

Hinton St George Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 15th June 2026, at St. George's Village Hall, Hinton St. George.

Present: Cllr F. Voss, Cllr M. Herbert, Cllr A. Barber, and Cllr E. Way. Somerset Council was represented by Cllr S. Ashton, and the Clerk was in attendance.

Members of the Public: 1

The Vice Chair agreed to Cllr Ashton's request to present first as he needed to leave at 7.30pm to attend another meeting.

1232. Somerset Councillor Report: Cllr Ashton reported that the first consultation for the Somerset Council Local Plan would start soon, noting that a list of proposed sites for development were available for review. Cllr Ashton noted that rules on planning appeals had been changed by the government, noting that any comments should be submitted promptly. It had been confirmed that funding of £50m would be given to Somerset Council to address flooding on the Somerset levels. Cllr Ashton's talk on the planning process updates was delayed and will now take place at 6:45pm on Friday 19th June at the George Reynolds Centre, South St, Crewkerne TA18 8DA. Cllr Ashton offered his services to fill one of the Councillor roles until the next election, should his experience be required, for which the Councillors expressed their thanks.

Cllr Ashton then left the meeting.

1233. Election of Chair

The Vice Chair noted the need to appoint a new Chair, following the resignation of Cllr Lewin. Cllr Way noted the key requirements of the role of Chair, being to chair meetings, provide input to the agenda and work with the Proper Officer to ensure the legal compliance of the meetings. Cllr Way proposed to ask each Councillor if they would be willing to be considered for the role of Chair, and then ask all willing parties to share an additional motivation. Cllr Voss, Cllr Barber and Cllr Herbert all noted that they had too many prior commitments to take on the role of Chair. Cllr Way noted that Cllr Lanham would be eligible for the position even though he was absent from the meeting, but noted that he had also indicated that he was unable to take on the role due to prior commitments. Cllr Way indicated that she was willing to take on the role, noting that she had been an active participant in the village for the past 20 years, although living just outside the village, and shared her work experience in the private and charitable sectors, which made her comfortable working with finances and strategies.

Cllr Barber proposed Cllr Way for the role of Chair and Cllr Herbert seconded this with no

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objections noted. Cllr Way was elected Chair and signed the acceptance of office as Chair.

1234. Public Forum: A member of the public noted that an updated planning application for the fence at the primary school had been circulated (although too late for this meeting agenda), noting that the height of the fence would now be 1.8m and that the colour would now be sand. They considered whether green would be a better colour for the fence, and sought clarity on whether the changes applied to the church path perimeter, which Cllr Way confirmed was correct, based on the revised planning application provided. The member of the public noted that they had expressed interest in the Councillor vacancy.

1235. Apologies for Absence: Cllr P. Lanham (personal)

1236. Declarations of Interest: None

1237. Minutes of last Meeting: The minutes of the Annual Parish Council meeting held on Monday 18th May 2026 were approved by all present Councillors and signed by the Chair.

1238. Clerk's Updates:

a) To provide an update on the new website - The Clerk confirmed that the new website was now live and had replaced the previous website. Content was still required for a few groups (including the cricket and football clubs) and that while some events had been added, it was hoped that more would follow. The Clerk noted one concern raised being that the new site was too Parish Council focused and noted that while this was the primary focus of the site template, an effort was being made to profile local groups, events and businesses wherever possible.

b) To provide an update on the external audit process - The Clerk confirmed that all documents had been submitted for external audit (details available on the website for review) and that no further questions had been raised by the auditors at this time.

c) To provide an update on broadband and mobile connectivity - The Clerk noted that mobile connectivity was being raised following a request from a member of the public. Cllr Adam Dance, MP's office had previously confirmed they were hoping to raise this in the House and the Clerk is following up to request feedback. Cllr Way requested that the Clerk follow up with leading mobile providers to ask about their plans for connectivity in Hinton St George. Cllr Way also shared the option of porting an existing landline number to a new provider, noting this could be useful for residents when considering connectivity options. In terms of broadband, the Clerk noted that Open Reach were completing their roll-out of full fibre broadband in the village, noting the Open Reach Fibre Checker for residents to check availability for their properties. The Clerk also reported that Wessex Internet had been contracted to deliver fibre broadband to a number of properties in Hinton St George and were currently in the planning phase. Wessex Internet had offered a closed discussion with the Clerk and Councillors to discuss the planned roll-out in detail and/or a 5-10 minute update for residents. Councillors requested that the Clerk attend the more detailed discussion, with Councillors joining depending on their availability.

