

MINUTES OF HANKERTON ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 18 MAY 26

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF HANKERTON PARISH COUNCIL **Held on Monday 18 May 2026 at 7.30 pm in the North Aisle, Hankerton Church**

Present: Parish Cllrs Jacqui Erskine-Crum (Chair, Item 1), Dai Davies (Chairman, Item 2 onward), Denis DeSouza, Jonathan Allmark: M R Bromley Gardner (Clerk); Wilts Cllr Elizabeth Threlfall; and 6 members of the public.

1. Election of Chair. Dai Davies was elected Chairman for the year.
2. Apologies. Cllrs Malcolm Gerald, Kate Nurden, Richard Barrow.
3. Public Questions/Receipt of Petitions. A resident remarked about the tumbledown barn just east of the lane south of The Holt.
4. Declarations Of Interest. None.
5. Urgent Matters at Chairman's Discretion. None.
6. Election of Deputy Chairman. Item deferred until the next meeting.
7. Allocation of Portfolios for 2026/27.
 - Footpaths – Denis de Souza
 - Highways – Dai Davies
 - Area Board – Dai Daves
 - Flood Prevention – the PC would continue to rely on David Pynn as advisor
 - Patients Group – Shayne Smith to continue in this role
 - Amenity Area – Jacqui Erskine-Crum for one year to get the trees started well
 - Emergency Plan/Winter Plan – Dai Davies
 - Defibrillator – Simon Kearsley as non-Cllr to coord the checking roster. Clerk to hold PC responsibility.
 - Volunteers/Assets/Information Coord – Dai Davies
 - Community Emergency Contacts – Chair, Clerk, Kate Nurden
8. Minutes of Last Meeting. The Minutes of the last meeting (held on 2 Mar 26) had been circulated in advance. They were approved and signed. Nothing outstanding.
9. IT Policy. The draft IT policy had been circulated in advance. It was adopted.
10. Approval of 2025/26 Annual Governance Statement. The PC decided that all points had been covered and that the Chairman should sign it, which he did.
11. Approval of 2025/26 Accounts. The Clerk/RFO took the PC through the 2025/26 accounts and the Accounting Statements. Peter Wyman, resident of Hankerton, had conducted the Internal Audit. The balance of the accounts at year's end was £63,873 (so effectively £3873) (£3472 last year). The Parish Council approved the accounts and the Accounting Statement was signed.

Chairman

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12. Finance. There was £172 in the current account and £9559 in the deposit account, the precept having been paid in and the £60,000 Community Benefit fund having been paid out for investment. The following payments were authorised:

- 2026/1, £271.25, Community First for insurance.
- 2026/2, £130.30, WALC membership.
- 2026/3, £1426, to the PCC for hire of North Aisle (£126) and support to churchyard maintenance (£1300).
- 2026/4, £500, to the PCC North Aisle account for donation to the North Aisle.
- 2026/5, £1000, to Dai Davies for the bus shelter roof repair (agreed at Item 14).

13. AVM Readout. The Clerk briefed the meeting.

- Attendance – 16 (incl 4 Cllrs and 2 speakers). How to get more people to attend? The average over the years since 2010 leaving out 2 exceptional years was 16.45. If the PC wished to considerably increase this figure the Clerk recommended that a Cllr should take on the job of marketing the AVM. This would be action for much nearer the time of the next AVM.
 - The Chairman suggested that the PC could purchase a banner advertising the AVM to be positioned on the verge at the Cloatley Road junction.
- A resident had raised a question about some form of newsletter telling residents about what went on in Hankerton. The Village Handbook was mentioned.
 - The Chairman expressed an alternative view – that these days such information should be on-line, not on paper.
- In places hedges and other growth was growing to impede footpaths. A particular case in point was the Hillwell/Church Lane footpath. The Clerk had made the point that this was something the PC would always help with, if made aware.

14. Bus Shelter. The bus shelter roof had recently been repaired by the Chairman and his Ukrainian contacts. The PC accepted the result and agreed to the invoice of £1000 (compared with the original estimate of £1400). **Action Clerk**

15. Bus Shelter as Bus Stop. With the ending of the regular bus service through Hankerton the PC agreed that we should try to have the bus shelter accepted by the Wiltshire Connect service as the regular bus stop location. **Action: Clerk**

16. Hillwell-Follyfield Footpath – Resurfacing. The PC agreed that quotes for contractor resurfacing of the footpath, separately with scalping and with tarmac, should be obtained. **Action: Clerk**

17. Potholes in Church Turning Circle. The PC agreed that this should be by self-help. **Action: Chairman**

18. Village Handbook. The question was whether to reissue the Handbook, the original being now out of date. The Chairman stated that he intended to visit every house in the parish delivering a letter with 2 main themes – how to spend the £60K and how to get some ‘community’ going. He would find out whether the village handbook would be well-appreciated or not. A decision on the handbook was therefore deferred.

Action: Chairman

19. Chapel Lane Flood Protection. The promised Wiltshire Council Drainage advice to Chapel Lane householders had finally arrived. It recommended drastic action to lower the western drain in a consistent fall along its length. This would not be easy for the

Chairman

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householders to accept and action. But what remained was householder business and not PC business. The PC would however continue to take an interest in the up-stream and down-stream conditions. Wilts Council Drainage advice concerning the up-stream, ie work to the south of Cloatley Road, was still outstanding.

20. Amenity Area Tree Planting. In Kate Nurden's absence no update could be given. Jacqui Erskine-Crum said that she would continue to oversee this work from acquisition through planting to maintenance of the young trees for one year.

Action: Jacqui Erskine-Crum

21. Water Main Replacement. Communication between Wessex Water and the village had now settled down to a consistent pattern of weekly updates which were posted to the village website.. Some interpretation of the updates was still necessary. A resident expressed his view that the work would not finish on time.

22. Planning Report.

- Coolon, Cloatley Rd, 1st Floor on bungalow, 2-storey extensions front and side, etc – Approved.
- Land Near Minety Substation (solar farm), variation of conditions – not yet decided.

23. Councillors' Observations/Points for the Next Meeting. None.

20. Next Meetings. 6 Jul, 7 Sep, 2 Nov.

The meeting closed at 8.35pm.