

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

Present: Cllr Mrs C Read - Chair
Cllr Mrs L MacGregor – Tufton
Cllr Mr T Crutchfield
Cllr Mr A Milne
Richard Waterman – Parish Clerk
County Councillor Mr T Thacker
Borough Councillor Mr S Carr
Mr S Cady and Mr M Johnson – Hurstbourne Priors Cricket Club

Apologies: Cllr Mrs S Wyatt-Tilby – Vice Chairman, Cllr Mr P Luckett and Cllr Mr P Smail.

WELCOME.

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

DECLARATION OF INTEREST.

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

COUNTY COUNCILLOR MR TOM THACKER.

Cllr Mr Tom Thacker reported that he has contacted Hampshire Highways following correspondence from the Chair regarding the proposed kerb and hard standing work by the bus shelters. The Chair had expressed concern about the work given that at no time had it been requested. Cllr Mr T Thacker also noted the lack of prior consultation from Hampshire County Council to the Parish Council.

Cllr Mr T Thacker spoke about the Government Consultation on the proposals for the breakup of Hampshire under devolution. Details and the link are available on the Basingstoke and Deane, Hampshire County Council Websites and on Cllr T Thacker's Face Book page.

BOROUGH COUNCILLOR MR SAM CARR.

Borough Councillor Mr Sam Carr's report had been sent to the Parish Council prior to the meeting. Issues noted included the following:

- LGR – Cllr Mr S Carr recapped on the proposals for the splitting of Hampshire that have been submitted. Hampshire County Council's submission is City based. The Borough Councils have submitted a rural based submission: East Hampshire, Test Valley, The New Forest and Winchester.
The consultation closes on the 21th of January 2026. Cllr Mr S Carr urged the Parish Council and Residents to make their comments and is willing to help with any response.
- DRAFT LOCAL PLAN – The Basingstoke and Dean consultation on Reg.18 on the Local Plan will open on the 28th of November 2025 and will last 8 weeks.
- BASINGSTOKE AND DEANE BUDGET – The Council Tax will increase by 2.99% due to an increase in spending including Planning Enforcement and

Training, after the recent announcement in the Nation Budget, Basingstoke and Deane are looking at how they will collect the new mansion tax. There are also changes to Business Rates that will need to be implemented. Central Government are reassessing Local Government Financing.

- The new Food Waste Collection is now up and running with mixed reviews received on the service.
- ST MARY'S HILL – Cllr Mr S Carr reported that he has received a commitment from the Planners to sort out the issues with St Mary's Hill before the end of the year. The timetable for the end of August slipped without note of any resolutions. He thanked the Chairman for her letters of support to the Planners and Enforcement Team. Jenny Jackson, the Planning Enforcement Officer has replied to say that she has carried out a full case review and identified several mistakes made by Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council Planning. The matter is now in the hand of the legal team.

HURSTBOURNE PRIORS CRICKET CLUB.

The Chair introduced Mr Steve Cady and Mr Mat Johnson who had come to talk about the proposal for the installation of an all-weather cricket wicket. The Parish Council had all been copied into correspondence prior to the meeting in preparation.

Mr Cady gave a brief history of his involvement with Hurstbourne Priors Cricket Club. He explained the work needed to maintain the current wickets due to the change in seasonal weather, the club believe an artificial wicket will increase bookings as it will always be ready for use.

He believed an all-weather wicket could be hired out to bring in extra income of approximately £1,400 to £1,500. This will give more flexibility for more frequent use without the work needed between matches on the traditional grass wickets. It would also be suitable for youth cricket as a shorter wicket is used for these matches which we cannot produce on the current grass surface. After investigations there are several local clubs that have expressed a commitment to using the proposed artificial wicket. Hurstbourne Priors Cricket Team would get priority use of the facility.

The artificial wicket has a life span of 15 years with very little maintenance. At the end of its life the top mat can be replaced. Mr Cady reported that the cost of the artificial wicket will be in the region of £13,500. It is hoped that this can be funded by grants.

