

MINUTES OF MEETING OF HARDINGTON MANDEVILLE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 16th April 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

Joanna Szmaj (Chairperson), Robert Halls, Malcolm White and Mark Pollock.

In Attendance

Nancy Chapman (Parish Clerk) and four 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

Robin Carpenter, Peter Higgins and Richard Beatson.

2. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 19th MARCH 2024 (Already Circulated)

Minor corrections were made to the dates in section 4 and section 14, before 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 County Councillor's reports have been previously circulated. Cllr Hewitson gave an update on Somerset Council latest 'refreshed' budget and summarised their priorities, including special educational needs.

6. PLANNING AND PLANNING APPLICATIONS

a) Planning application received:

i) App No: 24/00585/FUL Replace a storm damaged shed with another shed which can be used to house calves & dry cows. Location: Manor Farm, High Street. A resolution was passed to support this application, The clerk was asked to make a comment regarding the Councilors preference for a roof-colour than blended in with the background (eg brown or grey).

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

c) Cllr Carpenter has contacted a planning officer regarding the reports of a person residing at Holtens (without relevant planning permission). The Clerk agreed to report it via the Somerset County enforcement tool, so that there is an identifiable reference number for this issue.

7. HIGHWAYS

a) Paul Humby submitted a comprehensive report detailing numerous potholes and surface issues.

b) Cllr Carpenter reported a broken area of fence at the bottom of North Lane. It was decided that this maybe a highways issue and the clerk agreed to report it to Somerset Council online.

c) The Clerk agreed to contact the owner of Manor Farm, asking if he would consider either the sale of the land, or consider leasing, the field north-west of the Village Hall, as this would benefit Village Hall users and also the church.

8. FOOTPATHS

Cllr White commented that the hedge-cutting on the bridle-way towards the Hardington Moor National Nature Reserve, has made it a lot easier for horses to use.

9. PARISH ISSUES

- a) Cllr Szmaj thanked Ron Ahern for fixing the Hardington Moor Notice Board.
- b) The garden club have offered to plant and maintain the village sign-posts areas (x3). The Clerk is trying to ascertain whether an application will be needed for this.
- c) No current updates with the phone box refurbishment.
- d) The Party-in-the-park is confirmed for the 9th June, 2024. Ernest Kong has kindly contributed £500 from the Mary Kong foundation (and has confirmed this will be the last year of contributing).

10. COMMUNITY FIELD

- a) It was decided a lorry-load of 'grit' would probably work out cheaper for re-surfacing the Bike area. It was agreed to look into this once the weather has improved.

11. FINANCE

- a) The clerk stated that the bank account statements had not been received and that this will be on the May agenda.
- b) The Clerk has applied for a Lloyds Bank Account.
- c) A resolution was passed to pay the following amounts:
 - WHCCS Donation for new cricket nets £750.00
 - St Mary's PCC Contribution towards grave-yard upkeep £300.00
 - Ron Ahern Reimbursement for repairing Hardington Moor notice board £60.00
 - Ben Turner Community Field hedge cutting £150.00

12. PARISH RANGER SCHEME

- a) The Clerk circulated a list giving details of some of the routine tasks for the ranger. There were also often ad-hoc tasks. The clerk agreed to circulate this list to see if they were any other routine tasks for the list. The clerk agreed to send a copy of the footpath routes to the new ranger.
- b) The broken wooden fence at the bottom of North Lane was discussed under highways.
- c) The ranger was asked to investigate the broken stile on Broadstone Lane to see if it could be repaired (unfortunately no offer from Somerset Council to replace the stile with a footpath gate has been received so far).

13. CORRESPONDENCE

- a) None

14. VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE UPDATE

The next coffee morning is 27th April. The '100 Club' is due to start again in May. The next film will be on 18th April, 'The Great Escaper' (2.00pm and 7.30pm). The new energy company supplier begins on the 1st May.

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 9.05pm. The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Tuesday, 21st May at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.