

*MINUTES OF MEETING OF HARDINGTON MANDEVILLE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 21ST
OCTOBER 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), Jo Szmaj, Robert Halls, Tina Steel, Mark Pollock and Malcolm White.

In Attendance

Nancy Chapman and 1 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**

None.

The Chairman reported that Cllr Higgins has resigned from the council and thanked him for the time spent with the council over the last 3 years.

Cllr Steel is also leaving Hardington, moving to a near-by village, but for now will remain on the Council.

2. **MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 16th SEPTEMBER 2025 (Already Circulated)**

The minutes were approved as correct records of the meeting.

3. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None

4. **MATTERS OF REPORT**

Cllr Carpenter gave report on the SALC Somerset Parish Conference. This is included the SALC AGM, a report from 'Parish Online' regarding Parish Council websites, details of the 'Somerset Prepared' Parish preparedness survey and a report on the latest Local Government Boundary Commission.

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

The Somerset Councillor's reports have been previously circulated.

6. **PLANNING AND PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

a) There were no planning applications received after publication of this agenda.

7. **HIGHWAYS**

a) Pig Hill was discussed again. The Ranger has tried unblocking the drain, but it clearly needs jetting (or possibly more to unblock it...). Cllr Pollock also reported that the loose grit on Pig Hill (left behind from the recent road repair) is still quite dangerous to walk on and could still do with another 'sweep-up'. The Clerk agreed to chase this up with Somerset Highways.

b) Cllr Pollock reported there is also a blocked drain near the back of the church on Wimborough Lane. The Clerk agreed to report it.

c) Cllr Halls reported that an old caravan has been dumped and set on fire on the verge near the road to Hardington Marsh. The Clerk agreed to report it.

8. FOOTPATHS

- a) Two quotes have been received for the partial tarmacing of the footpath between Moor Lane to the Village shop. The spec given for the work was similar, and so a resolution was passed to accept the cheapest quote. The Clerk agreed to contact the company asap so that this could be done sometime soon.
- b) The Chairman reported that the signpost for Y10/41 at the south end of Holtens lane has been snapped off at ground level. The Chairman agreed to contact the ranger so that he could replace this.

9. PARISH ISSUES

- a) A parishioner reported that it looks like the metal bench at the bottom end of Penn Lane may have been a subject for potential theft. Some of the bolts that fastened it to the ground are undone and the bench is bent with one of the metal slats broken. Cllr Carpenter agreed to report back on this.
- b) The dog litter bin hasn't been delivered yet, but it was decided to place it on the south-side of the wall near the church triangle (what3words: nuzzingling.buckets.alright), 1-2 metres left of the telecom cabinet.

10. COMMUNITY FIELD

- a) Ben Turner has agreed to trim the hedges of the Community field and the maintenance contractor has agreed to weed-kill the paths again.
- b) A resolution was passed to submit the repeat order form for the Play Inspection Company for the annual inspection 2026 (£82.75 +VAT)

11. FINANCE

- a) The Clerk reported that she will be doing the budget plan ready for November's meeting. She was asking for input on any potential projects for the 2026-2027 year. It was agreed that the community field bike track needed some work carried out to restore it to its former self. The Clerk agreed to budget for this.
- b) A resolution was passed to pay the following invoices:

- N Chapman Salary & Expenses	£1,112.94
- Jon Backhouse - Ranger (October labour £225.00 + Materials £64.42)	£289.42
- OM Groundworks and Surfacing Ltd – VHC Tarmac & Drain work £8883.00 +VAT £1776.60	£10,659.60

12. PARISH RANGER SCHEME

- a) The Ranger has been strimming the usual areas, installed the new swing seat and carried out some other repairs to the community field.
- b) The new ranger tasks for next month included replacing the broken sign at holtens, measuring up for a new Perspex board for the notice board opposite the Mandeville arms, clearing around the grit bin at the top of the high street and potentially installing the new dog litter bin at the 'triangle' if it is delivered in time.

13. CORRESPONDENCE

None.

14. VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE UPDATE

The last Village Hall Coffee Morning raised £180. The next coffee morning is on 25nd October.

The last film night raised £132. The next film is the Ballad of Wallis Island. The VHC received a donation of £2000 from the street fayre committee. The September electricity bill was £64.69. The tarmac has now been completed around the back of the hall. The new garage door will cost £1000. They are also getting quotes for the cladding above the front door. The VHC insurance this year is £1670.76 (start date 17/11/2025). A resolution was passed for the Parish Council to reimburse the VHC for the insurance cost.

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 8.15pm. The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Tuesday, 18th November at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.