

MINUTES OF HANKERTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 7 JUL 25

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Held on Monday 7 July 2025 at 7.30 pm in the North Aisle, Hankerton Church

Present: Parish Cllrs Jacqui Erskine-Crum (Chair), Jonathan Allmark, Richard Barrow; M R Bromley Gardner (Clerk); Wilts Cllr Elizabeth Threlfall; and 5 members of the public.

1. Apologies. Cllrs Dai Davies, Malcolm Gerald, Denis DeSouza and Kate Nurden.
2. Public Questions.
 - Complaint about the noise from the recent Charlton Park music festivals. The complainer was advised to direct the complaint to Wilts Council Public Protection.
3. Declarations Of Interest. None.
4. Urgent Matters at Chair's Discretion. None.
5. Minutes of Last Meeting. The Minutes of the last meeting held on 19 May 25 had been circulated in advance. They were approved and signed.
 - The new slab for the bus-stop had not yet been actioned. Jonathan Allmark offered to provide and fit the slab. **Action: Jonathan Allmark**
 - The Chair thanked all those who had attended the BKV victory celebration party.
6. Finance. The balances were: main a/c £408, deposit a/c £6850. The VAT reclaim had been received, The following payments were authorised:
 - 2025/6, £55, to the Clerk, for 50% of SLCC subscription.
7. Community Benefit. Item deferred to the next meeting due to the absence of Dai Davies who had been the main proponent of the proposal.
8. Insurance of Telephone/Defib Kiosk. After brief discussion the item was deferred to the next meeting, to come back with more information on costs. **Action: Clerk**
9. Amenity Area.
 - The Chair suggested the Amenity Area could be planted with a few unusual fruit trees – perhaps a quince, a plum, etc. This was agreed. It would need some opening up to let more light in. The Chair would talk to the nearest neighbour. **Action: Chair**
 - The PC decided to engage a contractor to dig out the willow trees and roots from the 'pond'. Initially to ask Durnford Landscapes for a quote. **Action: Clerk**
10. Flooding Update. The Chair gave a flood prevention update. She was maintaining contact with WWT and constantly chasing for news on their progress and actions. They had had a contractor take some levels in the past few days, to help them decide on the right things to do. Manual ditch clearance had started and she would look at it. She was pushing for a bigger culvert pipe under the gateway that linked WWT and Cloatley Grange/Manor land, so it would allow more water through at any one time.
11. Footpaths Update. The Chair gave an update.

Chair

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- HANK 1 – there were still problems with signage and electric fences, and the wooden bridge appears unsafe. Stephen Leonard of Wilts Council is due to visit and advise.
- HANK 19 – essentially concluded. The correct route diagonally across Common End Farm land was signed and equipped with stiles and could be used, but the alternative route around 2 sides of the square was much easier to use.
- HANK 4 – Chair would talk to the farmer about reinstating the footpath after cultivation and seeding – the crop was now growing without interruption.

Action: Chair

12. Highways Update. The Clerk reported:

- In The Holt area Highways had promised that the under-road drain would be repaired later this year.
- The bus stop new pole was awaiting LHFIG action – next LHFIG in 2 weeks time.
- In the Dolmans Barn/Farm area of Cloatley Road where persistent running water had been noted in the past, after investigation by a Highways vactor machine it was now clear that there was no possibility of Highways action on drains, other than the possibility of digging a 'grip'; it would need householder action.

13. Risk Register Review.

- 1.1 – the PC to review the under-insuring of the bus shelter at the next meeting.
- 8.2 – as agreed at Item 8, insurance cover to be reviewed at the next meeting.
- 9, 9.1 – no longer needed, as the new PC website met legal accessibility requirements.

14. Planning. Decided at Wilts Council since the last meeting: Plot 11 Follyfield – approved, after a compromise that entailed reducing the plan from 2 garages to one thus enabling the new No 11 to be a garage width further away from No 10.

15. Cllrs Observations and Items for Next Meeting.

- Clerk had asked Durnford Landscapes to now cut the village verges.
- Hillwell-Follyfield footpath – the Parish Steward had strimmed the nettles.
- Parish Steward was due next Monday – any tasks for him?

17. Next Meetings. 1 Sep, 3 Nov.

The meeting closed at 8.40pm.

Chair