

Minutes of the Hurstbourne Priors Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday
27th of March 2025 in the Hurstbourne Priors Village Hall at 6.30pm.

Present: Cllr Mrs C Read – Chair
Cllr Mr P Smail
Cllr Mrs L MacGregor
Cllr Mr P Lockett
Cllr Mr A Milne
Cllr Mr T Crutchfield
Borough Councillor Mr S Carr
Richard Waterman – Parish Clerk

Apologies: Cllr Mrs S Wyatt-Tilby – Vice Chair and County Councillor Mr T Thacker.

WELCOME.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

DECLARATION OF INTEREST.

Cllr Mr A Milne declared an interest in the Village Hall Planning Application.

BOROUGH COUNCILLOR MR SAM CARR.

Cllr Mr S Carr spoke on the following subjects:

- LOCAL PLAN – Basingstoke and Deane are conducting a consultation land management review following the enormous demand for additional housing by the Government. Cllr Mr S Carr urged the Parish Council to make a comment when asked to do so. Reg 18 in the Local Plan now has to accommodate the 37% increase in housing provision.
- ST MARY’S HILL – The Landscape enforcement issue is close to being resolved. Work has commenced on the central green area within the development. There is still severe snagging require. The most important issue is that the acoustic fencing has yet to be resolved, Cllr Mr S Carr has raised stiff concerns about the lack of haste Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council are applying on this particular issue.

The Developer has applied for a discharge of conditions regarding noise as they state that the levels do not breach regulations. Cllr Mr S Carr stated that he has asked for an urgent meeting with the Planning Officers as this could have serious consequences on the enforcement process for the development.

Cllr Mr S Carr stated that he is not impressed with the way this enforcement has been handled by Basing Stoke and Deane.

The Parish Council noted that finished development bears no resemblance to the sales brochure produced by the developer when Planning Permission was obtained. The Chairman will write to the Planning Enforcement Officer to echo the points made by Cllr Mr S Carr and the Parish Councils concerns about this development. Cllr Carr to provide her with the detail of who to contact.

- DEVOLUTION – Cllr Mr S Carr reported that not much has happened since his last report. Proposals for the splitting up of Hampshire have been submitted to the Government. Cllr Mr S Carr will keep the Parish Council informed of any decisions as they are released.

Cllr Mr S Carr urged the Parish Council to be vocal and take part in all consultations to ensure their voice is heard on local issues at the appropriate time

- The Chair spoke about a Parishioner that is having trouble joining the internet Fibre Cable that passes in front of her property. Cllr Mr S Carr stated that he will look into this and will liaise with the Chairman for the details.

The Chair thanked Cllr Mr S Carr for his report and support.

MINUTES.

The Chair signed the minutes of the January meeting as a true record.

TUFFTON.

Cllr Mrs L MacGregor reported:

- Mr J Huxford has asked why there has been an increase in the Parish Council part of the Council Tax Bill. The Chairman stated that, as recorded in the November 2024 Minutes, the Precept was increased due to increases in Insurance, Recreation Ground Maintenance and the Pavilion Refurbishment costs it was agreed to increase the Precept for the next financial year from £12,200 to £14,200.
- The issues at Rivers Edge Barn are in hand. The land has been cleared, and a fence has now been erected by the River Keeper. It was discussed and agreed that the Parish Council will purchase a bench to be sited in Tufton adjacent to the river to commemorate the Coronation of His Majesty King Charles
- Reports from Residents about an increase in noise from the A34 have been noted. Acoustic fencing has been suggested and correspondence with Kit Malthouse MP on this issue was advised.
- There was no news to report on the suggested new permissive footpath.
- Wi-Fi. Broadband coverage is not very good in Tufton. The Chair reported that Mr Ian Bradley is on the case in the centre of the village and in contact with Openreach. The Chair will pass on his contact details to Cllr Mrs L MacGregor.

ST MARY'S HILL.

