

# Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting for Hanbury Parish Council - Monday 14<sup>th</sup> April 2025

Present:

Councillors: Cllr Hendon (Chair); Cllr Tyson; Cllr Gregson; Cllr Gadsby; Cllr Choules and Cllr L Harrison

Also present: C Holmes; PCSO Siwek; 7 Parishioners

## 1. Apologies for absence

Cllr Harrison; Cllr White; Cllr Hudson

## 2. Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> April 2024

All agreed to be a true record of the meeting.

**Action: Clerk to convert to upload to website.**

## 3. Matters arising from those minutes.

Police reporting system has been added to the website

New bus service now in place.

## 4. Chair's Report

Firstly, please accept my sincere apologies for not attending this meeting. My parents are no longer able to drive the long journey to their house in Portugal, and it has fallen on me to do so for them. So, I am sadly forced to have a free holiday! Many thanks to Jenny who is chairing the meeting and reading this on my behalf.

It has been another busy year for the Parish, and I want to take this opportunity to say how proud I am to be associated with a village that has so many volunteers and residents who support our wonderful facilities. We have a beautiful Memorial Hall, wonderful social clubs like the WI and the Windmill Club, and sporting facilities including the Bowls club, Badminton Club and our picturesque Cricket Club. We provide arts and entertainment from the Hanbury Players, and spiritual support from our lovely Church. These, and all the other activities in our village, make up the rich tapestry of village life which we all love. There are many people to thank but special thanks go to Judy Ireland for trouble shooting a very difficult situation when we lost the printing services for the Parish Magazine, and the entire magazine layout in one year, and managed to pull a miracle out the hat to save the magazine.

I also want to pass on my congratulations to our lovely vicar, Rev Terry Williams, and his husband, Richard, on their Civil Partnership. However, it is with extreme sadness that I have learnt of Terry's resignation. Unfortunately, this post is not a paid position, and it has become too difficult for Terry and Richard to stay with us. I wish them all the best for their future together, now on to Parish Council matters...

The Parish Council meetings are held in public, and parishioners are actively encouraged to attend, in particular the Annual Parish meeting which sets the agenda for the year ahead. During the year we were delighted to welcome two new parish councillors to join the PC, Lisa Harrison and Tony Choules. Both of whom have brought fresh perspectives and support to our council after HPC accepted the resignations of Ben Preston and Dave Bailey. Ben and his family have relocated, and Dave continues to support the village in other ways. HPC extends our thanks and gratitude for their service.

During this year, the Council is very pleased to continue our contract with grounds maintenance contractor, RB Landscaping. Robert has done a great job for us over the course of the last two years. We have been able to extend his remit to cover more cuts at the Village Green and we will continue to make sure we review his contract so he can cover as many aspects of maintenance of the parish-owned amenities as possible. It is worth reminding everyone that, when it comes to footpaths this is the responsibility of landowners and most do a great job of ensuring we can enjoy walking on the miles of footpaths we have in the parish. This puts a responsibility back on us as walkers to respect that we are using other people's land. Consequently, it is important for walkers to keep to the paths, not let their dogs off the lead and to pick up their unwelcome gifts. We must all respect the land we live on.

I am very happy to report on yet another year when volunteers have come together to litter pick round the village, cut back overgrown road signs, wash the street signs and generally keep the Parish spick and span. In addition to these annual meet ups, I know we have a lot of villagers who regularly walk the village and litter pick as they go, and we also pass on our thanks to them. We do need to organise another date to get together to clear the pavements of all the overgrown grass, mud and weeds. Last year 30-odd meters of pavements were reclaimed in Coton and from the pavements from the bus stop to the Hall in Hanbury village. I know we can do this again with the support of you all!

Last year was extremely significant for us in successfully achieving the reduction in the speed limit in most of the village to 30 mph. Following that we were pleased to be able to install 3 gateway entrances into the village as a reminder to drivers that they were approaching a rural community. These 'gateways' are known to act as a traffic calming measure by indicating to drivers that they are entering into a rural, residential area and reminding them to 'Please drive carefully'. I am hugely grateful to both Jenny Hendon and Ian Tyson for their relentless work in getting the funding, permissions, licences and work carried out on behalf of HPC. Unfortunately, speeding still remains an issue for some drivers, and I hope this meeting will help the Council to gauge your views on further possible actions for us to take to ensure our roads are safe for our residents and visitors alike.

Resurfacing of sections of our roads have been undertaken, which is much appreciated, however, we are still left significant stretches of road full of potholes and in very poor condition. Potholes are a recurrent, nationwide problem and it is still frustrating that there is no high-quality solution to make any repairs last in the long term. The only way to keep bringing this to the forefront, though, is to keep up the reporting. So please keep it up!

On a happier note, I'm so pleased to say that we have managed to get a bus service to the village on a Thursday. It is very limited but is 100% more than we had before. Our thanks go out to Ian Tyson who pushed our new MP, Jacob Collier, to make this happen. The service

started in October 2024 for a 3-month trial, and we have now had this extended to March 2026. In addition, the bus will be able to take wheelchairs for our disabled residents from this month. The bus timetable can be found on your Parish Council news bulletin and in the Parish Magazine.

