

Hinton St George Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 16th February 2026, at St. Georges Village Hall, Hinton St. George.

Present: Cllrs R. Lewin (RL), M. Herbert (MH), A. Barber (AB), P. Lanham (PL), E. Way (EW) and F. Voss (FV) (late arrival). Somerset Councillor J Roundell Greene and the Clerk were in attendance.

Members of the Public: Two

1174. Open Forum: A member of the public asked for an update on the Conservation Area Appraisal, noting concerns about the length of time taken to progress this. Councillors replied that progress has been made but the draft document is still being finalised and that a further update will be provided as soon as possible. The Chair gave assurances that community input remains a key part of the process moving forward. The Former Clerk shared feedback on a planning application for a greenfield site in Crewkerne, which is one of the few quarry sites for Inferior Oolite, the most common stone used in Hinton St George. There are concerns that the applicant has not yet completed the necessary mineral assessment as part of this application. The Chair requested that the Former Clerk and Cllr Way investigate this and provide further background information for this matter to be discussed in the next meeting.

1175. Apologies for Absence: Cllr P. Reynolds (personal) and Cllr F. Voss (expected late arrival).

1176. Declarations of Interest: The Chair declared his ownership of land bordering Belmont House, which he had also declared prior to attending the site visit for this planning application.

1177. Minutes of last Meeting: The minutes of the meetings held on Monday 19th January 2026 were approved by all present Councillors and signed by the Chair.

1178. Somerset Councillor Report: Cllr J Roundell Greene noted that a settlement agreement in the Teakettle Lane matter had been sent to the Somerset Council legal department, however no details on the terms of the proposed agreement had yet been shared. Cllr J Roundell Greene will follow-up on this matter and share feedback once it becomes available. Cllr J Roundell Greene noted that the council tax increase had been limited to 4.99% but that Somerset Council were working hard to ensure that budgets could be balanced. Cllr J Roundell Greene noted that a major incident due to flooding was still declared due to the ground being saturated. Councillors noted that although Hinton St George had not been directly impacted, access into the village had been blocked recently.

1179. Clerk's Updates:

a) Lopen Flood Group workshop feedback - The Clerk reported on the Rotary EVAG Flood Resilience Support kit which they will provide to anyone who is at flood risk. The rest of the workshop focused on preparing community emergency plans, which the Clerk proposed could be considered for Hinton St George outside the scope of flooding.

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Councillors agreed that this could be useful and the Chair requested that the Clerk discuss this further with Cllr E. Way.

b) SALC Community Health & Wellbeing funding feedback – The Clerk confirmed that the Walking Group and Active Living Tuesday Group had been made aware of this opportunity, with support to access this being made available as requested.

c) Update on the proposed footpath alongside Neat Lane – The Clerk had received an update from the resident who had proposed this footpath that this initiative was currently on hold, as the landowner’s preference was that this should be a permitted path rather than a statutory footpath. The Councillors agreed that as this is not an existing footpath, no further action would be taken by the Parish Council at this time.

d) Update on Poulett AlmsHouse Charity representation requirements - The Clerk reported that a query had been submitted as to whether any involvement of the Parish Council was required, which the Board would provide feedback on following their next meeting. The Chair noted that the Parish Council is not seeking involvement but would get involved if it is required.

1180. Highways and Footpath updates:

a) Repairs to the footbridge and installation of a new SID post on Merriott Road will be delayed until early March due to the Lengthsman’s availability - The Chair requested that the Clerk set up a site visit for the location of SID upon the Lengthman’s return to work.

b) Request for alternative access to the Crimbleford Knap footpath for the Lengthsman - The Clerk will contact the landowner to request access.

1181. Planning applications under review: No new applications received.

a) Decisions to note:

25/03036/HOU - Belmont House West Street Hinton St George Somerset TA17 8SA - Extensions and internal/external alterations to existing two-storey dwelling - The Councillors noted that this had been approved following a site visit.

1182. Planning, Conservation and village matters

a) To consider AED defibrillator training for the village - A training opportunity is available at Misterton Parish Council on 18th April, however a concern was raised about previous poor attendance at similar events. Cllr A. Barber will consider attending this event and the Chair will look into an additional event which encourages more people to participate in defibrillator training.

b) To consider a request to change the day of Parish Council meetings to Tuesdays - The Councillors all agreed that a date change would not be possible. The Clerk will notify the Village Hall Committee.

c) To receive quotes on requirement to change website and email to gov.uk - The Clerk confirmed requirements to meet Assertion 10 guidelines and provided quotes for website updates. It was agreed that the Clerk will prepare a draft IT Policy for review and consider whether any further updates are needed in terms of Data Protection Compliance. The Clerk will circulate the costs presented with examples of website templates for further review ahead of the next Parish Council meeting.

1183. Finance and Procedure -

a) To review and approve the Internal Audit quote for 2025-26 - The quote received by Richard Keylock Accountancy Ltd was approved and the terms of engagement was signed by the Chair.

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b) Review of the current receipts and payments schedule and verify bank reconciliations - Cllr E. Way queried the allocation of an expense which the Clerk will correct. The latest bank statements were not received in time for the meeting.

c) Invoices for payment to be considered and approved by Councillors prior to payment – Councillors approved the following payments:

Clerk’s Salary (replacement cheque)	£678.42
HM Revenue and Customs	£ 68.40
SSE Energy	£ 14.08
Somerset Council	£160.00
Village Hall	£ 60.00
Clerk’s Salary	£273.92

d) To consider sponsorship requests for the new financial year:

- I. **Hinton Hound** - Councillors approved sponsorship of 4 issues over 2 years at £130.15 per issue. This will be budgeted over 2 financial years: 2026-27: £260.30 and 2027-28: £260.30
- II. **Citizen’s Advice Bureau** - Councillors approved a grant of £100 as this service was felt to be valuable.
- III. **Crimestoppers** - Councillors agreed that this was not a priority for the Parish Council and the sponsorship request will be declined.

e) To consider feedback on surety for proposed bi-annual Precept payments - The Clerk received feedback from Somerset Council that the precept payments would be ring-fenced and considered not to be at risk with the delay in payment. The Chair requested the Clerk to investigate further to determine the reason for the split payment and what risks exist if the Council is unable to collect the full year’s payments.

1184. To receive Parish Councillors reports:

PL - nothing

FV - nothing

AB - noted that the Lengthsman would provide defibrillator stand-in support for Cllr A. Barber when required; noted concern about a car blocking the pavement in Church Street for a number of days and will leave a polite note for the owner.

MH - noted concern about a recent incident in the village, which was reported but felt not to be a threat to anyone else in the village.

RL - noted concern about cars being driven at speed through the village.

EW – nothing

1185. To note correspondence received – all relevant correspondence is sent to Councillors. A report from a member of the public on the uneven footpath in South Street has been reported to Somerset Council.

1186. Items for next Agenda – Sponsorship request from Dorset & Somerset Air Ambulance; Website update and IT Policy review.

1187. Next meeting date: The next meeting will be held on Monday 16th March 2026 at 7.15 p.m.

The meeting ended at 8:30 p.m.

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Signed

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