

*MINUTES OF MEETING OF HARDINGTON MANDEVILLE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 17th JUNE 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, Peter Higgins, Mark Pollock and Malcolm White.

**In Attendance**

Nancy Chapman and 2 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**

Chris Turner.

2. **MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 20th MAY 2025 (Already Circulated)**

The minutes were approved as correct records of the meeting.

3. **COUNCILLOR VACANCY**

A resolution was passed for Tina Chapman to be co-opted to fill the remaining PC vacancy. She then signed the declaration of acceptance of office and joined the meeting.

4. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None.

5. **MATTERS OF REPORT**

Cllr Carpenter reported that the Yeovil LCN AGM will be held on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> June, 7.00pm at Potter House Care House, 103 Highfield Road and that he will be going and anyone else is welcome to join him.

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) A letter from 'Euroforest' has been received by East Coker and Closworth Parish Clerks. In this it states that they are looking to propose 'a new woodland creation scheme' on Isles Farm (near East Coker and Pendermer). This will be funded by the 'Woodland Creation Planning Grant'. At present they are preparing the design plan and seeking stakeholder responses. It was agreed that the Parish Council shall look to comment once a planning application has been submitted.
- c) The Somerset Council Planning department no longer write to neighbours of new planning applications to make them aware of nearby proposals. Cllr Carpenter has asked the Parish Council members to help make neighbours aware of proposals in the future.

## **8. HIGHWAYS**

a) Cllr Carpenter, Chris Turner, Cllr Patrick, and Lee Norman (Highways officer) met in hardington last week and visited various sites to discuss road issues. Cllr Carpenter reported that unfortunately Moor Lane was not considered bad enough to make it on to the future jobs list, but Lyatts Hill surface issues will be looked at soon. Contractors have now carried out repairs to the bank collapsing on Lyatts. Lee Norman will be writing a report on this meeting.

Chris Turner has decided that he would prefer not to continue as highway representee for the Council this year as he believes it would be best carry out by a Parish Councillor. Cllr Carpenter thanked Chris for all his hard work in the last year.

b) There will be a temporary Road Closure: ttr0558417S - High Street, 3rd July 2025 (for 1 day (08:30 - 16:00) to enable Wessex Water to carry out frame and cover repair works.

## **9. FOOTPATHS**

Somerset Highway's team have said that due to funding they will not be able to repair the tarmac of the footpath from Moor Lane to the Village shop (Y10/51). (The Rights of Way also do not have the means to repair tarmac paths). The PC Have therefore decided that the CIL money received for the 'Land north of Tall elms' development could be used to repair this footpath. A discussion took place to decide whether tarmac or concrete would be more suitable. The Clerk agreed to seek a contractor's advice on this.

## **10. PARISH ISSUES**

- a) Cllr Carpaenter has sent several emails regarding the storage of the Bier, trying to find alternative options for storing it. This was discussed and a resolution was passed to keep the bier within the village and have a clear out the Village Hall garage to find a place for it (this will happen after the street fayre so that it can be determined how many chairs are needed for the fayre.)
- b) The Chairman has spoken to the owners of 'Beck Lodge' on Moor Lane and they have kindly agreed for a new dog poo bin to be stored near their hedge on Moor Lane (near the entrance to the footpath Y10/51). It was decided to buy the 35 Litre dog poo bin.
- c) The quotes to replace the Village Well lid will be discussed at the next meeting once a 3<sup>rd</sup> quote has been received.
- d) A resolution was passed to support Street Fayre Committee (acting as a sub-committee to the Parish Council) to hold street fayre on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> July 12-4pm.
- e) A resolution was passed to support Party-in-the-Park Committee (acting as a sub-committee to the Parish Council) to hold a Party In the Park on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> August 1pm.
- f) 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.
- g) In 2008, Mr Ernest Kong kindly offered one of his fields to the Parish Council for a new village hall and playing field. At the time the village consensus was that many people thought the existing Village Hall was quite adequate and so the field was rented to the Parish Council for use as a playing field. The subject has been raised again, as the existing Village Hall may not be adequate for future use as the cost of running it is expensive. It was decided that Cllr Carpenter will discuss this with Mr Kong and that Somerset Council should be approached also, as it was thought they were the owners of the Village Hall.

## **11. COMMUNITY FIELD**

- a) Cllr Carpenter has purchased some 'joints' to repair the Climbing tower net (this included 2 spares given the high cost of postage for this order).

## **12. FINANCE**

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

- R Carpenter – Reimburse for fixings to repair Climbing net (£25.08+VAT£5.02)	£30.10
- S Ogden - Ranger fees June	£182.00
- Purple Hire Ltd – Hire of Portaloo (Party-in-the-Park) (£80.00+VAT£16.00)	£96.00

### **13. PARISH RANGER SCHEME**

- a) Stewart has informed the PC that he will work until the end of July. The Clerk has received a letter from a ‘handyman service’ who is interested in taking on the Ranger job. He charges £225 for an 8 hour day (£28.12 per hour). A resolution was passed to offer him a 3-month trial from August.
- b) Stewart tasks for this month was mostly strimming and cutting back branches.
- c) Stewart will continue with the strimming for July.

### **14. CORRESPONDENCE**

None.

### **15. VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE UPDATE**

The last film night raised £304. The next film is ‘Complete Unknown’ to be show on the 19<sup>th</sup>. They have a new Village Hall Committee member. They have had 2 new windows installed in the reception and are hoping to have new entrance doors fitted soon. May’s electricity cost was only £62.90.

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

**Chairman:** None.  
**Councillors:** None.  
**Clerk:** None.

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

The meeting closed at 8.45pm. The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Tuesday, 15th July at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.