

MINUTES OF HANKERTON ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 19 MAY 25

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF HANKERTON PARISH COUNCIL Held on Monday 19 May 2025 at 7.30 pm in the North Aisle, Hankerton Church

Present: Parish Cllrs Jacqui Erskine-Crum (Chair), Jonathan Allmark, Richard Barrow, Dai Davies, Malcolm Gerald, Kate Nurden: M R Bromley Gardner (Clerk); Wilts Cllr Elizabeth Threlfall; and 4 members of the public.

1. Election of Chair. Jacqui Erskine-Crum was elected Chair for the year.
2. Apologies. Cllr Denis DeSouza.
3. Public Questions/Receipt of Petitions. A question was asked about when the Solar Farm Community Benefit might be received. The answer was 'when real work starts on the solar farm'.
4. Declarations Of Interest. None.
5. Urgent Matters at Chair's Discretion. None.
6. Election of Deputy Chairman. Dai Davies was elected Deputy Chairman.
7. Minutes of Last Meeting. The Minutes of the last meeting (held on 3 Mar 25) had been circulated in advance. They were approved and signed. It was noted that Stephen Leonard of Wilts Council had not yet visited the site of the footpath bridge at thy northern end of HANK 1. **Action: Denis DeSouza**
8. Exemption from External Audit. In accordance with Sect 9 of the Local Audit (Smaller Authorities) Regulations 2015, the PC declared that the PC was exempt external audit, since both gross annual income and expenditure are below £25,000.
9. Approval of 2024/25 Annual Governance Statement. The PC decided that all points in had been covered and that the Chair should sign it, which she did.
10. Approval of 2024/25 Accounts. The RFO took the PC through the 2024/25 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 £3472 (£4209 last year). The Parish Council approved the accounts and the Accounting Statement was signed.
11. Finance. There was £213.28 in the current account and £9050 in the deposit account, the precept having been paid in. The following payments were authorised:
 - 2025/1, £158.78, Community First for insurance.
 - 2025/2, £129.49, WALC membership.
 - 2025/3, £1376, to the PCC for hire of North Aisle (£126) and support to churchyard maintenance (£1250).
 - 2025/4, £500, to the PCC North Aisle account for donation to the North Aisle.
 - 2025/5, £36, to WALC for one Cllr training course.
12. Allocation of Portfolios for 2025/26.

Chairman

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- Footpaths – Denis de Souza
- Highways – Dai Davies
- Area Board – Jacqui Erskine-Crum
- Flood Prevention – the PC would continue to rely on David Pynn as advisor
- Patients Group – Shayne Smith to continue in this role
- Amenity Area – Richard Barrow
- Emergency Plan/Winter Plan – Dai Davies
- Information Coord – Jacqui Erskine-Crum
- Defibrillator – Malcolm Gerald.
- Volunteers and Assets – Dai Davies
- Community Emergency Contacts – Chair, Clerk, Kate Nurden

13. Flooding Update. The Chair briefed the meeting.

- She and others had met Jonathan Clark, WWLT Farm Manager and Nick Self, CEO WWLT to walk the Cloatley Meadows ditches; afterwards she had written to WWLT listing the work that was needed and asking for an outline of their intentions. No response yet seen; she would chase. **Action: Chair**
- Excavation of the Eastern Chapel Lane ditch had been completed (by Dai Davies); he had also excavated his pond (part of the drainage line).
- No date yet received from Wilts Council Drainage Engineer Danny Everett. Needs chasing.
 - He should also be asked to look at the Old Farm Close 'pond'.

14. Bus Stop Improvement. The PC agreed that an LHFIG request should be raised for a new bus stop signpost, at a possible contribution of £60, and that one more paving slab should be bought and placed with the existing 2. **Action: Clerk**

15. Cloatley Road Drainage near Dolmans Farm. The PC agreed to raise an LHFIG request for a new drain on Cloatley Road just uphill from Dolmans Farm, although the potential cost was unknown. **Action: Clerk**

16. BKV 2024 Celebration. The Chair outlined the Celebration on Sun 1 Jun and requested help from other Cllrs with various aspects of setting up on the day before. **Action: All**

17. Highways Update. The Clerk mentioned his request to Highways for the gulley tanker and Vactor to visit outside The Holt and Cloatley Road near Dolmans Farm to clear the gulleys and jet through the under-road drains in both places.

18. Planning. Report on Planning Applications: No activity since last meeting.

- Not yet decided by Wilts Council:
 - Plot 11 Follyfield.

19. Councillors' Observations/Points for the Next Meeting.

- Consideration of whether the PC should write to BESS site developers to request community benefit payments. And if so – concerning which sites?

20. Next Meetings. 7 Jul, 1 Sep, 3 Nov.

The meeting closed at 8.50pm.

Chairman