1239. Highways and Footpath updates:

a) To receive an update on SID results - The Clerk reported that the average speed recorded was 20.74mph, with speeders averaging 37.5mph. The total number of vehicles

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monitored during the period 8 May to 9 June was 6412. Cllr Barber noted a concern that SID was not picking up cars travelling away from the pub at high speed.

b) To discuss replacing the dog waste bin post - Cllr Barber noted his concern that the dog waste bin had been moved to now hanging on private railings, following the post collapse. The Clerk confirmed that she had requested Somerset Council attend to this but was still awaiting feedback. The Clerk presented costs for the Lengthsman to replace the post correctly as an alternative, but it was agreed that she should continue chasing Somerset Council for now.

c) To discuss Chapter 8 storage options - Cllr Voss reported that a storage option had been secured via the PCC, who confirmed their willingness to provide the Church Barn for this purpose depending on the quantity of items to be stored. The Councillors noted their appreciation of this offer. Cllr Voss noted that the Lengthsman had proposed that a shed at St George's Hall might be a more accessible option, and it was agreed that the Clerk would follow-up on this alternative option.

1240. Planning applications under review:

a) 26/01185/HOU at Blackmoor Cottage, Abbey Street, Hinton St George, TA17 8RZ - Application to render over existing reconstructed stone faced south elevation - **Approved**.

b) Decisions to note: No decisions to note.

1241. Conservation and village matters

a) To provide an update on the Conservation Appraisal process - Cllr Way reported that the Parish Council was still waiting for the final corrected documents and expressed regret for the further delay. It is hoped this will be available soon.

b) To address concerns raised concerning building at Lower Niddons - Cllr Way noted that prior to Cllr Lewin's resignation, discussions had been held about how to respond to concerns raised. Although the letter had been received too late for inclusion in the last meeting, Cllr Lewin had spoken about this in his personal address. It was noted that these concerns have since been withdrawn, however it was agreed that it was still important for the Council to discuss this matter. Cllr Way noted that Mr Lewin had shared with herself and the Clerk the quote which he had received to make changes to the building, and as this was very expensive and would take a long time, due to the availability of the builders, that he was considering the alternative of applying for planning permission. It was agreed that the Clerk should follow-up with Mr Lewin to seek clarification on how he planned to move forward.

c) To appoint a new representative for the Reading Room Trust - Cllr Herbert expressed her interest in taking on this role and as there were no objections, this was confirmed.

d) To provide an update on the planned AED defibrillator training - After discussing possible dates, it was agreed that this training be held at 10:30am on Saturday 15th August in St George's Hall, with Dorset & Somerset Air Ambulance to administer the training. Cllr Barber proposed preparing some advertising to promote the event in the village, hopefully generating more attendance, which was agreed to by the other Councillors.

1242. Finance and Procedure

a) To note the formal resignation of Cllr R. Lewin and receive an update on the vacancy for a Parish Councillor - The Chair confirmed that Cllr Lewin's written resignation

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had been received and accepted by the Clerk. The Chair expressed the Council's thanks to Cllr Lewin for his long service to the Parish Council and village.

b) To note the formal resignation of Cllr P. Reynolds and receive an update on the vacancy for a Parish Councillor - The Chair confirmed that Cllr Reynolds' written resignation had been received following the last meeting and accepted by the Clerk. The Chair expressed the Council's thanks to Cllr Reynolds for her long service to the Parish Council and village.