The Chair made it quite clear that the Parish Council need to raise financing for the refurbishment of the Pavilion and would not be able to assist with any funding for the project and would prefer the wicket to be totally self funding going forward.

The Parish Council agreed in principle but aired their concerns that were addressed by Mr S Cady.

- The siting of the wicket must not interfere with the layout of the May Fair.

- A bright green, associated with artificial turf would not be acceptable, the artificial wicket must be as natural looking as possible to blend with the surroundings. The Parish Council would like to see samples before any order is placed.
- The Cricket Team needs to confirm if there are any planning considerations and be prepared to fund any possible fees that may be payable.
- There was concern that now that the cricket Club was planning two teams most Saturday's during the season would be used by them and therefore not available for hiring, and therefore fundraising for the Pavilion. The Parish Council felt that there should not be a precedent where club cricket stopped 'outside ie: paying' matches being played
- Mr Cady's hope that the artificial wicket would be used every Sunday morning by youth teams also prevents outside hiring removing further revenue for Sunday hirings

The Chair thanked Mr Steve Cady and Mr Matt Johnson for coming to discuss their proposal. The Chair asked Mr S Cady to keep the Parish Council informed of progress regarding grant funding.

TUFTON.

Cllr Mrs L MacGregor.

- The Lengthsman has been to Tufton and has done a good job cutting the footpaths. Cllr Mrs L MacGregor requested that the Lengthsman is scheduled to cut the footpaths at least twice a year.
- Rivers Edge Barn – The ownership of the amenity land is being investigated. Several complaints have been received from residents about the cars belonging to Rivers Edge Barn parked on this land.
- Mr Michael Bailey the Parish Council's maintenance man was continued to cut the area of grass adjacent to the river and it is now looking good. Cllr Mrs L MacGregor hoped the grass cutting could continue next year.
- It was agreed that the bench would be installed for residents and visitors to sit and enjoy the unique setting.
- It was agreed that a display board would be arranged to show visitors what wildlife and flora was visible in this SSI
- The additional 'Slow Pedestrians on the Road' sign has been ordered.
- Cllr Mrs L MacGregor asked if there was any news on the Permissive Footpath? The Chair had no news to report.
- Cllr Mrs L MacGregor asked that Tufton be mentioned in the Parish Council's feedback on the Draft Borough Plan consultation.

HARROWWAY.

Cllr Mr P Lockett provided this report prior to the meeting.

Residents of St Mary's Hill are again receiving invoices for site management and maintenance from Cleanslate. As I understand it most of them are not paying them as a) the site is not yet finished and b) the invoices are not supported by any financials relating to expenditure. The residents are happy to pay fees once the site is finished and the correct financial procedures are in place. The residents are suspicious that this might be a tactic being deployed by Cleanslate to raise funds to repair and finish the site.

Particular areas of concern are the Acoustic Fence and a Parking Area/Driveway on the site that has not been completed properly.

The residents would like an update if there is one on Basingstoke and Deanes position re this as Cleanslate are making claims to them in support of the invoices that the fence and site have been approved?

In November's Hill and Valley, I published an article on the history of St Andrews Church, this was written with the Church Wardens assistance. There are a few things in this updated article that are different to what we state on the Parish Council website, and I wonder if this should now be updated together with new photographs? If so, I can provide the text and photographs. Of course if there is a cost attached to this then I understand that it might not be a priority right now?

MINUTES.

The September Minutes were signed as a true record.

PLANNING.

There were no new planning applications to discuss.

FINANCIAL REPORT. October and November 2025

INCOME.

Dave Hopkins Talk	355.60
EON Refund	500.00
	<u>£855.60</u>

EXPENDITURE.

Eon Electricity	Pavilion	£104.84
R.N. Waterman	Wages	£600.00
TVBC	Grass and Hedge Cutting	£466.98
Bank Charge		£9.50
Insurance		£217.22
M Bailey	Grass Cut Tufton	£280.00
M Page	Cricket Club Equipment Hire	£102.68
Flow Right	Repairs to Cricket Storage Shed	£274.42
Expenses	Dave Hopkins Talk	£99.30
Gallagher	Pavilion Insurance Premium	£2,730.32
		<u>£4,966.83</u>

BANK ACCOUNT BALANCE AFTER ABOVE MOVEMENTS = £25,236.51

Working Capital	£4,559.17
General Reserves	£5,000.00
Play Area	£1,193.75
Pavilion Refurbishment	£14,483.59
	Total <u>£25,236.51</u>

2026/2027 PRECEPT.

