

*MINUTES OF MEETING OF HARDINGTON MANDEVILLE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY
18th JUNE 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, Peter Higgins, Richard Beatson and Malcolm White.

In Attendance

Nancy Chapman and two members of the public.

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

The Ranger commented on the amount of dog-mess being left around the village. He asked if further dog-poo bins were an option. The Chairman replied that we had put in a request for further bins some time ago and the council reply was that they would investigate this (as they currently empty the bins), but no further update has so far been received. It is likely that the PC will have to pay for the bins to be emptied in the future, but this has not been clarified so far.

A parishioner commented that it is over a year since work was begun on the telephone opposite the Mandeville Arms refurbishment. He appreciates that the councilors have already begun this work, but he was wondering if the work would be finish anytime soon. Cllr white replied that he would make sure this was done in the next month, as they now know the problem that needs to be fixed.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Mark Pollock and Karen Dodge.

2. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 21st MAY 2024 (Already Circulated)

- a) The minutes were approved as correct records of the meeting.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

4. MATTERS OF REPORT

- a) The Chairman commented that they were very pleased with the turn out for the “80th anniversary of the D-Day landings celebrations”. He thanked Mark Pollock and Malcom White for their help in organizing the celebration.
- b) The Party-in-the-Park was also well attended (although less than the previous year’s event). The bar made £159 profit. The left-over BBQ meat will be used for the Street Fayre. The tea-tent made £285 profit (to be donated to St Marys Church). They are keen to book the singer (Michael Mochan) once again for next year. The next party-in-the-park is scheduled for the 10th August 2025.

5. SOMERSET COUNCILLOR’S REPORTS (BY INVITATION)

The County Councillor’s reports have been previously circulated.

6. PLANNING AND PLANNING APPLICATIONS

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

- b) The Clerk has emailed the Somerset Council planning enforcement officers but there is still no reply re the complaint of a person residing at Holtens without relevant planning permission (Complaint reference: 24/00087/ENF).
- c) The chairman reported that the planning permission for Moor Farm has been approved.

7. HIGHWAYS

- a) No interest has been received in the job of the PC highways representative.
- b) The Chairman asked the Ranger if he had attempted to fix the broken wooden fence at the bottom of North Lane. The Ranger replied that he had straightened the fence and that hopefully it was now secure, but it will require machinery to put the fence posts in properly. This has been sent to highways, but no response as yet (Somerset Council Highways Report ref 80088).
- c) The Chairman reported that several potholes have been repaired at Pig Hill and on Lyatts. The surface issues along Wimborough Lane have not been assessed and will need chasing up.

8. FOOTPATHS

- a) The chairman is trying to locate contact details for the new Somerset Council footpath officer for hardington. He has reported that the 3 stiles along at Y10/18 are all collapsing and would best be replaced with footpaths gates, but is currently unable to chase this up.

9. PARISH ISSUES

- a) Phone box refurbishment. Cllrs Robert Halls and Cllr Malcolm White have confirmed they will repair the door-closure-spring in the next month.
- b) St. Marys Church require a total of £3,786 to repair the Church Clock. The PC have a power to repair clocks so this could be considered. The Chairman asked how much they have raised so far in grants and donations. He also asked the Clerk if the PC is in a good financial position to cover the remaining costs of repair. It was agreed this would be investigated and the subject would be on the July agenda.

10. COMMUNITY FIELD

- a) The Clerk has asked Halycon how many times they have mowed the grass so far this year, and so far, no reply has been received. They are supposed to mow the grass twice a month in growing season. While it was appreciated that the grass has been very wet this year, other recreation grounds have still managed to have shorter grass. It was therefore decided to get quotes from alternative contractors that could be considered.
- b) The Bike track has been strimmed but still requires herbicides to be applied. It was agreed that Cllr White and Cllr Carpenter would organise this. A lorry-load of 'grit' would then be purchased.
- c) Unfortunately, the larger PC gazebo, that was purchased three years ago, would now have to be scrapped as the weak aluminum poles have caved-in under pressure! It was agreed the clerk would do some research to find a superior quality sturdy gazebo that might handle British weather-conditions.

11. FINANCE

- a) A resolution was passed to approve the following invoices:

- M White – Reimbursement for Community field gate post (£55.00 +VAT£11.00)	£66.00
- D Creed – 2 x Banqueting rolls (£55.00+VAT£11.00)	£66.00
- S Ogden – June Ranger Fees	£196.00
- HMVH – Hire of tables for Party-in-the-Park	£50.00

12. PARISH RANGER SCHEME

- a) A resolution was passed to approve the proposal to change the Ranger fees from £25.00 p/h to £28.00 per hour to cover strimmer fuel costs.
- b) The Ranger has mainly concentrated on strimming this month, including the Moor Lane to North Lane footpath and also the Broadstone Lane to Penn Lane one.
- c) New tasks for the Ranger lists included strimming area around the metal bench on Penn Lane and also strimming for the road signs, grit bins and telephone boxes. The footpath going into Pendomer also requires strimming.

13. CORRESPONDENCE

- a) None

14. VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE UPDATE

£122 was raised from the film 'Wonka'. The next film will be shown on 27th June. £260 was raised from the recent Coffee Morning. The next one is on 29th June. Three quotes have been received for updating the boiler room, (to include lining the walls and making it waterproof for storage). This will cost approx. £700.

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 8:27pm. The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Tuesday, 16th July at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.