

MINUTES OF MEETING OF HARDINGTON MANDEVILLE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 15th APRIL 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), Robert Halls, Jo Szmaj and Malcolm White.

In Attendance

Nancy Chapman and 4 members of the public.

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

A parishioner mentioned that there was a pile of ‘cut’ branches at the end of rectory lane that potentially need to be moved elsewhere. The chairman agreed to follow this up.

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Peter Higgins and Mark Pollock.

2. **MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 18th MARCH 2025 (Already Circulated)**

The minutes were approved as correct records of the meeting.

3. **COUNCILLOR VACANCY**

Currently one vacancy on the Parish Council.

4. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None.

5. **MATTERS OF REPORT**

The Chairman reported that sadly Gina Seaton has passed away recently.

The Chairman gave a summary of the recent LCN ‘Teams’ meeting.

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

The Somerset Councillor’s reports have been previously circulated.

7. **PLANNING AND PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

a) There were no planning applications received after publication of the agenda.

b) Planning App: 25/00493/HOU Single storey rear extension for Crowsnest, High Street has been approved.

8. **HIGHWAYS**

Chris Turner circulated his list of potholes and surface issues for the last month. Somerset Highways have been busy filling potholes and doing road improvements recently, but there is still a lot to be done (in particular Lyatts and Hardington Marsh Road). Chris has updated his report on road issues on Hardington lanes to include maps and it was agreed this should now be forwarded to Somerset Highways. It was also agreed to change the agenda next month to include the ‘highways’ section prior to ‘Somerset Councilor’s reports’ section, so that Councilor’s are aware of the issues regarding highways.

9. FOOTPATHS

- a) Footpath gate required to replace further remove stile (top of Y10/20) - ongoing. (Cllr Carpenter reported that there has been a change of staff at Somerset Council Rights of Way, and he was awaiting feedback on footpath issues following this change).
- b) Bridge on Y10/46 - ongoing.
- c) Vehicle use of Moor Lane to North Lane Bridleway - ongoing.
- d) Deteriorating surface of the footpath from Moor Lane to the Village shop – ongoing.

10. PARISH ISSUES

- a) The Somerset Rivers Authority (that are running the small grant scheme ‘Community Flood Action Fund’) have been in contact with Cllr Higgins to let him know that the application for the ‘Hardington Moor Stream Erosion Project’ has been unsuccessful.
- b) Resolution was passed to remove the second litter bin, which is sited in the top half of the Community Field, as this doesn’t get used too much. The Clerk will contact Somerset Council to ask them to re-invoice the quote with just two bins to empty (Community field litter bin and Nature Reserve dog bin). The possibility of providing a further bin somewhere around the Moor Lane to the Shop footpath was discussed. The Clerk agreed to provide prices for a dog poo bin for the next meeting.
- c) Storage of the Village Bier – ongoing.
- d) Cllr Halls reported that the storage of the generator in the Village hall garage was acceptable as long as it was covered with a fire blanket and has no fuel cans stored with it (this has been checked with the Village Hall insurance company).

11. COMMUNITY FIELD

- a) The Clerk reported that the grass was cut at the beginning of March. After hearing it had not been cut again, the clerk complained to the contractor and it was cut on Thursday (10th April). The Contractor will now report by text message when it is cut (and the clerk will check this!). The Contractor stated it will cost an extra £65.00 for cutting the football pitch area each week, but it was decided that they need to start regularly doing 2-week cuts of the community field first! The Clerk agreed to ask them to weedkill the area also.

12. FINANCE

- a) A resolution was passed to donate £500 to the Messenger this year.
- b) A resolution was passed to donate £300 to the Graveyard upkeep this year.
- c) A resolution was passed to pay the following invoices:

- S Ogden - Ranger fees April	£140.00
- VHC - Wifi connection for Village Hall	£75.98
- SALC Affiliation fees 25/26 (previous year £178.35)	£280.39
- Iayn Thomas (reimbursement for Printing fees)	£74.10
- Ron Ahern (reimbursement for Phone box map project)	£53.80

13. PARISH RANGER SCHEME

- a) The Ranger has cleared out the mud from around the triangle and strimmed in various places around the village. He has cleaned the notice board, but one of the Perspex sheets need replacing as it is now yellow.
- b) Stewart will be busy with strimming this month. It was asked if he could strim the area opposite the Ahern house.

14. CORRESPONDENCE

None.

15. VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE UPDATE

The VHC raised £333 from the March coffee morning. The next coffee morning is on the 26th April. The last film night raised £178. The next film is 'The Critic' on the 24th April. Leonardos have agreed to help paint the hall for free! The VHC have also been given £200, which they will spend on a new fridge and a toaster.

16. MATTERS OF REPORT & ITEMS OR NEXT MEETING

Chairman: None.

Councilors: None.

Clerk: None.

17. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING & CLOSURE

The meeting closed at 9.25pm. The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Tuesday, 20th May at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

Post Meeting Note: The Clerk agreed to purchase 2 3m x 3m Gazebos with side panels (grey colour) for £499.00 + delivery £14.99 = £513.99 (inc VAT) each from Rock Awnings.