

Hinton St George Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 18th May 2026, at St. George's Village Hall, Hinton St. George.

Present: Cllr R. Lewin, Cllr P. Reynolds, 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: 5

The meeting opened at 8:10 p.m. immediately after the Annual Parish Meeting.

1216. Election of Chairman and Vice Chairman

Councillors were invited to put forward nominations for Chair – Cllr Voss proposed Cllr Lewin and Cllr Barber seconded – all in favour.

Cllr Lewin was elected Chair and signed the acceptance of office as Chair.

Cllr Lewin noted his thanks to Cllr Reynolds for her service in the role of Vice Chair. The Chair then invited nominations for Vice Chair – Cllr Lewin proposed Cllr Way and Cllr Herbert seconded – all in favour.

Cllr Way signed the acceptance of office as Vice Chair.

Cllr Reynolds requested the opportunity to comment and noted that she would no longer be able to serve as Councillor and tendered her resignation with immediate effect. This was noted by the Chair. Cllr Reynolds then left the meeting.

1217. Public Forum: A member of the public proposed that they would be willing to organise and promote a defibrillator training session in the village. The Councillors were all in support of this proposal and noted their appreciation to the member of public for offering their services. It was proposed that Cllr Barber would work with them to arrange the training and that this be planned for a Saturday in August. The Chair offered his home as a venue for the training. A member of the public provided their support for the proposed planning application to be discussed, noting that the Church had initiated the request to have the tree removed due to the damage it was causing to the church wall. A member of the public asked for an update on the Conservation Area Appraisal and it was noted this would be covered later in the meeting and it was confirmed that questions would be taken at that time.

1218. Apologies for Absence: Cllr P. Lanham (personal)

1219. Declarations of Interest: The Chair declared his interest in the planning application under review, as the applicant and tenant of the property, noting that he would be paying for the proposed tree removal. The Chair noted that he would not participate in the planning application discussion.

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1220. Minutes of last Meeting: The minutes of the meetings held on Monday 20th April 2026 were approved by all present Councillors and signed by the Chair.

1221. Somerset Councillor Report: Cllr Ashton noted that he would be giving a talk on the planning process updates and how members of the public could best share their feedback. The talk will take place at 6:45pm on Friday 29th May at the George Reynolds Centre, South St, Crewkerne TA18 8DA.

1222. Clerk's Updates:

a) To present an update on the golf course light pollution - The Clerk confirmed that planning approval had been granted to Cricket St Thomas Golf Club but noted that this specified limited operating hours for the lighting, as follows:

- The floodlights are turned on at sunset each evening.
- Last golf balls are issued at 7pm over the weekend and 8pm during the week.
- The floodlights are turned off 30 mins later at 7.30pm & 8.30pm respectively.
- This operation is controlled through a cloud-based app.
- Sunset hours throughout the year means that the lighting is in use at a maximum of 4 hours 18 mins on weekdays in December, but this reduces to no use at all for 3 months during the summer.

The Chair noted that any concerns about lighting operating outside of these times should be reported to Somerset Council.

b) To present an update on the new website - The Clerk confirmed that the new website (hintonstgeorgeparishcouncil.gov.uk) would go live in June with the existing site diverting to the new page. The Clerk is engaging with local groups and organisations to promote their activities where possible and encouraged all suggestions for updates and improvement to be shared with them (clerk@hintonstgeorgeparishcouncil.gov.uk).

1223. Highways and Footpath updates:

a) To provide feedback on footbridge/stile repairs - The Lengthsman has repaired two footbridges, noting that the one near the Orchard was still a little wobbly. Cllr Way suggested considering an additional handrail to make this more secure - further discussions will take place with the Lengthsman.

b) To provide SID results - The Clerk reported that the average speed recorded was 20.2mph, up to 24.9mph in the 85th percentile. The maximum speed recorded was 40mph on one occasion.

1224. Planning applications under review:

a) 26/00994/TPO - Land At Hinton House, West Street, Hinton St George TA17 8SR - Application to remove one tree (Fraxinus Excelsior) under the 1973 Tree Preservation Order, as it is causing significant damage to the boundary wall of the church - **Approved**.

b) Decisions to note: No decisions to note.

