

Minutes of the Hurstbourne Priors Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 25th of September 2025 in the Hurstbourne Priors Village Hall at 6.30pm.

Present: Cllr Mrs C Read - Chair
Cllr Mrs S Wyatt-Tilby – Vice Chair
Cllr Mrs L MacGregor - Tufton
Cllr Mr P Lockett - Harroway
Cllr Mr P Smail
Richard Waterman – Parish Clerk

Apologies: Cllr Mr A Milne, Cllr Mr T Crutchfield and Borough Councillor Mr S Carr.

WELCOME.

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

DECLARATION OF INTEREST.

There were no Declarations of Interest recorded.

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 – Recommendations for the splitting of Hampshire 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. There will be a consultation, and residents are encouraged to take part. An article will be placed in Hill and Valley when dates for the consultation have been confirmed. A Ministerial decision will be made in March 2026. The Mayoral elections will be held in 2026, and the Shadow Elections will take place in 2027, for implementation in 2028.
- DRAFT LOCAL PLANN - No development has been allocated to Hurstbourne Priors settlement until 2042 (duration of the Local Plan). The land at Faulkners Down Farm has not been included in the housing land supply.
- The Basingstoke and Dean Scrutiny meeting regarding Reg.18 will be held late October 2025 and a consultation on the Local Plan will begin in November 2025 and should last 8 weeks. The Parish Council will respond once the draft is made available.
- ST MARY'S HILL. Cllr Mr S Carr has written a strong letter to Jen Jackson the Planning Enforcement Officer stating that the enforcement issues for St Mary's Hill need to be resolved, this lengthy process is a waste of public money. The Chairman will also write a strong letter to Ms Jackson on behalf of residents. It was felt that BDBC were not having enough regard for the welfare of residents and were ignoring their own experts opinion on the fence being wrong.

TUFTON.

Cllr Mrs L MacGregor.

- Several residents have complained about the overgrown weeds and hedging along the edge of Tufton Lane which is narrowing the road and making visibility poor and in some cases dangerous. Cllr Mrs L MacGregor has spoken to the River Keeper about this, and he will arrange for the hedge to be cut back.
- The Lengthsman will be tasked with cutting the footpaths.
- Rivers Edge Barn – A contractor came to treat the stumps left after the removal of the hedge but could not do the work as there were cars belonging to Rivers Edge Barn parked over the stumps. Cllr Mrs L MacGregor has spoken to County Councillor Mr Tom Thacker about this, and he is keen to help and get this issue resolved.
- Mr Michael Bailey the Parish Council's maintenance man has cut the area of grass adjacent to the river but for some reason had not cut the whole area, the Clerk will investigate.
- Cllr Mrs L MacGregor stated that it is still not clear who owns the land adjacent to the river and she felt that this is hindering the tidying up of the area for the people to enjoy the unique setting.
Cllr Mrs S Wyatt-Tilby will investigate the Land Registry documents to see if the land ownership can be resolved so this can be moved forward.
- The 'Slow Pedestrians on the Road' signs have been erected, and an additional one is required. The Clerk will order an additional sign.
- Cllr Mrs L MacGregor reported that the owner of Dipper Barn has informed her that he has sold the property – this has not been confirmed.
- The speed limit from the A34 slip road under the bridge towards Whitchurch is a major concern for Tufton residents. The speed limit is currently 60mph and ideally should be reduced to 40mph.
Cllr Mr P Lockett spoke about his experience of trying to get the Speed Limit reduced at the Harrow Way that resulted in him speaking at a Hampshire County Council meeting. Cllr Mr P Lockett offered to forward on the information to Cllr Mrs L MacGregor as it may be of help to try and get the speed limit reduced.

HARROWWAY.

Cllr Mr P Lockett reported that at the moment everything was quiet, and he had nothing to report.

Cllr Mr P Lockett reported that has taken over the role of Hurstbourne Priors Editor for Hill and Valley. The Parish Council thanked him for taking on the role.

MINUTES.

A correction was made to the minutes with regard to 106 money being claimed for the use of Hurstbourne Priors and not lost to the central BDBC 'pot'. The Clerk confirmed that he had returned the forms to Sara-Jayne which she sent in February, to ensure that the money is kept.

The remaining minutes of the July Meeting were signed as a true record.

PLANNING.

The Chairman reported that she has had another conversation with the Agent for the Testbourne Estate regarding the dangerous condition of Dairy Cottage and the unsightly condition of the site and it's effect on the village and adjacent properties.

The Chairman reported that there has been a change of personnel at Fowler Fortescue following the retirement of Anthony Fortescue. The way the Testbourne Estate is being run appears to have altered and it is hoped that this will not have any detrimental affect to the village.

Cllr Mr S Carr has been asked to progress this issue with the Basingstoke and Dean Planning Enforcement Officer.

FINANCIAL REPORT. August and September 2025

INCOME.