I'd like to take this opportunity of thanking all our Parish Councillors for their support and hard work. Having our village represented is extremely important and working together to keep our village the beautiful community it is, is an honour. However, we would not be able to do this without the help and support of our Parish Clerk. Charlotte, please accept our thanks and gratitude for your diligence in furthering our work and guidance through the rules and regulations.

Jude Harrison (Chair)

Any matters you may wish to bring to the Parish Councils attention, do please email the Clerk, Charlotte, on email address [hanburyparishcouncil@live.co.uk](mailto:hanburyparishcouncil@live.co.uk). All the latest contacts, links, news and meeting info. can be found on the website [www.hanburyparishcouncil.org.uk](http://www.hanburyparishcouncil.org.uk).

## **5. Annual Accounts: Unaudited Balance Sheet**

### **Income:**

Precept for 2024/2025 was £10,470 with a grant from ESBC of £209. Funds have also been moved to higher interest accounts now to ensure that the parish council are maximising the funds available.

The parish council has once again done incredibly well in receiving both grants for the defibrillator and from Draycott Parish Council amounting to £500 total

With the addition of a VAT Claim for £1123.70.

The total income for 2024/2025 was £12,303.70

### **Expenditure:**

Some great work has been done this year to ensure that we remain within our budget areas. Savings have been made across many areas with the councillors and parishioner taking on some of the maintenance work themselves to save costs.

We have seen a reduction in the churchyard spends and tree survey work, but this may see work completed in 2025/2026.

The overspends have only been seen on the clerk's salary and training due to the cost-of-living increase and new councillors that have undertaken councillor introduction courses.

The budget for 2025/2026 has seen the council make a 6% increase to try and correctly accommodate the rising cost of inflation.

The expenditure for the year 2024/2025 was £13,791.66 which shows as higher than the income due to £6000 of grants and donations being used on the gateway signs project.

## **6. Receive Borough and County Councillors reports.**

None

## **7. Parishioners Open Forum**

A parishioner raised concerns about the ongoing issue of speeding vehicles along Wood Lane, explaining that it has become increasingly dangerous for pedestrians. They noted that drivers often accelerate upon seeing the national speed limit signs, worsening the risk. The Parish Council explained that the positioning of speed limits and signage is determined by Staffordshire County Council and lies outside of the Parish Council's direct control.

It was noted that the recently installed gateway signs have had limited impact in reducing speeds in this particular area. The Council outlined the actions it has taken so far, including the distribution of 30mph stickers for wheelie bins, which are intended to act as a visual reminder for drivers

An in-depth discussion was had involving councillors and parishioners that despite the speed limit and clear signage, there were still lots of drivers speeding throughout the village. The consensus of those present at the meeting was that Speed Indicator devices may well have a part to play in speed enforcement and that in the absence of other pressing calls on HPC reserves that funds could usefully be directed towards the installation of SIDs

Suggestions were made to consider installing Community Speed Watch signage, deer warning signs, and potentially Speed Indication Devices (SIDs) as further deterrents. The cost implications of installing SIDs were discussed, with estimates ranging from £8,000–£10,000, including the necessary permits. A potential partnership with Abbots Bromley Parish Council was mentioned as a way to share the costs. The parishioner present felt this would be a worthwhile investment and proposed starting with one SID and two poles.

In addition, a written statement was received from a parishioner who was unable to attend the meeting. While appreciative of the Parish Council's efforts and communications, the parishioner expressed strong opposition to the installation of additional signage, lighting, curbs, pavements, village gateways, and Speed Indication Devices. They shared concerns that these measures are detracting from the rural character of the village, contributing to a more urbanised aesthetic, and creating unnecessary distractions and light pollution. The parishioner felt that such interventions are ineffective in deterring inconsiderate drivers and urged the Council to reconsider further visual infrastructure.

The PCSO encouraged residents to continue reporting speeding incidents via 101 or the Staffordshire Police website, as this data helps identify hot spots and supports the deployment of speed enforcement measures, including mobile speed camera vans.

The Council acknowledged and appreciated the views shared and confirmed that all perspectives will be considered when making future decisions on traffic calming measures.

Blocked drains and gullies were also discussed. Parishioners were reminded of the Staffordshire County Council online 'Report It' function for such issues. The Council also

noted the establishment of a new taskforce within the County Council, which will assist with persistent problem areas.

A parishioner raised the matter of road widening on Knightsfield Lane, which had been proposed to meet planning requirements related to a recent application. It was also confirmed that agricultural vehicles are no longer permitted to use the lane under the conditions of the approved plan.

The issue of fly tipping in the village was brought up, and thanks were extended to the PCSO for her ongoing support in reporting incidents and maintaining a visible presence in known hot spot areas.

Lastly, concerns were also raised regarding low-flying aircraft from Tatenhill Airfield, which are reportedly flying below the legal 500-foot limit directly over the village, causing disruption to both residents and livestock. It was agreed that both the parishioner and the Parish Council would draft and send a formal letter to the airfield raising these concerns.

**Action: Clerk to write a letter to Tatenhill airfield; Obtain additional 30mph wheelie bin stickers and community speed watch stickers.**

Meeting closed at 20:52pm

Date of Annual Meeting of the Parish Council –Monday 19<sup>th</sup> May 2025

This next Parish Council meeting will be - Monday 14<sup>th</sup> July 2025

Parish Council information can be found online at – [hanburyparishcouncil.org.uk](http://hanburyparishcouncil.org.uk)