

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

MONDAY 16 JUNE 2025, Heckfield Village Hall, 7.30pm

Present: Parish Councillors Keith Alderman (Chairman), Guy Chessell, Jennifer Roberts
Clerk Susan Turner; Guests Ward Cllr Anne Crampton, County Cllr Tim Davies

2025.

- 26 WELCOME AND APOLOGIES**
Apologies: Andy Piercy.
- 27 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING** AGM of 12 May, agreed and signed.
- 28 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** in items on the Agenda, none.
- 29 PUBLIC SESSION AND REPORTS TO MEETING** No members of the public present
Update from Cllr Anne Crampton
- .1 Hart peer review** (Corporate Peer Challenge) from Local Government Association (LGA) carried out in April – a team of officer and member peers – to scrutinise the council as a ‘critical friend’.
Focus on – Local priorities and outcomes – Organisational and place leadership – Governance and culture – Financial planning and management – Capacity for improvement – with particular focus on the Council’s community engagement; understanding of needs of its local communities; how to meet these through its leadership and priorities.
The report concluded a lack of political leadership and lack of vision. On the positives according to the Hart website, praise for: financial management, support to the local armed forces, the ‘Here for Hart community network’, approach to climate change. Hart is required to respond to the Review findings with an Action Plan, then undergo a Progress Review within 10 months.
- .2 Local Plan** – Hart doesn’t have one. From five-year review date of 30 April 2025, Hart’s previously adopted land supply figure no longer deemed up-to-date; housing requirement reverts to new and inflated NPPF housing figures, thus Hart can no longer show required land supply – which is again five years – and this will continue until adoption of new Local Plan likely late 2028. No timetable – Local Development Schedule – yet published. Likely to be an executive reorganisation at the end of June. Noting Daryl Phillips was previously Head of Planning in East Hants. When Unitaries, take over, the District Local Plans will continue in tandem.
- .3 Legacy funding** When Unitary does take over in May 2028, Hart unlikely to be first in line for project funding. Suggested within Hart that the projected budget surplus be used for ‘legacy funding’; waiting to hear from Finance Director how much this is likely to be. Suggestions for a large ‘central’ project eg a social housing development; alternatively to award funding for individual parish projects.
- .4 Hart Community Governance Review** – The Review gives Parish and Town Councils the opportunity to make changes to parish structure and governance (prior to Unitaries taking over) including:
- creating, merging, altering or abolishing parishes
 - naming of parishes; the style of new parishes; the potential creation of new town or parish councils
 - The electoral arrangements for parishes. For instance, the ordinary year of elections; council geographical size; the number of councillors, and parish warding
 - Grouping parishes under a common parish council or de-grouping parishes
 - Other types of local arrangements, including parish meetings.
- Initial consultation report included requests from some Parish Councils for additional members or to be warded. There were no requests for any other changes such as grouping individual Parishes.
- AGREED** The Parish Council confirmed it had no requested changes and would not support amalgamating local Parishes.

For signature (p1 of 4)

30 HOUND GREEN**.1 Phone box update**

- i Steel cabinet for the electrics fitted – to record thanks to Guy Chessell.
- ii Electricity connection New order placed with SSEN – awaiting date for site visit. Amended price = £461.02 plus VAT, previously £386.32 (SSEN still hold) plus VAT; balance paid £74.70 plus VAT.
- iii Next steps as email July 2023 (GC)
 1. First thing in the box is the supply head, which is fitted by SSE as part of the quote they have given ref i. above. They will put the power cable from the pole, down the duct I put in the trench, and up into the bottom of the supply head.
 2. Once the supply head is in, we have to decide who we want to supply the electricity and then ask them to fit a meter. We will probably also want them to fit an isolator switch.
 3. Then we need an electrician to come and fit a small consumer unit and run wiring for plugs, lights and defibrillator cabinet.

.2 Trees Email from Lanterns of 27 May raising concerns re Ash tree on Hound Green overhanging their property. Agreed action to be taken on any safety issue. Reported damage to paintwork of car parked beneath due to bird droppings not a good reason to cut the tree. Action – tree inspection.

.3 Green maintenance – Some hand work required – tidying with shears around by phone box and pulling up the small tree saplings regrowing in the wildflower areas. KA reported in hand with residents' working group.

