

MINUTES OF MEETING OF HARDINGTON MANDEVILLE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 19th MARCH 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), Robert Halls, Malcolm White, Mark Pollock, Peter Higgins and Joanna Szmaj.

In Attendance

Nancy Chapman (Parish Clerk) and five members of the public.

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

A parishioner gave details of his objection to the new dwelling proposed for Nappers Cottage (section 6.a.i).

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Richard Beatson.

2. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 20th FEBRUARY 2024 (Already Circulated)

The minutes were approved as correct records of the meeting.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

4. MATTERS OF REPORT

Cllr Halls attended the recent LCN meeting on 25th January. The main agenda item was the update on Somerset council's financial position.

5. SOMERSET COUNCILLOR'S REPORTS (BY INVITATION)

The County Councillor's reports have been previously circulated. Cllr Hewitson gave an update on Somerset Council financial pressures, following an accepted budget plan for next year.

6. PLANNING AND PLANNING APPLICATIONS

a) Planning application received:

i) App No: 24/00355/OUT Outline application with some matters reserved except for access for the erection of 1no dwelling at Nappers Cottage, Lyatts Hill. The application was discussed and there were mixed views from councilors. There were concerns of flooding in this area and some councilors felt the house was too large for the site. There were also concerns about parking 3 cars on the drive. A resolution was proposed to object to the application and the majority of councilors agreed with this.

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

c) Cllr Halls reported that the recent planning application for Lime Kiln farm had been approved.

7. HIGHWAYS

a) Paul Humby submitted a comprehensive report detailing numerous potholes and surface issues. The Chairman is meeting with Cllr Patrick and a Somerset Council Highways officer to discuss recent and planned repairs.

b) The edge of the lane, near the sewage works in Wimborough Lane is still very dangerous. Some markings have been made for pothole repairs in various places but these are inadequate.

c) The edge of the highway has collapsed on Lyatts hill. This has also been notified to SC Highways previously.

d) The Chairman reported an issue with blocked drains on Pig Hill. The Chairman has emailed Somerset Council who have replied stating that they believe the under-road drains have been checked and are clear.

8. FOOTPATHS

- a) Network Rail have proposed a 'Level Crossing Public Footpath Diversion' to Y10/26 (Hardington Marsh). The Chairman suggested a diversion similar to this many years ago. The Network Rail proposal will have to create a route parallel with the boundary of the property south of the railway line, which will almost certainly involve the consent of the owners of this property, (unless you plan to use the verge of the railway). The Chairman has proposed an alternative plan which is to continue in a southerly direction to join the bridleway after approx. 200 metres.
- b) A parishioner has reported than the stile on Y10/18 (Broadstone Lane into Rydon Field) has a rotted plank and needs repair. The Chairman said he would contact Somerset Council to ask if the stile could be replaced with a footpath gate. Failing that, this will be on the Rangers list for repair.

9. PARISH ISSUES

- a) The Hardington Moor Notice Board right-hand door has come off and the left-hand door is cracked due to recent windy weather. The chairman has asked Ron Ahern to repair this.
- b) No current updates with the phone box refurbishment.
- c) The Clerk has received quotes from 4 different landscape gardeners. The quotes were between £25 to £34 per hour. A local parishioner was one of the ones who quoted, and as this was the most competitive quote, a resolution was passed to offer him a 6-month trial contract. He would be required to take the Chapter 8 training.
- d) A resolution was passed to contribute £300.00 to St.Mary PCC, towards the grave-yard upkeep.
- e) West Coker Parish Council has Section 106 monies of £40,000 which it is confirmed will be spent on the construction of exceptional cricket nets at WCHCC. However, the cost of these cricket nets exceeds the sum of £40,000 by £750 which, at the moment, is to be paid by WCHCC. Many cricketers from Hardington Mandeville have played for WCHCC over the years and still do now. Following discussion, a resolution was passed to donate £750.00 to WCHCC.
- f) A committee meeting regarding the Party-in-the-Park was held and the date has been confirmed as Sunday, 9th June 2024.
- g) A parishioner has reported that somebody has left 'filled' dog-poo bags at various places around the village. This has been reported on the Hardington Community facebook group. The Clerk agreed to mention it in the messenger article.

10. COMMUNITY FIELD

- a) It was decided a lorry-load of 'grit' would probably work out cheaper for re-surfacing the Bike area. It was agreed to look into this once the weather has improved.
- b) The Chairman asked the clerk to write to Adam Taylor to thank him for kindly replacing the rotted fence posts.
- c) Ben Turner has kindly cut the hedges of the community field recently. The clerk agreed to contact him for an invoice.

11. FINANCE

- a) The Clerk is hoping to open a Lloyds Bank Account, so that online access can be achieved. She has asked for contact details for all councilors who would like to be signatures on the account.
- b) A resolution was passed to pay the following amounts:

- Somerset Council Ranger Scheme 5 th February (£176.05 +VAT £35.21)	£211.26
- N Chapman – Salary, Holiday Pay, Homeworking and Expenses	£1440.40

12. PARISH RANGER SCHEME

- a) No March update was reported from the Ranger.
- b) Work proposal for April:
 - Potentially repair the stile at Broadstone Lane.
 - Clear moss from Rectory Lane pavement
 - Unblock drains

13. CORRESPONDENCE

a) None

14. VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE UPDATE

The recent coffee morning raised £270. The next coffee morning is 28th April. The '100 Club' is due to start again in May. The next film will be on 18th April, 'The Great Escaper'. The VHC is currently getting quotes for updated the boiler room.

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 8.45pm. The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Tuesday, 16th April at the Village Hall, following the Annual Meeting of the Parish.