

MINUTES OF MEETING OF HARDINGTON MANDEVILLE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 16th SEPTEMBER 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

Jo Szmaj (Chairman), Robert Halls, Mark Pollock and Malcolm White.

In Attendance

Nancy Chapman and 3 members of the public.

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

The VHC Chairman stated that the “Village Hall was left in trust for the use of the inhabitants of Hardington Mandeville and the neighbourhood”. She highlighted the Village Hall Trust Deed Clause 21 'Liquidation' section. She felt it was quite clear that it is for the V.H. Committee (and not the Parish Council) to decide whether it is 'necessary or advisable to discontinue the use of the Trust Property.....' and it is for the Committee to call a meeting of the inhabitants of the 'area of benefit' if and when it should decide to discontinue the use of the Trust Property as a Village Hall. She felt that the Parish Council as 'Custodian or Holding Trustee ' has gone beyond its remit and that the Village Hall Committee were not consulted in advance over this matter. She stated that it was unfortunate that the article in the Messenger had no name attached to it. She was now being approached by people who think that he was herself and the VHC that are the ones behind this idea and that they support it. As you know, this is most definitely not the case and all VHC are against this idea.

A parishioner asked if the Ranger could unblock the drains on Pig Hill as they are now full of grit. There is still a lot of loose grit on the roads and the Clerk agreed to contact Highways to ask if it could be swept again.

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Robin Carpenter and Tina Steel

2. **MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 19th AUGUST 2025 (Already Circulated)**

The minutes were approved as correct records of the meeting.

3. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None

4. **MATTERS OF REPORT**

None

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

None.

6. **PLANNING AND PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

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

7. HIGHWAYS

- a) There will be a 'Temporary Road Closure' on the High Street from 7th October 2025 for 3 days to enable Wessex Water to renew a stop tap.

8. FOOTPATHS

The Clerk is still trying to get further quotes for tarmac the area of footpath between Moor Lane to the Village shop.

9. PARISH ISSUES

- a) A resolution was passed to cancel the Parish Council meeting do discuss the potential idea of moving the Village Hall to the community field.
- b) Cllr Halls explained that the Gardening Club are struggling to use the village hall projector and have received quotes from an electrician to improve this. It was decided a fiber optic cable could be installed which would future proof the projector. A resolution was passed for the Parish Council to pay for this (£480.00 + VAT).

10. COMMUNITY FIELD

- a) A resolution was passed for the Clerk to contact Ben Turner to ask him to trim the hedges of the Community field.
- b) Cllr Pollock noted that the paths around the field have become very overgrown around the community field. The Clerk agreed to contact the maintenance contractor to ask them to weedkill the paths again.

11. FINANCE

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

- Somerset Council – Apr-June 2 x bin emptying (£169.00 + VAT£33.80)	£202.80
- Play Inspection Company – Annual Inspection (£80.00 + VAT£16.00)	£96.00
- N Chapman reimbursement for Dog poo bin (£291.91+ VAT £58.38)	£350.29
- N Chapman reimbursement for Baby Swing Seat (£119.67 + VAT £23.93)	£143.60
- Jon Backhouse - Ranger (September)	£235.00

12. PARISH RANGER SCHEME

- a) The Ranger has been strimming the usual areas, hedge cutting gateways on Y10/11, strimming the Community Field entrance and footpath to moor lane and has also inspected the play equipment for 'risks' identified by the play inspections report. Having inspected the play equipment, he reported that there is a fair amount of tanalised timber that will need replacing and some areas where just treating the wood may be sufficient. The large chunky benches cannot be economically saved as the wood is too far gone.
- b) The new ranger tasks for next month included clearing the drains on Pig Hill, fixing the new Baby-swing seat, repairing issues raised by the Community field inspection report and potentially installing the new dog litter bin at the 'triangle'.

13. CORRESPONDENCE

Cllr Carpenter asked if anyone could attend the LCN meeting on the 23rd September (7.00pm), but unfortunately no-one was available.

14. VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE UPDATE

The last Village Hall Coffee Morning raised £295.00. The next coffee morning is on 22nd September. The next film night will be on the 18th September (Penguin Lessons). The August electricity bill was £64.69. Quotes have been received for replacing the garage doors and will be review at the next meeting.

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 8.12pm. The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Tuesday, 21st October at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.