.4 Mole traps reset – to be lifted 17 June. Subsequently reported two moles caught.

31 HIGHWAYS

.1 Mapboards Requote from HCC Printing Services £749. Quote confirms four x upright boards, and one x lectern; artwork same for all. New text awaited from Mutton. Donation to be considered, agreed; then provisional agreement with thanks to Cllr Davies for an application to his devolved budget. To include in the artwork 'provided with support from Hampshire County Council'.

.2 Red Hill gateway Quotes considered from Glasdon and Jacs; agreed to lower cost timber alternative. Risk assessment deems appropriate for location by bus shelter in 30mph area. Gate – planed Oak, white painted, £380, sign c£190 = c£570.

.3 Horse box on Plough Lane. PACT meeting of 02 June attended by Cllr Davies and ST. Strong message from Hart Community Safety that removal can't be enforced if no parking restrictions. The case made that the horse box is a danger, on HCC land and on the Highway. This latter Tim confirmed from 'extent of highway' map supplied by Local Highways Engineer. Police – PC Kirsty Bough – agreed the Police would make site visit.

.4 Flooding in vicinity of Hazeley Bottom Farm. Reference Highways works a couple of years ago to alleviate flooding into properties from blocked culverts; half a job done as the problem now flushed further down.

Two manholes / gullies? in the road; the uphill one full of water the lower one dry – thus the culvert blocked between them. Water coming through the bank into Hazeley Bottom Farm, pump running constantly to direct it out the field.

Logged on HCC website; response that not a Highways issue (the highway not flooding). Action (GC) to send info and photos to Cllr Davies who will follow up.

32 GLEBE WOOD

.1 Public footpath, circular path and track cleared by Parish Lengthsman the evening of Thurs 29 June. Subsequent report of very good job and proportionate amount of cutting; all happy including residents.

.2 Ash trees – To progress with plan to monitor Ash trees with support from Tom Ryder-Runtun; noting reports that some Ash trees are recovering. Action KA, ST.

For signature (p2 of 4)

33 PLANNING**.1 Parish Planning Applications – Planning Update **APPENDIX I.****

- i. New applications since last meeting
[25/01020/GPDFLX](#) (Validated 30 May) Thackhams Farm, Bottle Lane. Prior approval application for change of use of agricultural building to a flexible commercial use under Classes E and B8. Requirements for permitted development regulations noted **APPENDIX II.** Discussion that the proposal is similar to other successful local farm diversifications; very narrow roads make larger vehicles impossible – agreed no objection, no comment.
- ii. Recent applications of note.
[25/00477/FUL](#) (Validated 21 March) The Mutton at Hazeley Heath. Erection of 8 units of guest accommodation with associated parking, landscaping and new sewage treatment plant. Parish Council submitted objection comment re parking issues, along with similar neighbour objections. The parking proposals to be reconsidered. though noting restrictions posed by the trees. Intention had been to remove two trees but these would cost £170K each in BNG contribution. Also trees to consider further down the site.
[24/02451/PREAPP](#) (Opinion issued 13 May, Validated 17 Dec) Fieldgate, Hazeley Lea. Demolition of existing dwelling and erection of replacement dwelling with associated car parking, amenity space and landscaping.
 Summary of case officer conclusions at **APPENDIX III.**
 Present use considered to be ancillary to the main house (noted previous owner went to appeal twice for the original building) so this pre-app request is for a new dwelling in the countryside, the principle of which is not supported. Potential to take route of seeking Certificate of Lawfulness based on established use as independent dwelling for more than 10 years – if this can be evidenced to be the case.

