

MINUTES OF MEETING OF HARDINGTON MANDEVILLE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 18th MARCH 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, Peter Higgins and Malcolm White.

**In Attendance**

Nancy Chapman and 5 members of the public.

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

Mrs Lunt gave details of her research into costings for wifi for the village hall. Her conclusion was that plusnet gave the best deal, with £24.99 per month in the first year and £25.99 per month in the second year. The installation cost would be £49.99 (a wifi booster might also be needed depending on where the line is installed) The expected cost for the first two years would be around £666.

The Ranger asked for clarification on what was agreed regarding the 'Keep of the grass' post at the Mandeville Arms Telephone box. It was agreed that only a stake-like post should be used, and that this should be installed so that the farmer will not have issues when using the nearby gateway.

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Cllr Szmaj and Cllr Pollock

2. **MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 18th FEBRUARY 2025 (Already Circulated)**

The minutes were approved as correct records of the meeting.

3. **COUNCILLOR VACANCY**

Currently one vacancy on the Parish Council.

4. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None.

5. **MATTERS OF REPORT**

None.

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

The Somerset Councillor's reports have been previously circulated.

7. **PLANNING AND PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

- a) Planning App: 25/00493/HOU Single storey rear extension together with internal alterations to form an additional bedroom with ensuite and veranda. Location: Crowsnest, High Street. There were no objections to this application.
- b) There were no planning applications received after publication of the agenda.
- c) Planning Notification 24/02982/PAMB Holtens. Decision refused due to being a non-agricultural unit.

8. **HIGHWAYS**

- a) Chris Turner presented a draft report on road issues on Hardington lanes. This highlighted the issues and gave details of problem areas and was an interesting read. Chris said he would like to include a map in the report, pinpointing problem areas. Once this was included it should be sent to Somerset County Highways. But there were also issues that the Parish Council could resolve, that need to be discussed in the future. Chris also circulated his list of potholes and surface issues for the last month.

## **9. FOOTPATHS**

- a) Footpath gate required to replace further remove stile (top of Y10/20) - ongoing. (Cllr Carpenter reported that there has been a change of staff at Somerset Council Rights of Way, and he was awaiting feedback on footpath issues following this change).
- b) Bridge on Y10/46 - ongoing.
- c) Vehicle use of Moor Lane to North Lane Bridleway - ongoing.
- d) Given budgeting pressures it was thought that Somerset Council will not have money to repair this deteriorating surface of the footpath between Moor Lane to the Village shop. It was suggested that the PC could consider paying to improve this. It was decided that Tarmac would only be a short-term fix due to the flood-waters on this path and that concrete would be the best way forward. Cllr Carpenter agreed to chase Somerset Council for a response to this.

## **10. PARISH ISSUES**

- a) No update regarding the Somerset Rivers Authority small grant scheme, 'Community Flood Action Fund' Re flooding.
- b) There was new information that the Village Bier was originally bought by the PCC, and that they therefore own it. Also, the Village Hall has previously been given a grant for a store room to store the bier (even though it was never used for this). Following discussion, a resolution was passed for the Clerk to write a letter to the PCC, stating that the majority of the PC would like it to be store in the church..
- c) The Clerk reported that the generator was petrol and that it would be difficult to drain the fuel after each use. Cllr Halls will ask the VHC at their next meeting to determine if they have room for it the garage (and also assess the insurance situation).
- d) Cllr Carpenter reported that the owners of the field adjacent to the Village Hall have decided that they do not want to sell the field for use as a car park. It was suggested that the field behind the church could also be an option for potential parking. The discussion then took place regarding the future of the village hall.

## **11. COMMUNITY FIELD**

- a) The Clerk gave details of two quotes for the mowing and strimming of grass at the community field. The new quotes were significantly more expensive than the existing contractor. It was therefore decided to continue with the existing contractor and to ask them to ensure that the grass on the football field is kept short.

## **12. FINANCE**

- a) A resolution was passed to approve Mr R. Keylock as the new Internal Auditor.
- b) A resolution was passed to approve the Lloyds Bank direct debit for Information Commissioner's Office – data protection fee (therefore reducing the fee to £47.00).
- c) A resolution was passed to pay the following invoices:

- S Ogden - Ranger fees February	£216.82
- N Chapman – Microsoft Office (£99.00+ VAT £20.00)	£119.99
- N Chapman Jan-Mar Salary, Holiday Pay, Homeworking and Expenses	£1,538.35
- Information Commissioner's Office – data protection fee	£52.00
- Halina Menhennett – Toad signs (£90.00 + VAT £18.00)	£108.00

## **13. PARISH RANGER SCHEME**

- a) The Ranger has repaired the bottom rung of one of the stiles near the 'Waterfalls'. It was decided to ask the land-owner to repair the other issue, as a replacement post will be needed, which will need to be bedded in concrete and would take some time to repair.
- b) Two new tasks were added to the Rangers list. The Mandeville Arms Notice board glass requires cleaning. The 'St James Terrace' sign requires painting. Also, now that the grass has starting growing again, there will be plenty of strimming.

## **14. CORRESPONDENCE**

None.

15. **VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE UPDATE**

The VHC raised £260 from the February coffee morning. The next coffee morning is on the 29th March. The last film night raised £304. The VHC have been awarded a grant from the National Lottery for removing the ramp at the back of the hall to improve parking, replacing two windows in the hallway and also to improve the main door entrance to the hall.

The Parish Council agreed that providing wifi for the Village Hall has become more essential, especially as the Mobile signal is not reliable in this area. Unfortunately, in order to claim the VAT back the customer would need to be registered as a business user. It was agreed that the PC would pay it, at a total cost of around £666 for a two-year contract (with plusnet). A resolution was passed to approve this payment.

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

**Chairman:** None.

**Councilors:** None.

**Clerk:** None.

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

The meeting closed at 8:49pm. The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Tuesday, 15th April at the Village Hall, following the Annual Meeting of the Parish.