

*MINUTES OF MEETING OF HARDINGTON MANDEVILLE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY
17th SEPTEMBER 2024 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), Joanna Szmaj, Robert Halls, Mark Pollock, Richard Beatson, Peter Higgins and Malcolm White.

In Attendance

Nancy Chapman, Cllr Mike Hewitson and three members of the public.

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

A parishioner reported that he is unhappy about the road surface issues on Lyatts Hill. The road has ‘sagged’ in a couple of places. He has reported this to the council and they have reported that this is not an issue (although several people have scraped the underside of their cars). There is also still cones highlighting that the river-bank has collapsed on the corner.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None.

2. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 20th AUGUST 2024 (Already Circulated)

The minutes were approved as correct records of the meeting.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

4. MATTERS OF REPORT

None.

5. SOMERSET COUNCILLOR’S REPORTS (BY INVITATION)

The Somerset Councillor’s report was previously circulated. Cllr Hewitson gave further updates on the financial pressure at Somerset Council. Good news was received that by the end of the last budget they were £2 million under-spent against plan, and the council has not yet had to cash in reserves. The gas-works in Crewkerne is now complete and the special school in Misterton is now open. He noted that Adam Dance MP is seeking local opinion for writing to the Minister of Transport for special funding to re-open it.

6. PLANNING AND PLANNING APPLICATIONS

a) Planning applications received after publication of the agenda:

- App No: 24/01946/HOU Proposal: Proposed rear single storey extension, internal alterations and the erection of a garden outbuilding and a carport. Location: Bridgehay, Bishops Lane. A resolution was passed that there were no objections.

b) Regarding the report of person(s) residing at Holtens (Somerset Council Complaint Reference: 24/00087/ENF), the Chairman has received an email from the Planning Enforcement Officer

informing him that a planning application for retrospective planning is expected sometime in the near future.

7. HIGHWAYS

- a) The Chairman has asked that the councilors continue to help find a new PC Highways Representative. It was agreed the PC would write to Somerset Highways expressing concerns of Lyatts Hill surface issues.
- b) Adam Dance MP has written to local Parish Council asking them for their thoughts on the matter of re-opening Chinnock Hollow. He is considering writing to the Minister of State for Transport for Special Funding (£2.7m) to re-open the road. The Parish Council discussed this and it was thought the majority of Hardington Parishioners were keen to have this re-opened. The Parish Council passed a unanimous resolution to support the re-open of the road.
- c) A parishioner has contacted the Parish Council to asked if it would be ok to tidy up the hedge around the 'St James Terrace' Notice-board area. Cllr White agreed to do this when they are next hedge-cutting.

8. FOOTPATHS

- a) The Somerset County footpath representative has confirmed that he has landowner's permission for the 3 stiles on path Y10/20 and financial authorization. He is now waiting for his contractor to come available to fit them.

9. PARISH ISSUES

- a) The Phone box opposite the Mandeville Arms is now completed! The Parish Council thanked Cllr Halls for his work repairing and re-painting it.
- b) The local PCSO has agreed to attend the next "coffee morning" at the village hall on the 28th September.
- c) The Chairman agreed to check the salt bins to determine if they need refilling and feed this back to somerset council asap.

10. COMMUNITY FIELD

- a) The annual inspection for the playing field has been circulated. All risks identified were either 'low risk' or 'very low risk'. They have highlighted the fact the Activity Trail stepping-stones have deep splits in them. These were installed 3.5 years ago and come with a 15 year warrantee. The clerk agreed to contact Kompan to hear their thoughts on this. This bike track sign has also disappeared and the clerk agreed to look into this. It was noted that much of the wooden equipment was also suffering damage from being strimmed to close. The Clerk agree to contact Halycon to ask them not to strim so close.
- b) The Bike track has been weed-killed but now needs doing again before any more gravel is put on it. The clerk agreed to contact Halycon to ask them to do this (in addition to another path that they also missed).
- c) The Chairman thanked Tim Marsh for once-again topping the wild-flower area.

11. FINANCE

- a) The new Lloyds bank account has now been created. The clerk now needs to switch the funds from the Natwest Account to the Lloyds account.
- b) A resolution was passed to pay the following invoices:
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| - The Play Inspection Company (Annual Inspection) (£75+VAT£15) | £90.00 |
| - S Ogden - Ranger fees September | £154.00 |

12. PARISH RANGER SCHEME

- a) The Ranger has strimmed footpath between Moor Lane and North Lane, and Penn Lane and Bishops Lane, the telephone box and the top of North Lane. He has also began clearing the moss on Rectory Lane. He will aim to finish the moss-clearing and clear the soil from the wall around the church. Although the Elliots Hill grit-bin is out of the Hardington parish area, it was suggested he could strim it, as it is currently hard to find!

13. CORRESPONDENCE

- a) None

14. VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE UPDATE

£270 was raised from the last coffee morning on 31st August. The next one is on the 28th September. The next film being shown is 'The Fall Guy' on 19th September. The PAT test happened on the 12th September. The boiler room is now finished, other than the outside door which requires painting. Octopus Energy have now installed a smart-meter at the hall.

15. MATTERS OF REPORT & ITEMS OR NEXT MEETING

Chairman: None.

Councilors: None

Clerk: None.

16. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING & CLOSURE

The meeting closed at 8:21pm. The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Tuesday, 15th October at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.