.2 Hart Local Plan – Awaiting timetable (Local Development Schedule) for Local Plan Update process. *See also Ward Cllr report at 29.2 above.***34 FINANCE & GOVERNANCE****.1 Accounts to date **APPENDIX IV.** Bank reconciliation @13 June = £37,203.85**

Payments to date this year

1 HALC – HALC / NALC subs	£342.00
2 PGM 3079 – Maintenance April	£351.30
3 Clerk – Salary-April	£468.00
4 Herpetologic – Ecological Survey	£321.60
5 PGM 3079 – Maintenance May	£384.00
6 GC (Amazon Business EU S.à.r.l UK; B&Q; Travis Perkins) Phone box cabinet install	£118.90
7 Clerk – Salary-May	£468.00
8 SSEN – Phone box connection FFR968/2 (extra payment plus all VAT)	£166.90
9 Gallagher – Insurance 2025/26	£756.65

.2 Budget update **APPENDIX V.****.3 Internal audit** scheduled; notice of Electors' Rights posted to website 14 June.**.4 Insurance renewal** To confirm renewal for 2025/26 with Hiscox via Gallagher; revised quote = £756.65 due to reduced sums insured. Third year of three-year tie-in.**35 FURTHER REPORTS****.1 Barn Meet** 14 May, 6.30pm, Stratfield Saye Village Hall. *Attended, ST and Cllr Davies.* Not those many people there but a working day in summer. Exclusively CountryWatch; focus entirely on landowners, rural businesses; confirmed DISC system for reporting is restricted to those groups. An interesting talk from local volunteer from the Farming Community Network. Not the right audience to talk about the horse box.**.2 RSPB Hazeley Heath report JR.**

The Belted Galloways currently on the Heath are owned by RSPB, thus RSPB is responsible for them, has to check them every day (noting a couple with foot problems). So these cows to be

moved on to a different site and and a new grazier will bring in Herefords and be responsible for their welfare.
RSPB very under-staffed – recent reorganisation cut staff to makes savings, then took on the Blackbushe Vommon; increased workload with fewer people.
Bat survey and good butterfly survey at Hazeley – good for Silver Studded Blues.
Bird surveys at Black Bushe not for public participation. RSPB used to charge people to take them on the surveys but now too short staffed; plus first aid and insurance to consider.

NOTED Parish Council keen to have info to share with residents; there should shortly be holding a further consultative group meeting.

.3 **PACT meeting** held Monday 02 June with a couple of hours’ notice. Attended ST, Cllr Davies. Discussed re horse box – as 31.3 above. To request slides from presentations.

.4 **NALC report on remote meetings** **APPENDIX VI**. Following consultation, Government is to amend legislation on Parish Council meetings to allow remote and hybrid meetings.

36 **NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS**

7.30pm, Heckfield Village Hall – Mondays 21 July, 18 Aug, 15 Sept, 20 Oct, 17 Nov.
Meeting close 9.10pm with thanks to all.

For signature (p4 of 4) Date

APPENDIX I PLANNING UPDATE 16 June

NEW APPLICATIONS SINCE LAST MEETING of 10 May

25/01020/GPDFLX (Validated 30 May) Thackhams Farm Bottle Lane. Application for prior approval for change of use of agricultural building to a flexible commercial use under Classes E and B8. Note requirements for permitted development regs, no external impact, eg noise, traffic.

APPLICATIONS PENDING / RECENTLY DECIDED

25/00778/CA (Approve 04 June, Validated 28 Apr) Leather Bottle G 1 - 4 x ASH - Fell and replace with 2 x Oak and 2 x Cherry.

25/00764/OHL (Pending, Validated 23 Apr 2025) The Leather Bottle, install a Ground Mounted Electricity Substation

25/00741/LBC (Pending, Validated 08 May) The Dairy Bottle Lane. Retention of an Electric Vehicle Charging point on the external wall of the building,

25/00646/OHL (No objections, Validated 04 Apr 2025) Hatts Cottage Hazeley Heath. Works to Underground sections of our overhead network and to relocate a pole into land designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest.

25/00517/HOU (Grant 22 May, Validated 27 Mar 2025) White Ladies, Hazeley Bottom Erection of single storey rear and side extensions

25/00477/FUL (Pending, Validated 21 Mar 2025) The Mutton At Hazeley Heath. Erection of 8 units of guest accommodation with associated parking, landscaping and new Sewage Treatment Plant. Parish Council objections re parking submitted.

24/02451/PREAPP (Opinion issued 13 May, Validated 17 Dec) Fieldgate, Hazeley Lea. Demolition of existing dwelling and erection of replacement dwelling with associated car parking, amenity space and landscaping.

APPENDIX II RE THACKHAMS FARM CHANGE OF USE

See planning agent letter...

