

MINUTES OF MEETING OF HARDINGTON MANDEVILLE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 21ST MAY 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 Mark Pollock.

In Attendance

Lucy Gibbons (Locum Clerk) and one member 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

Nancy Chapman and Cllr M White

2. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN AND SIGNING OF DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE

Robin Carpenter was elected as Chairman and signed the declaration of acceptance of office.

3. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

- a) Joanna Szmaj was elected as Vice Chairman.
 - b) Robert Halls was elected as Village Hall Representative.
 - c) Vacancy for Highways Representative.
 - d) Robin Carpenter agreed to continue as Footpaths Representative.
 - e) Malcolm White agreed to continue as Parish Environment Officer.
- Paul Humby was thanked for his time as Highways Representative.

4. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 16th APRIL 2024 (Already Circulated)

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

5. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

6. MATTERS OF REPORT

None

7. SOMERSET COUNCILLOR'S REPORTS (BY INVITATION)

The County Councillor's reports have been previously circulated.

8. PLANNING AND PLANNING APPLICATIONS

- a) No planning applications were received after the publication of the agenda.
- b) App No: 24/01111/TPO (Notification only): Application to carry out Tree Surgery Works to No. 2 Trees and Fell Various Sycamore Trees as shown within the South Somerset District Council (HAMA 1) 1999 Tree Preservation Order. Location: The Walled Garden Rectory Lane Hardington Mandeville. No comments.
- c) Cllr Carpenter has continued to chase planning enforcement regarding the reports of a person residing at Holtens (without relevant planning permission). The Clerk has reported it via the Somerset County enforcement tool, (Complaint Reference: 24/00087/ENF). The Clerk to chase this up as urgent. Orchard Cottage in Moor Lane, Peach Tree Cottage in North Lane, and Lyatts Orchard are also still awaiting permission.
The barn at Manor Farm has been approved with conditions.

9. HIGHWAYS

- a) Paul Humby is unable to continue as PC Highways Liaison Officer. Many potholes have been marked up for repair. Thanks were expressed for his time in the post.
- b) The clerk has reported the broken wooden fence at the bottom of North Lane (Somerset Council Highways Report ref 80088). This has been sent to highways, but no response as yet.

10. FOOTPATHS

- a) Stile near Prospect Farm has collapsed (Y10/20). The Chairman has reported this to Somerset County Rights of Way, in the hope that they may consider replacing the three stiles with footpath gates.
- b) Broken footpath stile on Broadstone Lane (Y10/20). This has been repaired by the Ranger.

11. PARISH ISSUES

- a) The Garden Club has offered to plant and maintain the village sign-posts areas (x3). The cost of licensing (including admin) is approx. £465 + VAT for any items (including signs and furniture) for each site. It was agreed that we would take up the offer from the Garden Club. As the tyres have been in place for many years, we will not apply for a new license.
- b) Phone box refurbishment – the closure spring needs refixing. Cllrs Robert Halls and Malcolm White will do this.
- c) A resolution was passed to approve payment to Hardington Messenger as a contribution towards printing costs of £500.
- d) The Clerk has emailed the owners of Manor Farm, asking if they would consider either the sale or lease of the field North of the Village Hall, as this would benefit Village Hall users and also the Church. They have responded stating that they will consider this once the new barn is in place. A specimen tree will need to be preserved.
- e) Party-in-the-Park will take place on 9th June 2024.
- f) 6th June is the D Day Celebration. Tickets are being sold for fish and chips in the pub. A beacon will be lit at 9:15pm at the top of the hill. Cllr M White has made a brazier for the beacon.

12. COMMUNITY FIELD

- a) Halycon have increased monthly cost from £130.00 to £135.20 (total = £1622.40 per year)
- b) It was decided a lorry-load of 'grit' would probably work out cheaper for re-surfacing the bike track. It was agreed to go ahead with this once strimmed and weeds dealt with. Cllr Pete Higgins and Malcolm White to organise this.

13. FINANCE

- a) As both Income and Expenditure are below the £25,000 thresholds, a resolution was passed to sign the 'Certificate of Exemption' from the limited assurance review under section 9 of the Local Audit Regulation (Smaller Authorities) 2015.
- b) The Chairman read the report from the 'Annual Internal Audit'. The Chairman thanked Nick Lunt for completing the audit. We need to find a new auditor for next year as Nick is standing down from this role.
- c) Resolution was passed to approve the Annual Governance Statement.
- d) Resolution was passed to approve the Accounting Statements.
- e) A resolution was passed to approve the Parish Council Insurance due 1st June 2024 £502.53 (3rd year of LTA). The previous year was £471.61)
- f) New Lloyds bank accounts signature forms were completed.
- g) The final CIL payment re land North of Tall Elms has been received (total = £775.10 + 775.10 + £2323.31= £3873.51 to be spent on Community Infrastructure (transport, flood defense, etc.). This need to be spent within 5 years, or somerset county could reclaim it.
- h) A resolution was passed to change the NatWest Bank Halycon Standing Order from £156.00 to £162.24.

i) A resolution was passed to pay the following amounts:	
- Purple Hire –Party -in-the-Park 2 x WC (£138.00 + VAT£27.60)	£165.60
- Michael Mochan (Party-in-the-Park singer)	£250.00
- Village Hall Committee - Party-in-the-Park hire of Village Hall for meeting	£12.00
- S Ogden – 7 x £25 pr hour Ranger, wood for style £6.48	£181.48
- Zurich Municipal – Annual PC insurance	£502.53

14. PARISH RANGER SCHEME

- a) The ranger has submitted an extensive lists of tasks completed.
- b) New tasks for the Ranger lists include preparation for bike track repairs (strimming, weed killing). The bridleway from Moor Lane to North Lane also needs tidying.

15. CORRESPONDENCE

- a) None

16. VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE UDATE

Fund raising update - £391 was raised from the last film night and £249 from the April Coffee Morning. The next Coffee Morning will take place this Saturday, 25th May.

17. MATTERS OF REPORT & ITEMS OR NEXT MEETING

Chairman: None.

Councilors: None

Clerk: None.

18. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING & CLOSURE

The meeting closed at 8:30pm. The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Tuesday, 18th June at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.