

MINUTES OF MEETING OF HARDINGTON MANDEVILLE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 19th AUGUST 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, Tina Steel, Mark Pollock, Peter Higgins and Malcolm White.

**In Attendance**

Nancy Chapman and 10 members of the public.

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

A parishioner stated that they were not happy that several of the hedges on Penn Lane have been recently cut back by a farmer and that this was outside of the usual cutting season (1<sup>st</sup> of March to 31<sup>st</sup> August). They were concerned that bird's nest and other habitats may have been destroyed. Several other parishioners also complained about this.

A Parishioner spoke about the recent amendment to the Windmill Cottage planning application. They felt the amendments have made no difference to comments previously made at last month's meeting. CPRE have commented that translocation of the hedge was rarely successful. They felt the ridge height of the house will still tower over Penn House. She felt granting this application will set a planning precedent for other houses outside the village boundaries.

Other comments made included:

- The footpath access was only for private access.
- The removal of the water table will not make a difference and that the two-story high house will still result in them overlooking nearby properties.

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

None.

2. **MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 15th JULY 2025 (Already Circulated)**

A minor correction was made to the comment section to state 'Penn House' instead of 'Penn Cottage'. The minutes were approved as correct records of the meeting.

3. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Cllr Carpenter and Cllr Szmaj declared an interest in section 6.a)i).

4. **MATTERS OF REPORT**

Cllr Carpenter stated that the problems of councillor access to PC emails has now been resolved with Mark (webmaster) sending new passwords to all Councillors.

5. **SOMERSET COUNCILLOR'S REPORTS (BY INVITATION)**

The Somerset Councillor's reports have been previously circulated.

6. **PLANNING AND PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

a) Planning applications received:

*Cllr Carpenter and Cllr Szmaj left the meeting.*

i) 25/01452/FUL Amendments to Proposed formation of access and erection of 2 private dwellings Location: Windmill Cottage, High Street. Each councillor gave their views on the application. The main point made was that the amendments made make no real difference to objections raised at last month meeting. Cllr Higgins proposed a resolution stating ‘The amendments to the planning proposal and all other related developments since last month’s meeting do not warrant a change to the PC’s previous objection’. This resolution was passed.

*Cllr Carpenter and Cllr Szmaj rejoined the meeting.*

b) There were no planning applications received after publication of this agenda.

## **7. HIGHWAYS**

a) Somerset Highways have emailed stating there will be a road closure on the A30 between Crewkerne and East Chinnock (8<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> September 09.30-15.00 only). The road will be reopened outside of these times and on 9<sup>th</sup> September.

b) The recent cutting of the hedges along Penn Lane was discussed. It was established that the hedge could be cut if it ‘obstructs the view of such users’. The Clerk took an action to contact the farmer, to ask them to be more aware of this regulation in the future, in order to protect wildlife habitats.

## **8. FOOTPATHS**

Despite Cllr Carpenter’s many emails to Somerset Highways giving evidence of the footpath notice that stated that the Highway would maintain the footpath 10/51 (Moor lane to village shop), they have replied that it will be a long way down on their priorities for the next few years. They have agreed to waive the necessary S171 fees (minor works near highway) in this instance. It was therefore decided to use recent CIL money obtained and the Clerk agreed to obtain 3 quotes for this job.

## **9. PARISH ISSUES**

a) As the two quotes received for replacing the Village Well lid were similar and reasonable, councilors decided that in this circumstance it would be acceptable to only have two quotes. A resolution was passed to ask the new ranger to fix the well and repair the pump using oak beams.

b) Cllr Carpenter thanked Anne Lunt and the rest of the team for organizing the Party-in-the-Park. He read out a report from Anne:

“A lovely afternoon, very relaxed and certainly helped along by the excellent weather. ‘Untold’ band were extremely well received. I would definitely recommend booking them again. I know some PC members were away but many thanks to Malcolm for transporting tables and Pete for helping with the band and overall support. Difficult to say if attendance was the same as people spread out more to get some much-needed shade but it seemed busy and a great atmosphere. Takings - bar was up and BBQ down - probably due to heat! Deficit of £90 but this is easily covered by the existing account. This was my fifth year organising on behalf of the PC so time for a break! Will leave it to you all to take forward for next year”

c) Now that it was established that the Parish Council own the Village Hall, the next step forward would be to discuss potential moving of the Village Hall to the community field with the rest of the village. Cllr Higgins agreed to put a note in the messenger regarding this and agreed to set up a meeting to discuss this prior to October’s parish council meeting (October 21<sup>st</sup> , 6.30pm).

## **10. COMMUNITY FIELD**

a) The ‘Annual Inspection for the Community field’ report was received the day before this meeting. There was one item identified as ‘moderate risk’. This was the baby-swing seat, which will need replacing. All other items were identified as ‘low risk and ‘very low risk’. Cllr Carpenter will send the report to the ranger, who can hopefully rectify some of these.

b) Cllr Carpenter thanked Cllr Higgins for installing the new ‘joints’ to repair the climbing tower net.

## **11. FINANCE**

a) A resolution was approved for Cllr Steel to attend a SALC Councilor training course (9<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> October 6pm – ‘Councilors Essentials part 1 and 2’ - £50.00).

b) A resolution was passed to pay the following invoices:

- Daphne Creed - Party-in-the-park banqueting rolls (£55.00+ VAT £11.00)	£66.00
- Village Hall Committee – Party-in-the-park Hire of Chairs	£50.00
- Untold – Party-in-the-park band	£350.00
- Jon Backhouse - Ranger (August)	£232.00

## **12. PARISH RANGER SCHEME**

a) The Ranger has installed the new ‘dog litter bin’ on Moor Lane. He mended the catch on the community field main gate and has also strimmed the usual places. He commented that the ‘Triangle’ area next to the church was unpleasant to strim as there is a lot of dog poo there. This was discussed and it was agreed to purchase a further dog bin to place on the ‘triangle’ area.

b) The new ranger tasks for this month will include repairing issues raised by the Community field inspection report, strimming and potentially install the new dog litter bin.

## **13. CORRESPONDENCE**

None.

## **14. VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE UPDATE**

The Village Hall Coffee Morning on 26th July raised £295.00. The VHC received £60 hall rental income and Dy Catford made a donation of the remainder (£235.00) to help towards Amy Turner’s funeral cost. The next film night will be on the 18<sup>th</sup> September (Penguin Lessons). The July electricity bill was £48.60.

A resolution was passed for the PC to pay for the cost of the removal of the ramp at the back of hall, including drainage and tarmac work (£8883.00+VAT). This will be partly funding by a lottery grant.

## **15. MATTERS OF REPORT & ITEMS OR NEXT MEETING**

**Chairman:** None.

**Councilors:** Cllr Hall reported that the planning application for Chapel Cottage, High Street and also the planning application for Nappers Cottage as now been approved.

Cllr Higgins asked that the Parish Council should thank Anne Lunt for her help with the Party-in-the-Park over the last 5 years and also ask if anyone in the village is available to help organise next year.

**Clerk:** None.

## **16. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING & CLOSURE**

The meeting closed at 8.35pm. The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Tuesday, 16th September at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.