'The Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015 provides at Schedule 2, Part 3, Class R for the change of use of agricultural buildings to a flexible commercial use, subject to the restrictions set out in R.1, the conditions in R.2, and the procedure in R.3.

'R.3 In terms of procedure, R.3 (1) requires that before changing use of the site under Class R, and before any subsequent change of use to another use falling within one of the use classes comprising the flexible use, the developer must:

(b) where the cumulative floor space of the building or buildings which have changed use under Class R within an established agricultural unit exceeds 150 square metres, apply to the local planning authority for a determination as to whether the prior approval of the authority will be required as to:

- i transport and highways: impacts of the development;
- ii noise impacts of the development;
- iii contamination risks on the site; and
- iv flooding risks on the site

and the provisions of paragraph W (prior approval) apply in relation to that application.

Re i. Transport and highways impacts of the development

'The building is to be utilised for a light industrial (use class E) and storage and distribution (use class B8) and based on six trips/100 sqm/day on other commercial sites, therefore the vehicle movements will approx 22 vehicle movements per day. ' [Noting no indication of actual likely number of vehicles for this site.]

APPENDIX III RE FIELDGATE

24/02451/PREAPP (Opinion issued 13 May, Validated 17 Dec) Fieldgate, Hazeley Lea.
Demolition of existing dwelling and erection of replacement dwelling with associated car parking, amenity space and landscaping.

FROM CASE OFFICER REPORT

'Conclusion

'The Local Authority would likely refuse any forthcoming application.

The pre-app seeks advice on the merits of the erection of a detached replacement dwelling within a countryside location adjacent to the settlement of Hazeley Lea. Policy NBE1 would allow for a replacement dwelling.


'However... past applications / documentation associated with the main house previously known as Kilbricken... refer to the building to which the pre-app relates as an annex. The reference to the residential element as 'accommodation' in both the 'Proposals Brief Description' in the application form and the Covering Letter suggest that the residential use is not that of a separate dwelling but more akin to an annex/granny annex.

'It is my opinion that the use of the pre-app building is that of an annex associated with the main dwelling immediately to the north now known as Feldgate. As such the proposal would be tantamount to a new dwelling in the countryside. As such there would be an in principle objection to the proposal. There would also a presumption against such a new dwelling as it falls within the 400m Exclusion Zone around part of the Thames Basin Heaths SPA. While the pre-app site is directly adjacent to the settlement of Hazeley Lea it is within the countryside for planning purposes and would not be a sustainable or accessible location due to their lack of any services and facilities. The principle of development would not therefore be supported.

'The pre-app before the Council is in effect for a new dwelling that for the reasons set out above would be contrary to the objectives of Policies SS1 and NBE1 of the Local Plan.... the Local Authority would likely refuse any forthcoming application.

'It is, of course, open to the applicant to make a case that the annex has been independently occupied in excess of 10 years and is therefore immune from enforcement action under S171(b) (2) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended). If the applicant is of the view that the test for time immunity can be met, I would strongly advise you to apply for a certificate of lawful development under S191 of the Act, in order to fully ascertain the lawfulness of this as a fallback position, should an application be pursued.'

Vat to reclaim from 2025/25	£58.55
Vat to reclaim from this year	£268.35



Club, Charity And Trust Account

Available funds:

£83.25

Make a payment

Make a transfer

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View a mini statement

Set up standing order

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MATTINGLEY PARISH COUNCIL - EXPENDITURE 2025/26 - 13 June 2025												
No	Inv Date	Pay Date	Supplier	Description	Salary	Admin/ Governance	Community	Maintn Contract	Phone box	POND Project	VAT	TOTALS
1	15/04/2025	28/04/2025	HALC	HALC / NALC subs		£342.00						£342.00
2	22/04/2025	28/04/2024	PGGM 3079	Maintenance April				£292.75			£58.55	£351.30
3	APRIL	28/04/2025	Clerk	Salary-April	£468.00							£468.00
4	22/04/2024	08/05/2024	Herpetologic	Ecological Survey HG						£268.00	£53.60	£321.60
5	28/05/2025	28/04/2024	PGGM 3079	Maintenance May				£320.00			£64.00	£384.00
6	30/05/2025	30/05/2025	Guy Various	Phone box cabinet install					£118.90			£118.90
7	MAY	31/05/2025	Clerk	Salary-May	£468.00							£468.00
8	09/06/2025	13/06/2025	SSEN	Phone box FFR968/2					£461.02		£92.20	
									£386.32			£166.90
9	12/06/2025	13/06/2025	Gallagher	Insurance 2025/26		£756.65						£756.65
				TOTALS	£936.00	£1,098.65	£0.00	£612.75	£193.60	£268.00	£268.35	£3,377.35
	Date		Supplier	Description	Salary	Admin/ Governance	Community	Maintn Contract	Phone box	POND Project	VAT	TOTALS
												£3,377.35