The Clerk produced a budget sheet for discussion showing the Estimated Results for the Year 2025/2026 and the budget for the Year 2026/2027. Each item was explained. It was noted that the Parish Council will need to increase the precept to meet the ongoing maintenance of the Pavilion, work on the Recreation Ground Trees, repairs needed to the Scoring Hut and ongoing grass cutting at Tufton.

The Parish Council agreed that they would discuss the precept further at the January 2026 Meeting when they have a chance to study the financial report on the budget. The Clerk will circulate the corrected budget sheets ahead of that meeting.

VILLAGE HALL.

Cllr Mr A Milne reported that there was a bad water leak in the toilets, and this has now been repaired. Kate Chisnell has resigned from the Village Hall Committee and the hunt for a replacement member is underway. The Boiler is due for its service, and the Fire inspection is in hand.

FOOTPATHS.

The Parish footpaths are clear and walkable, though muddy.

PAVILION AND RECREATION GROUND.

PAVILION.

The Parish Council were unsuccessful in their application for CIF funding. The Grants Panel felt that the refurbishment of the internal areas of the Pavilion was a case of maintenance and felt that this was down to natural wear and tear. The comment was made that not enough proof was submitted on consultation with local bodies and groups about the project in the application documents. It was felt that BDBC were applying 'urban' requirements - ie that many groups and organisations would be using the building - to what is clearly a very 'rural' application. The Clerk and Chairman are to meet with the funding team in the near future to discuss this matter.

The Thatch could possibly be financed with further application to the CIF Fund in 2026

The Parish Council have received a grant of £500 from the Four Lanes Trust for the purchase of the materials for the refurbishment of the showers.

The repairs to the shed have been carried out. The Chair was not keen on removing the shed completely and felt that the shed should remain, and a small ISO Container added to the site for additional storage. The Clerk will investigate the cost of a small container and what, if any planning permissions will be required.

PARISH COUNCILLOR'S REPORTS.

CLLR MRS C READ – Reported that the contribution the Parish Council give to Hill and Valley will remain at the same figure for the next financial year.

Cllr Mrs C Read reported that she had attended the Annual Vitacress Forum meeting. Vitacress are looking into adding a footpath through the field to improve safety for walkers who currently use the road. Vitacress continues to

litter pick along Harroway. The QR Code issued to Vitacress Contractors regarding truck routes is working well.

Vitacress have confirmed their commitment to continue the Vitacress Forum Meetings.

CLLR MR A MILNE – Pointed out that the July Meeting Date for 2026 has been left off the list. This will be rectified.

HURSTBOURNE PRIOR HISTORY EVENT

The History Event and talk held on the 25th of October 2025 in the Village Hall was a great success and the Chair wished to thank Cllrs Tom Crutchfield and Peter Smail for organising the event

RESIGNATION.

The Clerk stated that he wished to hand in his resignation. If the Parish Council agreed he will continue to the end of the financial year. The Clerk will finish off the end of year accounts and prepare the paperwork for the Annual Audit. The Clerk would like to finish at the May 2026 AGM Meeting.

The Clerk reported that Hedio Easton an experienced Parish Clerk is interested in taking over the role and he will bring her to the January Meeting to introduce her to the Parish Council.

CLOSE OF THE MEETING.

The Chair thanked everyone for coming and closed the meeting.

DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING.

Thursday 29th of January 2026 at 6.30pm in the Hurstbourne Priors Village Hall.

DATE OF MEETINGS FOR 2026

All meetings will be held in the Village Hall and will start at 6.30pm

Thursday 29th January

Thursday 26th March

Thursday 28th May

Thursday 30th July

Thursday 24th September

Thursday 26th November