2 nd half of Precept	7,100.00
Pavilion Hire	160.00
	<u>£7,260.00</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
Origin	Loam Etc for Cricket Square	£571.76
Scottish Water	Water for Pavilion	£81.48
Mrs C Read	Zoom Subscription	£155.98
Michelle Shill	Website Fees – 2 Years	£421.00
		<u>£2,628.76</u>

BANK ACCOUNT BALANCE AFTER ABOVE MOVEMENTS = £28,187.74

Working Capital	£8,026.00
General Reserves	£5,000.00
Play Area	£1,193.75
Pavilion Refurbishment	£14,127.99
Total	<u>£28,347.74</u>

VILLAGE HALL.

Cllr Mr A Milne will give an update at the November Parish Council Meeting.

FOOTPATHS.

The Parish footpaths are clear and walkable, other than those in Tufton previously reported.

PAVILION AND RECREATION GROUND.

PAVILION.

The Clerk reported that the CIF Funding Application has been submitted, and an email has been received confirming Receipt from the CIF Team.

A third quote for the Pavilion Thatching is being sorted and will be forwarded on to the CIF Team. Confirmation will be sought at this meeting as to what thatch is currently on the Pavilion and whether planning permission will be required.

(After Note: Jason Morley, Master Thatcher confirmed that water reed was used last time and therefore planning will not be required. He has provided a third quote, and this has been submitted to the CIF Team).

The Parish Council thanked the Clerk for all the work involved in getting the information required for the CIF Funding application. The Clerk in turn thanked the Parish Council for their assistance in providing photographs etc.

The Clerk and Cllr Mrs L MacGregor had a successful meeting with Anne Blackmore, Director of Four Lanes Trust at the Pavilion. Anne Blackmore indicated that the Four Lanes Trust would consider giving a grant towards the purchase of the materials for the refurbishment of the showers but not the labor.

Anne Blackmore asked the Clerk to price up the materials (Showers, Screens and Shower Trays) and submit to her for the next Trustees Meeting in November (After Note: Prices have been submitted).

Anne Blackmore was very impressed with the wonderful setting of the Pavilion and Recreation Ground; she thought that there were many opportunities and events that could be held at the Pavilion and would include this in her report to the Trustees of the Four Lanes Trust.

The Parish Council discussed the repairs to the shed and the possibility of replacing the shed with an ISO Container. Given the amount of machinery required and the netting etc which needs to be stored, it was felt that the shed should remain and a Container installed adjacent to it. The Clerk will investigate what permissions will be required for an ISO Container.

The container could also be used to store the contents of the Pavilion during refurbishment.

SCORING HUT.

Cllr Mrs L MacGregor commented on the poor state of the Scoring Hut. It would appear that the Scoring Hut is no longer used for its intended purpose.

The tree has engulfed the roof causing considerable damage. The tree will need cutting back to stop further damage and to allow the structure to be used and admired as it is a lovely building.

The inside needs to be cleared of nets and debris and a bench installed to provide shelter for users of the Recreation Ground. The roof will need to be repaired, and the building given a good coat of preservative. It would appear that the building is in a stable condition and with a bit of effort could again be an asset to the Recreation Ground.

The Parish Council agreed. The Clerk will get a quote for the repairs and enquire if Planning permission is required to cut back the tree.

It was also noted that extensive cutting back of the trees behind the Pavilion is also required to protect the new thatch and the practice wicket.

CRICKET CLUB.

The Chairman reported that the Cricket Club have communicated that they will be staying in the County Five League for one more year.

They were pleased to announce that they have enough players to have two teams. The Cricket Club are keen to broaden the use of the cricket field to include youth and women's cricket and has asked the Parish Council if they

would consider the installation of an artificial wicket. The existing wickets are adult length and would be damaged by being shortened for youth matches. In addition St Mary Bourne, Longparish and Whitchurch CC's have limited facilities and are looking to use neighbouring pitches for their training sessions. The Cricket Club would seek grants and fund the artificial wicket.

The Parish Council discussed this and felt that they would like further information on the funding, maintenance and the actual position of the artificial wicket before committing. In addition there was concern expressed that if HPCC played with two teams that would mean the pitch would not be available for any Saturday's for outside hirings. One of the reasons for the extensive refurbishment of the pavilion is to increase it's hiring potential and revenue raising to maintain it.

The Chairman stated that she had made it clear to the Cricket Club that there would be no funding coming from Parish Funds. The Clerk confirmed that the Cricket Practice Nets were put forward as a no cost to the Parish Council but the project that ended up costing the Parish Council £4,500. This was noted.

PARISH COUNCILLOR'S REPORTS.

Cllr Mr P Smail reported that he has moved out of the village but will remain on the Parish Council for the foreseeable future. The Parish Council wished him well in his new home and for his decision to stay with the Parish Council.

The Chairman asked the Clerk if he could check with the Website Manager Michelle whether she was able to change the name? Also, can she please put up the Hurstbourne Pages of Hill & Valley? These are sent every month, maybe he could confirm that she is receiving them, if not which is the best email address to use.

HURSTBOURNE PRIOR HISTORY EVENT

The History Event and talk will take place on the 25th of October 2025 in the Village Hall. Details have been advertised in Hill and Valley.

CLOSE OF THE MEETING.

The Chair thanked everyone for coming and closed the meeting.

DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING.

Thursday 27th of November 2025 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 24th September

Thursday 26th November