	MPC THIS YEAR SUMMARY at 13 JUNE 2025	2025/26 TO DATE	2025/26 LATEST ESTIMATE
2024/25 YE			
	EXPENDITURE		
£5,191.20	CLERK'S SALARY	£936.00	£5,616.00
£324.00	CLERK'S ALLOWANCE		£324.00
	EXPENSES		£100.00
	TRAINING		
£1,721.02	GOVERNANCE/ADMIN	£1,098.65	£1,575.00
£322.25	COMMUNITY / DONATIONS		£500.00
£3,513.00	HOUND GREEN contract	£612.75	£3,688.58
£160.00	HOUND GREEN other maint		£500.00
£170.00	PARISH MAINTENANCE		£500.00
	GLEBE WOOD		£500.00
	HOUND GREEN TREES - ANNUAL		£1,000.00
£11,401.47	Routine expend (Precept funded)	£2,647.40	£14,303.58
	<u>Projects</u>		
	Mapboards		£500.00
	Hound Green trees - five-yr		
	HOUND GREEN POND	£268.00	£5,000.00
£1,191.72	Phone Box	£193.60	£408.28
£369.00	Red Hill Gateways		£1,000.00
£1,470.00	Defibrillator install		£100.00
£1,366.72	VAT	£268.35	£268.35
£15,798.91	TOTAL EXPENDITURE	£3,377.35	£21,580.21
£11,401.47	Routine expend (Precept funded)	£2,647.40	£14,303.58
£1,560.72	Project expenditure	£461.60	£7,276.63
	INCOME		
£14,743.00	PRECEPT	£15,569.00	£15,569.00
£1,000.00	County Cllr grant	£0.00	£500.00
£5,000.00	Grants other		
£2,731.77	Vat refund		£326.90
£362.25	Bank interest	£127.13	£350.00
£23,837.02	TOTAL INCOME	£15,696.13	£16,745.90
£8,038.11	Surplus // Deficit	£12,318.78	£4,834.31
£24,885.07	Balance	£37,203.85	£20,050.76

APPENDIX VI

News 06 Jun 2025

NALC SECURES MAJOR VICTORY AS THE GOVERNMENT BACKS REMOTE COUNCIL MEETINGS

In a momentous decision, the government has [announced plans](#) to amend legislation, allowing local authorities (including parish and town councils) to hold remote and hybrid meetings. This move is a powerful victory for parish and town councils following our persistent advocacy.

Since the expiration of temporary COVID-19 provisions in May 2021, which permitted virtual council meetings, we have been at the forefront of a national campaign to restore this flexibility. We argued that enabling remote attendance would modernise local democracy, enhance accessibility, and attract a more diverse range of individuals to public service.

The government's consultation, which received 5,844 responses (the vast majority coming from the 3,327 parish and town councils), revealed overwhelming support for remote meeting options. In response, the government acknowledged the need for councils to develop their own remote and hybrid attendance policies tailored to local circumstances.

We welcome the government's announcement, emphasising that the flexibility to hold remote meetings would empower parish and town councils to respond more effectively to their communities' needs. However, in response to the consultation last year, we expressed that the introduction of proxy voting would present significant challenges for parish and town councils, including undermining democratic accountability, weakening deliberative decision-making, and creating procedural and ethical difficulties.

The development marks a significant step forward in modernising local governance and ensuring that parish and town councils can operate effectively and inclusively in the digital age.

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This is a pivotal moment for grassroots democracy. Allowing remote meetings gives parish and town councils the tools to engage more people, particularly those with caring responsibilities, disabilities, or work commitments. It's about making local government truly local and truly accessible.

Cllr Keith Stevens
NALC chair

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