

*MINUTES OF MEETING OF HARDINGTON MANDEVILLE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY  
15th JULY 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 and Malcolm White.

**In Attendance**

Nancy Chapman and 15 members of the public.

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

Mrs Phillips, the owner of Windmill Cottage spoke about her planning application for two dwellings on Penn Lane. Mrs Phillips feels that Windmill Cottage is too large for her and would like to move into one of the houses. She is hoping to sell the second plot to someone within the village. She had hoped that the design would not impact on neighbouring properties and that the design would provide a passing point on this very narrow lane.

Following this, 6 parishioners gave details of their objections to this planning application. Points that were made including the following:

- Loss of Privacy to Highpoint (overlooking) and Penn Cottage.
- The dwellings have parking for 6 cars and this will increase traffic (there have been numerous accidents along this small lane).
- CPRE have also objected to this proposal (details on the planning website).
- Support comments on the website were from people that do not live near Penn Lane.
- This area is a natural amphibian/ wildlife crossing and they feel this will destroy the habitat.
- Removing the historic hedgerow would also disturb wildlife.

Another parishioner spoke in support of this application.

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Peter Higgins.

2. **MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 17th JUNE 2025 (Already Circulated)**

A minor correction was made to section 10b) to state 'installed' instead of 'stored'. 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 attended the LCN AGM on 23<sup>rd</sup> June. Unfortunately, the Chairman was unable to attend and they were not able to reappoint a Chairman.

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 Proposed formation of access and erection of 2 private dwellings Location: Windmill Cottage, High Street. Each councillor gave their views on the application. Points made included:

- They were concerned that there is a loss of privacy for 'Penn House' and 'Highpoint'. The site of the potential 2 dwellings was positioned quite high (1.5m above Penn Lane on North side) and would overlook 'Highpoint'.
- They felt that positioning the 2 houses further west along the field would have less impact on neighbouring properties, and discussion about perhaps using a different orientation. It was also commented that these were quite large houses for Penn Lane.
- They were aware that this area along Penn Lane is well known for toads and frogs as a 'migratory site'. There were concerns that this development could disturb them. There was also concern regarding the removing of the historic hedge.
- There was concern for potential road safety issues and pedestrian access here.

A resolution was passed to object to the granting of this planning application.

*Cllr Carpenter and Cllr Szmaj rejoined the meeting.*

ii) 25/01637/HOU Internal and External Alterations Location: Chapel Cottage, High Street. A resolution was passed to support this application.

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

## **7. HIGHWAYS**

a) Cllr Pollock suggested encouraging people to report potholes to Somerset Highways online by making more people aware of how to do this. The clerk agreed to include this in her messenger report. Cllr Carpenter reported that Lyatts surface issues have now been fixed.

b) Somerset Highways have announced that the following roads will be closed for 23<sup>rd</sup>-28<sup>th</sup> July: Pig Hill, Primrose Hill, Hardington Moor, Lynch Lane and Wimborough Lane for 'prep works and surface dressing'

## **8. FOOTPATHS**

Cllr Carpenter and the Clerk met with a contractor to discuss repairing footpath 10/51 (Moor lane to village shop). It was decided that further tarmac would help repair the existing path. The clerk agreed to obtain 3 quotes for this job.

## **9. PARISH ISSUES**

- a) It was agreed that the 'Village Bier location' could be taken of the agenda now as it will now be stored in the Village Hall Garage.
- b) The PC is still awaiting the third quote for the Village Well replacement lid.
- c) Cllr Carpenter thanked everyone involved in organizing the Hardington Street Fayre. Approximately £4000 was made to be donated to the Village Hall and St Marys Church.
- d) Hardington Party-In-the-Park Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> August 1pm.
- e) A consultation on draft recommendations for division boundaries in Somerset Council has been received. The deadline to submit comments is 11<sup>th</sup> August 2025
- f) A conveyance was found stating that Somerset Council sold the Village hall to the Hardington Parish Council in 1968 for £300. This could possibly be used to help fund a new village hall if it was decided to do this. This would be discussed again next month.

## **10. COMMUNITY FIELD**

- a) Cllr Carpenter has asked Cllr Higgins to install the new 'joints' to repair the climbing tower net.

## **11. FINANCE**

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

- S Ogden - Ranger fees July	£84.00
- N Chapman Reimbursement for Dog poo bin (£291.91+ VAT £58.38)	£350.29
- N Chapman Salary and expenses	£1055.97

## **12. PARISH RANGER SCHEME**

- a) Stewart has been strimming and has also cut back the community field gateway over-hanging hedges.
- b) The new ranger tasks for this month will be strimming and also installing the new dog bin. Cllr Pollock stated that the catch on the main gate for the community field is broken now needs some attention. Cllr White said he will investigate this.

## **13. CORRESPONDENCE**

Cllr Carpenter read a letter from former highways representative, Chris Turner. Chris made the suggestion to encourage more people to report a fault as this seems to make a difference in getting Highway to repair it!

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

The last film night raised £194. Di's coffee morning raised £163. The next coffee morning is on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup>. The last electricity bill was £41.86. New doors have now been installed at the front of the building and also at the rear of the building (including a wheelchair entrance).

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

**Chairman:** None.

**Councillors:** Cllr Hall reported that the planning app 25/00054/FUL (The erection of a self-build bungalow and detached garage) at Primrose Hill, as now been approved.

**Clerk:** None.

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

The meeting closed at 8.54pm. The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Tuesday, 19th August at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.