

Minutes of the Hurstbourne Priors Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday
29th of May 2025 in the Hurstbourne Priors Village Hall at 6.30pm.

Present: Cllr Mrs S Wyatt-Tilby – Vice Chair

Cllr Mr P Smail

Cllr Mr P Lockett

Cllr Mr A Milne

Cllr Mr T Crutchfield

Richard Waterman – Parish Clerk

Members of the Public – Tufton Residents 4

Apologies: Cllr Mrs C Read – Chair, Cllr Mrs L MacGregor, Borough Councillor Mr
S Carr 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.

BOROUGH AND COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORTS.

There were no reports from the Borough and County Councillors.

ST MARY'S HILL.

Cllr Mr P Lockett reported that Hampshire Highways Safety Team have been to look at the problems on the St Mary Bourne road. The road does not fit the criteria to extend the 30MPH Speed Limit. However, Hampshire Highways have agreed to improve the signage at the crossroads and from the viaduct through to St Mary Bourne. Residents have been encouraged to report any incidents to the Police.

MINUTES.

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

TUFFTON.

Mrs C Chapman asked the Parish Council for an update on the request for a Permissive Footpath on the Testbourne Estate.

The Chair reported that Cllr Mrs C Read has spoken to the Estate Manager on several occasions about the permissive footpath but had not received any firm conformation that it will happen.

Other issues raised by Tufton included:

- Residents' concerns about speeding vehicles along Papermill Lane and Nuns Walk. It is felt that signage is required to make drivers aware that pedestrians are in the area and drive accordingly. Initial contact with Hampshire Highways has indicated that the road does not meet the criteria for a reduced speed limit. The Parish Council were asked if they could provide 'Slow' Pedestrians in the road signage. The Parish Council agreed it was worth trying. The Clerk will organize the signs.

- It was also mentioned that the speed of drivers leaving Whitchurch to join the A34 is also a big problem. It has been suggested that the 40MPH speed limit is extended, but this seems unlikely.
- Land Enforcement at Tufton – Hampshire County Council did say that they would remove the roots from the hedge that was taken down to stop re-growth. This has not yet been done.

The Chair thanked the Tufton Residents for their reports. The Residents thanked the Parish Council and left the meeting.

FINANCE.

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR APRIL AND MAY 2025

INCOME.

BDBC – ½ Precept	£ 7,100.00
BDBC – Grass Cutting Grant	£ 754.87
	<u>£7,854.87</u>

EXPENDITURE.

Eon Electricity	Pavilion	£104.84
R.N. Waterman	Wages	£600.00
TVBC	Grass and Hedge Cutting	£466.98
Hill and Valley	Subscription	£284.00
Bank Charge		£8.50
Insurance		£109.61
Eclipse	Mole Control	£130.00
DJ Harris	Pavilion water supply repairs	£2,192.93
		<u>£3,895.86</u>

BANK ACCOUNT BALANCE AFTER ABOVE MOVEMENTS = £16,848.69

Working Capital	£5,201.42
General Reserves	£5,000.00
Play Area	£1,193.75
Pavilion Refurbishment	£5,453.52

Total £16,848.69

VAT to be re-claimed £934.39

END OF YEAR FINANCIAL REPORT.

HURSTBOURNE PRIORS PARISH COUNCIL ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31ST MARCH 2025 SUPPORTING NOTES

ASSETS

- No Assets were purchased during the year.
- A Bench was disposed of during the year
- At the 31st March 2025 the following Assets were held by the Parish Council, based on insurance and purchase price :-

Community Assets

Recreation Ground	- Freehold	
Pavilion	- Value	£135,222.52 (Insurance Value)
New Sewage System for Pavilion		£14,190.15
Street Furniture	- Value	£16,513.99 (Insurance Value)
Lytch Gate		
Portable Cricket Net	- Value	£13,695.00

Mower & Motorized Roller	
Bus Shelter	
5 x Seats	
Clock	
Flashing Speed Signs x 2	- Value £2,704.52
Defibrillator & Cabinet X2	- Value £2,732.50
Play Equipment	- Value £15,464.42 (Insurance Value)
Office Equipment	- Value £345.05 (Insurance Value)
	Total : £200,868.15

LEASES – No Leases were in operation at the end of the year.

BORROWINGS – No loans to the Parish Council were outstanding at the year-end.

DEBTS OUTSTANDING – There was a debt owing to the Parish Council at the end of this financial year. = £568.99 VAT

SECTION 137 PAYMENTS - Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972 enables Local Councils to spend up to the product of £10.81 per elector, as at 1st April in the relevant year, for the benefit of the people in the area on activities or projects not specifically authorized by other powers. The limit for the Parish Council in the year ending 31st March 2024 was some £2,140.38 (198 X £10.81) and payments were made :-

Hill and Valley Parish Magazine – Contribution to Parish News - £284.00

AGENCY WORK – No Agency Work was undertaken.

ADVERTISING AND PUBLICITY – Nil

CONTINGENT LIABILITIES – The Parish Council are not aware of any contingent liabilities as at 31st March 2025.

