardington.net’ emails are no longer secure. Cllr Carpenter agreed to investigate.

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, 17th October at the Village Hall.