

MINUTES OF HANKERTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 4 MAR 24

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Held on Monday 4 March 2024 at 7.30 pm in the North Aisle, Hankerton Church

Present: Parish Cllrs Jacqui Erskine-Crum (Chair), Richard Barrow, David Bosley, Dai Davies; M R Bromley Gardner (Clerk); Wilts Cllr Elizabeth Threlfall; and 7 members of the public.

1. Apologies. Cllrs Denis DeSouza, Kate Nurden.
2. Public Questions/Receipt of Petitions. None.
3. Declarations Of Interest. None.
4. Urgent Matters at Chair's Discretion. None.
5. Minutes of Last Meeting. The Minutes of the last meeting (held on 12 Feb 24) had been circulated in advance. They were approved and signed. Two Cllr profiles were still outstanding. No actions were outstanding.
6. Finance. The account remained on course as detailed in the Precept 2024/25 process. Peter Wyman had offered to act as Internal Auditor. Two payments were authorised:
 - 2023/12, £1018.68, Clerk annual salary.
 - 2023/13, £679.12, Clerk PAYE.
7. Planning Applications. None.
8. Sewage Leak at Pumping Station/Wessex Water Letter. The Chair briefed the meeting. A response had been received from CEO Wessex Water. In this he had said 'much of the flooding is caused by surface and fluvial water entering our sewerage system at Hankerton bridge, because of the poor upkeep of the drainage ditches and downstream watercourses in the area'. We disagreed, and a meeting had been arranged by David Pynn on 25 Mar 24 in which he would explain to Wessex Water why this was wrong. The Chair and Clerk would attend this meeting.
9. Road Drainage outside 'The Holt'. After discussion it was agreed:
 - The priority was to get the ditch that led away from the eastern roadside ditches flowing. The landowner had agreed that when he could get onto the ground with a digger he would attempt to clear it. We would need to maintain oversight on this to ensure it happened. But it would take time for the water table to drop sufficiently.
 - We should maintain pressure on Wilts Highways to clear the pipe intermingled with the ditch on the western side of the road, and also to repair the under-road pipe that should connect both sides of the road to allow the western ditch to empty into the eastern ditch and thence away. We should ask for a CCTV scan first to confirm the situation. **Action: Clerk**
10. Community Emergency Contacts. Item further deferred to next meeting.

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11. Verge Cutting. A resident had asked that the verges be cut to allow those who walked on the lanes a sanctuary on the verges when vehicles came along – without the verges being cut there was nowhere for walkers to get off the road when needed. The Clerk pointed out that since this had not been budgeted for if the PC were minded to agree the cost would have to come out of the reserve; and also that it could be difficult at this late stage in the year to find a contractor to do the cut to our requested timeline. The PC agreed to cut the verges this year – once and then to consider further cutting later if necessary, in about June/July but at any rate after the cow parsley season, at a price of up to £500. **Action: Clerk**
12. Hillwell/Follyfield Footpath. The PC decided to agree to a resident's request that it should make the Hillwell/Follyfield footpath less muddy in the approx 7-metre stretch that was currently muddy. The PC decided to go with Nick Durnford Landscapes for this work at an indicated cost of £350 plus VAT. **Action: Clerk**
13. Replacement Flag. The PC decided to leave the current flag in situ in order to see how long it lasted and re-consider after that.
14. Village Volunteers and Assets – Cllr Responsibility? A resident had requested that a Cllr be nominated to be responsible for the various village assets and the volunteer residents currently looking after them. Dai Davies volunteered to do it – this was accepted by the PC. **Action: Dai Davies**
15. Fire Service Plan. The Dorset and Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service had drafted their Plan 2024-2028. It was in consultation until 3 May. Cllrs had earlier remarked that it made no mention of battery energy storage sites and solar farms and the fire danger posed by lithium-ion batteries. After discussion the PC decided not to respond.
16. D Day 80 (6 Jun 24). The PC decided to take no action.
17. Best Kept Village. The PC decided to enter this year. The Clerk would liaise with the Chair over the entry paperwork. **Action: Clerk**
18. Village Litterpick. The Chair would invite Cllr Malcolm Gerald to lead the litterpick including selecting a date as needed before the growth of grass hides the litter.
19. Annual Village Meeting. The Chair offered to organise the refreshments. The PC agreed that as many village entities as wanted to speak should do so. **Action: Clerk**
20. Updates. Bus shelter repairs – still awaiting dry weather; water butt – the Chair had provided a blue barrel but was worried about the colour of the item; the Coronation rowan tree had been planted on 18 Feb 24 in the churchyard. Costings for a tree plaque would be brought to the next meeting. **Action: Clerk**
21. Planning Update. Report on Planning Applications:
- Decided by Hankerton PC at last meeting:
 - Elm Farm Cottage, listed building consent, minor changes;
 - April Cottage Bullocks Horn extension; both No Objection.
 - Decided by Wilts Council since the last meeting:
 - Church Farm, timber orangery;
 - Follyfield, variation of condition dating from 1971;

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- Manor Farm Cottage, single-storey extension; all approved.
- Minety Solar Farm, variation of conditions.
- Not yet decided: Minety Substation Expansion; Yew Tree Farm, demolish and replace (note Conservation Officer objection).
- Appeals: 35 Chapel Lane, Land West of Bullocks Horn Lane, Old Post Office.

22. Councillors' Observations/Points for the Next Meeting. Next meeting – plaque for Coronation tree; grass-cutting in the Amenity Area.

23. Next Meetings. (13 May AVM), 20 May APCM, 1 Jul, 2 Sep, 4 Nov.

The meeting closed at 8.50 pm.