HURSTBOURNE PRIORS PARISH COUNCIL INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR 31ST MARCH 2025

2024/2025

INCOME	£
Precept – Basingstoke and Deane	12,200.00
Donations – May Fair	5,654.52
Hire Charges – Recreation Ground	400.00
Parish Funding B&D. BC	754.87
Fund Raising	880.00
	<u>19,889.39</u>

PAYMENTS

Insurance	3,917.78
General Administration	5,659.25
Cancelled Cricket Bookings Refunds	300.00

VAT on Payments	568.99
Village Maintenance	248.50
Defibrillator Pads and Battery	111.87
Easter Egg Hunt	99.73
Apple Press	417.20

RECREATION GROUND

Pavilion - Running Costs & Maintenance	1,376.75
Parks and Open Spaces	3,094.84
	<u>15,794.97</u>

CUMULATIVE FUND BALANCE

Opening Balance 1 st April 2024	8,795.03
Add Income	19,889.39
	<u>£28,684.42</u>

Less Expenditure 15,794.97

Balance at 31/3/2025 **£12,889.45**

The Parish Clerk explained each item. The Parish Council agreed to adopt the Year ending 31st March 2025 as a true record. Proposed by Cllr Mr P Smail. Seconded by Cllr Mr A Milne. All agreed.

CERTIFICATE OF EXEMPTION – AGAR 2024/2025

The Parish Council agreed to submit a Certificate of Exemption as the turnover was below £25,000. Proposed by Cllr P Smail and seconded by Cllr A Milne. All agreed.

ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT 2024/2025

The Clerk read out the Annual Governance Statement 2024/2025 ensuring that there is a sound system of internal control, including arrangements for the preparation of the Accounting Statement. The Annual Governance Statement was approved by the Parish Council. Proposed by Cllr Mr P Smail and seconded by Cllr T Crutchfield. All Agreed.

ANNUAL ACCOUNTING STATEMENTS 2024/2025

The Annual Accounting Statement 2024/2025 was approved by the Parish Council. Proposed by Cllr Mr T Crutchfield and seconded by Cllr P Smail. All agreed.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST WITH BDO LLP.

There was no Conflict of Interest with the external Auditor, BDO LLP recorded.

PLANNING.

The following planning applications had been distributed prior to the meeting and comments submitted – available to view on the Basingstoke and Deane Website:

25/00780/HSE – Erection of a single storey side and rear extension following demolition of the attached single storey garage. Church Cottage, 476 Stoke Lane, Hurstbourne Priors.

25/01155/HSE – 1 Apsley Farm Cottages, Apsley Lane, Picket Piece.

MAY FAIR.

The 2025 May Fair was a great success and well attended.

VILLAGE HALL.

Cllr Mr A Milne reported that the repairs to the Village Hall windows have been done and bookings are still good.

FOOTPATHS.

The Parish footpaths are clear and walkable.

PAVILION AND RECREATION GROUND.

PARKING AREA.

The Clerk reported that a quote of £11,146.00 has been provided by Ridgeland Groundworks and Building to dig out approximately 25m x25m (625 sq meters) and remove grass/soil lay membrane and infill with type 1 scalpings and compact and finish with shingle.

The Parish Council discussed this at length. Cllr Mr P Smail stated that he did not think this was a good idea on reflection and was concerned that over time the shingle would end up in the bottom of the hedge due to the sloping nature of the land. Drainage issues were also raised by Cllr Mr T Crutchfield.

It was also noted that the 106 Developer Money available for Open Space totaled £7,540.90 leaving a balance to find of £3,875.10.

PLAY AREA.

The Clerk reported that he had met with two Play Area Equipment suppliers on site and even the most basic of equipment plus installation was being quoted at around £3,000. The 106 Developer Money available totals £3,357.68.

The Parish Council discussed this and felt that it may be preferable to consider the bigger picture and looking at replacing the whole play area rather than doing it piece-meal.

PAVILION.

Unfortunately, there was a major water leak in the pavilion. DJ Harris Plumbing was called out and found that this was not a job that could easily be repaired. The original copper pipework was failing and there were several pinhole leaks.

On returning to carry out the repair work they could not access many of the pipe work under the pavilion. As a result, a new water pipe system was installed from the stop cock, and this has been laid above ground around the internal walls of the pavilion. Two of the showers no longer work, it is thought that they have furred up over the winter. Unfortunately, the cost to replace the pipework came in at £1,827.00

The future of the pavilion was discussed, and it was felt that maybe the Parish Council needed to look at all factors. Is it worth the high cost of repairing an old building that will eventually need further expense or rebuilding with something that is still in keeping that will provide the facilities that are now expected in a pavilion, that will last for years to come? The Parish Council will need to consult

with the village once they have made a decision, making all options and costs available.

It was felt that the Parish Council needed to have serious discussion about the future of the pavilion. The current building is beginning to deteriorate. The Clerk was asked to see if a reputable builder would give some idea of the cost involved to re-build.

WEBSITE.

Michelle the website administrator is working on making the cricket Pitch Hire bookings available online in the same way as the village hall bookings. The Clerk has also provided a list of the Councillors' emails to make sure that they are all up to date.

CLOSE OF THE MEETING.

The Chair thanked everyone for coming and closed the meeting.

DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING.

Thursday 31st of July 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.

25th of September

27th of November