

MINUTES OF HANKERTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 3 MAR 25

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Held on Monday 3 March 2025 at 7.30 pm in the North Aisle, Hankerton Church

Present: Parish Cllrs Jacqui Erskine-Crum (Chair), Jonathan Allmark, Richard Barrow, Denis DeSouza, Malcolm Gerald: M R Bromley Gardner (Clerk); Wilts Cllr Elizabeth Threlfall; and 11 members of the public.

1. Apologies. Cllrs Dai Davies and Kate Nurden.
2. Public Questions.
 - Request for an article in the Grapevine on responsibilities of householders with hedges adjoining pavements and public footpaths.
 - Request for a short personal profile by the new Cllr co-opted at the last meeting.
3. Declarations Of Interest. None.
4. Urgent Matters at Chair's Discretion. None.
5. Minutes of Last Meeting. The Minutes of the last 2 meetings (held on 6 and 13 Jan 25) had been circulated in advance. They were approved and signed. There were no outstanding points not already on the agenda:
6. Finance. The account was still heading for an end-of-year balance of c£3460. The following payments were authorised:
 - 2024/16, £1067.82, to the Clerk, for salary less PAYE.
 - 2024/17, £711.88, to HMRC, for Clerk's PAYE.
 - 2024/18, £11.90, to Clerk, for annual expenses (printer ink).

Additionally:

- Peter Wyman had agreed to act as Internal Auditor again.
 - Lloyds Bank had changed our account to a Community Account with monthly bank charges of £4.25 (£51 per year) and with a 7p charge for each BACS payment made and 10p for each Direct Debit.
7. Flooding. David Pynn reported the findings of the recent ditchwalk by himself, the PC Chair and Denis DeSouza; the condition was mainly good, some specified clearance needed incl some brambles for visibility, some clearance already happening. Some residents added points to note. Action now:
 - Liaise with owner Cloatley Manor about clearing the Chapel Lane east ditch.
 - Liaise with owner Common End Farm about deeper ditches south of Cloatley Rd.
 - Write to WWT about bramble areas, swale, other ditches and culvert believed to be implicated with flooding of Cloatley Grange.

Action: David Pynn, Chair, Clerk

8. Anti-Speeding Proposal. The consultation with residents about the LHFIG road signs and markings proposal had resulted in a small number of responses with a 2-1 majority against the proposal. The PC decided to end all consideration of anti-speeding measures.

Action:

Clerk

Chairman

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9. Litterpick. Malcolm Gerald volunteered to run a village litterpick on 15 March. He had already made contact with Wilts Council about the litterpick equipment.

Action:

Malcolm Gerald

10. Footpaths. Denis DeSouza reported.

- HANK 1 – there were problems with signage and electric fences, and the wooden bridge appears unsafe. Stephen Leonard of Wilts Council is due to visit and advise but has been off with a broken leg.
- HANK 19 – problems with signage and route. The landowner would like us to walk around the fields not across them. The PC accepted this but with the landowner signing the preferred route without using official footpath signs.

Action:

Denis DeSouza, Chair

11. Highways Update. The Clerk reported:

- The Parish Steward had recently filled the bad potholes on Cloatley Road in the Laurel Farm/pond area. Cllrs and residents alike were asked to report as soon as anyone noticed any breakdown of the repairs.
- In the Dolmans Farm area of Cloatley Road the persistent running water had been noted. We needed to wait for prolonged dry weather then if it persisted to call Wessex Water.

12. PC Election. The Clerk had issued guidelines by email. The Chair offered to take anyone's nomination forms to Wilts Council.

13. AVM. Due on 12 May, doors open 7pm for 7.30pm start. The Chair offered again to provide the refreshments. Fliers inviting people to the AVM would be hand-distributed to all village houses. Flooding would need to be covered, also the Emergency Hub.

14. Best Kept Village. Having won the Small Villages section last year Hankerton would for the next 2 years be in the Lawrence Kitching competition; judging for this competition would be in July. The PC agreed to enter.

Action:

Clerk

15. Planning. Awaiting decision at Wilts Council since the last meeting: Plot 11 Follyfield.

16. Cllrs Observations and Items for Next Meeting. The VE80 commemoration was mentioned with no take-up.

17. Next Meetings. (12 May AVM), 19 May APCM, 7 Jul, 1 Sep, 3 Nov.

The meeting closed at 8.50pm.

Chairman