The Clerk confirmed that notices for both Councillor vacancies had been published on the website and notice board and that feedback on whether an election would be required would be available after 26th June.

c) To appoint a Councillor to undertake quarterly checks of the Parish Council Accounts for 2026-27 - the Chair proposed that this be held over to the next meeting when all Councillors were present and new Councillors may have been elected. All Councillors were in agreement with this.

d) Review of the Receipts and Payments and verify bank reconciliations - the Clerk noted that a portion of VAT refunds had been received (£148.98), with the remaining balance submitted earlier to be followed up on.

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

SSE - £13.62

Home & Garden Services - £1,339.97

HMRC - £168.00

Clerk's Salary - £252.12

Clerk's Reimbursement - £22.96

f) To appoint an additional banking signatory - the Clerk confirmed that Cllr Barber had been confirmed as a signatory, which meant that the necessary two signatories were available.

g) To receive an update on online banking and agree next steps - Cllr Barber raised a concern about the low rate of interest currently being received with Barclays. It was agreed that the Clerk would research alternative banking options (including internet banking options) for discussion in the next meeting. It was agreed to hold any signatory changes until a decision had been made on moving banks.

h) To review the budget for the Conservation Appraisal - the Clerk confirmed that the original fee agreed with Kevin Morris for £5,500 (for 42 hours of work) had been checked with Kevin Morris, who confirmed that he would only invoice on completion of the work. Payments made to date were primarily printing costs and room hire for the initial consultations, amounting to £850 (paid). Estimated expenses for printing the final document is around £300, bringing the total budget to around £6,900, of which £6,050 is still to be paid. The Clerk confirmed that no reserve had previously been set aside for this, with the intention being to pay this from the carry-forward amounts. Budgets had been approved as follows: £6,500 (2024-25); £1,000 (2025-26) and £500 (2026-27).

i) To review and approve the defibrillator electricity quotation for 2026-27 - Cllr Barber noted SSE's quote of over 500% increase in electricity costs for the Green Street defibrillator. The costs for other defibrillators are covered by nearby buildings. The Clerk has attempted to obtain alternative quotes but most suppliers are unwilling to service such a

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small account or unable to provide unmetered supplies. Cllr Barber suggested approaching Somerset Council for support with this as this defibrillator point is connected to street lighting. The Clerk will work with Cllr Barber to draft this request.

j) To confirm the appointment of the Clerk after completion of the Probation Period - the Clerk left the room for this discussion. Upon returning, the Clerk's appointment to the role was confirmed by all Councillors. It was also proposed that the Clerk be granted an additional 30 minutes per week to attend to website content, which was not previously included in the role. The Clerk accepted this proposal and thanked the Councillors for their support during her first six months in the role.

1243. To receive Parish Councillors reports:

Cllr Voss - nothing further to report.

Cllr Barber - noted that only 2 parcels have reportedly been posted in the new High Street parcel post box, as most residents continue to rather support Our Shop. Cllr Barber noted a large pothole on the road to Dinnington, which he has reported.

Cllr Herbert - nothing further to report.

Cllr Way - noted that ABRI would be serving legal notice on the individual currently parking their caravan in the Green Street private car park. It has been suggested that another individual was planning to bring another caravan to this location, which has been reported to ABRI via the MP's office, and which would receive the same legal response. Cllr Way also noted concerns with this same individual's dog being observed to be poorly cared for and out of control, which is concerning for the safety of residents. Residents were encouraged to report any concerns observed to the RSPCA.

1244. To note correspondence received – Nothing to report.

1245. Items for next Agenda – Appointment of Vice Chair; Appointment of a Councillor to undertake quarterly accounts checks; Revised Planning Application of School Fence; Defibrillator electricity update; Bank Account review.

1246. Next meeting date: The next meeting will be held on Monday 20th July 2026 at 7.15 pm in St George's Hall, Hinton St George.

The meeting ended at 8.40pm.