- Cllr Mr P Luckett reported that the 'SLOW' Pedestrians signs have been installed.
- Cllr Mr P Luckett reported that he attended the Hampshire County Council meeting and spoke for 10-minutes on the dangerous stretch of road between the Viaduct and St Mary Bourne.
- Cllr Mr P Luckett reported that he met Lulu Bowman from the Hampshire County Council Road Safety Team in February 2025. It was agreed that HCC will review the speed limit on the road from the viaduct to St Mary Bourne. The concerns for Pedestrian Safety were noted.

FINANCE.

February and March 2025

EXPENDITURE.

Eon Electricity	Pavilion	£246.12
R.N. Waterman	Wages	£600.00
TVBC	Grass and Hedge Cutting	£389.68
Hiscox	Insurance	£215.36
Refund	Olympics Event	£ 35.00
Scottish Water	Pavilion Water	£ 72.42
Recreation Ground	Supplies. Service of Mower	£ 407.00
		<u>£1,965.58</u>

BANK ACCOUNT BALANCE AFTER ABOVE MOVEMENTS = £13,302.06

Working Capital	£ 327.79
General Reserves	£4,500.00
Play Area	£1,193.75
Pavilion	£7,280.52
Total	£13,302.06

PLANNING.

The Planning Application for the work on an overgrown tree behind the Village Hall has been withdrawn.

There were no objections to a planning application for a loft conversion at a property at St Mary's Hill.

The Planning Portal is still showing the Application for 45 homes at Apsley is still with the Planning Committee.

VILLAGE HALL.

Cllr Mr A Milne reported that the new shed is nearly complete. The shed will be ready for the May Fair equipment after this year's May Fair.

A new gas meter has been fitted, and a recent survey has identified that many of the windows and entrance porch are showing signs of rot.

FOOTPATHS.

The Chair reported that most of the footpaths are still muddy but walkable.

MAY FAIR.

The Chair reported that it is intended to hold the May Fair on May Bank Holiday Monday, the 5th of May 2025 as the weather has been kind and the ground is not as waterlogged as last year. However, the May Fair Committee will look at the weather forecast and make a final decision to proceed on the 28th of April 2025.

PAVILION AND RECREATION GROUND.

The Chair reported that with the Clerk she had met with Sara-Jayne Eustace and Catherine Daly from Basingstoke and Deane to discuss the use of the 106 Developer contribution funding.

The projects the 106 Money can be used for were confirmed. It was agreed that improving the surface of the parking area in front of the Lytch Gate would be a good project. Grass Crete (the hexagonal plastic grid that grass grows through) was suggested. Cllr Mr T Crutchfield warned of issues using Grass Crete and recommended that hardcore be used. This was noted and will be explored. The Chairman will ask a contractor to quote for replacement of the grass/mud with a suitable surface.

Improving the Play Area was also agreed but there are conditions to using the 106 Money. It can not be used for replacement equipment and must be used for something new that is not already available. Adding additional features to the existing equipment will be explored.

The Clerk is waiting for the opening of the new financial year funding streams. An application of intent will be submitted once they are open.

The Chair reported that there is a rat infestation in the Pavilion and the shed. Dave Haggard has been on site to carry out pest control.

WEBSITE.

Michelle the website administrator is looking to see if the current format can be improved to make the cricket Pitch Hire bookings available online in the same way as the village hall bookings.

FLASHING SPEED SIGNS.

The Clerk was asked to get a price to service the Flashing Speed Signs and for new batteries. Mr Ian Bradley has offered to charge and rotate the batteries.

HILL AND VALLEY

The Chair reported that no one has come forward to take on the role of Editor for Hurstbourne Priors. Subsequently, there is no report from Hurstbourne Priors in the next issue!

CLOSE OF THE MEETING.

The Chair thanked everyone for coming and closed the meeting.

DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING.

Thursday 29th of May 2025 at 6.30pm in the Hurstbourne Priors Village Hall. The Chair reported that she will not be present at this meeting.

DATES FOR THE 2025 MEETINGS.

31st of July

25th of September

27th of November