

MINUTES OF HANKERTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 6 JUL 26

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF HANKERTON PARISH COUNCIL Held on Monday 5 July 2026 at 7.30 pm in the North Aisle, Hankerton Church

Present: Parish Cllrs Dai Davies (Chairman), Jonathan Allmark, Richard Barrow, Kate Nurden: M R Bromley Gardner (Clerk); Wilts Cllr Elizabeth Threlfall; and 9 members of the public.

1. Apologies. Cllrs Malcolm Gerald, Jacqui Erskine-Crum Denis DeSouza.
2. Public Questions. A resident remarked about the dreadful 'thump-thump-thump' noise of festivals in Charlton Park.
3. Declarations Of Interest. None.
4. Urgent Matters at Chairman's Discretion. A question by Charlton PC would be added to the agenda as Item 8a.
5. Minutes of Last Meeting. The Minutes of the last meeting (held on 18 May 26) had been circulated in advance. They were approved and signed. Nothing outstanding.
6. Finance. There was £102 in the current account and £6259 in the deposit account. The following payment was authorised:
 - 2026/6, £58, to the Clerk for 50% of his SLCC membership.
7. Election of Deputy Chair. The Chairman proposed Kate Nurden, the PC agreed.
8. Approval of Absence. The PC voted to approve the absence of Cllr Malcolm Gerald for 6 months since his last meeting attendance on 2 Mar 26.
- 8a. Gem Festival and Charlton PC. Charlton PC had decided, last Thursday, to consult neighbouring local PCs as to whether they would join with Charlton in seeking a review of Gem Festival's licence. This was very early in this process to be certain but this might involve making a financial contribution as it might be necessary for the process to involve legal advice (as the licence holder would probably engage legal advice in their defence of their licence). This position had been advertised on the village website and on the PC website News feature. In response just 2 emails had been received, one opposing the festival, the other saying it was no problem in the Oxleaze area of the village. In the meeting one resident was strongly opposed to the festival which caused such unbearable noise but for most it did not seem to be too bad. The PC decided to offer support and encouragement to Charlton to end the open-ended nature of the licence but no financial contribution and thus not to be part of the attempt to review the licence. **Action: Clerk**
9. PL/2026/03057 The Old Vicarage. PC decision: no objection. **Action: Clerk**
10. Follyfeld-Hillwell Footpath. The promised quote had not been received. Cllr Threlfall said that she had asked Rights of Way to consider re-surfacing the footpath. LHFIG was also a potential route since the re-instatement of its funding. A resident described what was needed as a complete re-build of the entire footpath to make it fully fit for disabled access. There was also a resident feeling expressed that the Community Benefit money was there to be spent. The PC agreed the following steps: 1) Rights of

Chairman

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Way, 2) LHFIG, 3) if unsuccessful at LHFIG to consider full PC funding. **Action: Clerk**

11. Verge Cutting. The PC accepted the quote of £480. **Action: Clerk**

12. Manor Farm Cottage Footpath. The situation was outlined: the footpath across the garden was blocked (by a thick hedge and barbed wire fence) and for many years most walkers (but not all) had used the drive instead at the invitation/request of the landowner. Now the new owner had submitted an application to move the footpath around the northern boundary of the property. The PC was minded to write to the landowner to ask that the original route be re-opened pending Wilts Council's decision on the application – this would have to be re-listed on the next meeting agenda to be possible. **Action: Clerk**

13. Flooding Update. There was no news on WWT action. On Chapel Lane Cllr Threlfall had arranged a visit by the 2 Wilts Council drainage officers on Mon 13 Jul to speak to all the householders. The Wilts Council advice on the mitigation measures south of Cloatley Road was still awaited (in spite of being chased on a number of occasions).

14. Village Handbook. The Chairman's visits to all houses in the parish had started, were 'a work in progress'. **Action: Chairman**

15. Bus Shelter as Bus Stop. Now that the regular bus service had ended, the Wilts Connect bus system had Hillwell registered as a pick-up/drop-off point. The Clerk had asked that this be registered as Hillwell/Bus Shelter (or Hankerton Bus Shelter/Hillwell). He thought that this had been agreed, so residents could book the Connect bus for 'Hankerton Bus Shelter'.

16. Annual Risk Review. The Risk Register was reviewed with no need for amendment identified on this occasion.

17. Best Kept Village. Cllrs and residents were reminded that we were now in the judging period for the Winner of Winners competition (27 Jun-19 Jul).

18. Planning Report.

- Land Near Minety Substation (solar farm), variation of conditions – not yet decided.
- Coolon, Cloatley Rd, 1st Floor on bungalow, 2-storey extensions front and side, etc – Approved.
- The Old Vicarage – at Item 9 above.

19. Councillors' Observations/Points for the Next Meeting. A resident had reported that the footpath across Church Field was difficult to use due to the length of the grass. The Chairman would mention this to the landowner. **Action: Chairman**

20. Next Meetings. 7 Sep, 2 Nov.

The meeting closed at 8.40pm.

Chairman