1225. Conservation and village matters

a) To provide an update on the Conservation Appraisal process - Cllr Way reported that the initial report received had required some updating in order to ensure there were no

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ambiguities, which might cause confusion. Once the report is ready to be shared with the village, it will be made available on the website as well as making printed copies available for “borrowing” in central locations, such as the shop, pub and with various street groups. It is proposed that a questionnaire be sent to every elector as a channel for feedback, which the Clerk will coordinate, in addition to the option to provide feedback at a public meeting. The Chair acknowledged that some frustration had been experienced in the village relating to the Conservation Appraisal and noted his hope that this would be resolved soon with the publishing of the final report. Cllr Way noted that the heritage consultant had also provided valuable input to the Parish Council’s objection to the school railings planning application.

1226. Council Policies

a) Annual review and adoption of Policies and Procedures for 2026-27 to be completed - the Clerk noted proposed changes to the following policies and procedures, which had been circulated for review ahead of the meeting:

- Communications & Engagement policy
- Data Protection and Freedom of Information policy
- Retention of Documents policy
- Financial Regulations
- Publication Scheme
- Information Audit
- General Privacy Notice
- Website Policy & Accessibility Statement

The Councillors were all in agreement. Cllr Way noted two small amendments to the Communications & Engagement policy and noted these would be sent to the Clerk.

b) Review and adoption of Standing Orders 2026-27 - the Clerk presented the proposed changes to the Standing Orders, which had been circulated ahead of the meeting, and these were agreed to by the Councillors. The updated Standing Orders will be updated on the Parish Council website.

1227. Finance and Procedure

a) Review and approve the Insurance quotation for 2026-27 - the Clerk presented insurance quotes from Gallagher Insurance (Hiscox) and Zurich, with both options being well under budget. It was noted that the Pelota Wall is insured for £250,000. It was agreed to accept the 3 year quote with Zurich for £1,180.17 per year, noting that this solution was tailored to local councils, as well as being the cheapest option.

b) Review of the Receipts and Payments and verify bank reconciliations - the Clerk noted that the Chapter 8 purchases for the Lengthsman were now complete and were slightly over budget due to the delay between quote approval and purchasing.

b) Invoices for payment to be considered and approved by Councillors prior to payment - the Clerk requested approval to include a payment for Richard Keylock Accountancy (internal auditor) for payment as they had completed the work very promptly after the agenda had been circulated. It was agreed that this payment could be included for approval. Councillors approved the following payments:

Home & Garden Services - £802.95
HMRC - £183.60

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Information Commissioner's Office (data protection fee) - £52.00
Clerk's Salary - £275.42
Clerk's Reimbursement - £1,112.73 (includes Chapter 8 purchases)
Zurich insurance - £1,180.17
Richard Keylock Accountancy Ltd - £94.50

c) To review the 2025/26 Internal Audit results - the Clerk confirmed that no concerns or recommendations had been raised as part of the Internal Audit. The signed Internal Report from Richard Keylock Accountancy Ltd was shared with the Councillors for review and there were no concerns raised.

d) To complete and approve the Annual Governance Statement for 2025/26 - the Clerk read out the annual governance statement and the Councillors agreed with all points. The Annual Governance Statement was completed and signed by the Chair and the Clerk.

e) To complete and approve the Annual Accounting Statement for 2025/26 - the Clerk presented the accounting statement for 2025/26, noting that the amounts submitted were in line with the internal audit results. There were no concerns raised and the Annual Accounting Statement was signed by the Clerk (as RFO) and the Chair.

f) To review and approve the updated Asset Register - the Clerk noted an update in adding the valuation of the Pelota Wall, in line with the amount included for insurance purposed. This valuation had been received from the stonemason who completed the repair work in 2025/26. The Asset Register was approved by the Chair.

1228. To receive Parish Councillors reports:

Cllr Barber - noted that there was water in Merriott Rd junction and offered to get Wessex Water to test whether this was spring water or a leak. Cllr Barber also noted a damaged stile on Mill Lane (in Dinnington) - Cllr Way agreed to speak to the landowner in this regard. Cllr Barber confirmed that the dog waste bin in Springfield Lane had been repaired.

Cllr Voss - noted that his feedback had been covered in the earlier potholes discussion.

Cllr Herbert - requested that the Clerk send another get well card to Cllr Roundell Greene as she continues to recover. The Clerk will action this.

Cllr Lewin - nothing to report.

Cllr Way - nothing to report.

1229. To note correspondence received – The Clerk shared letters of thanks from Dorset & Somerset Air Ambulance and Citizens Advice Somerset for the grants received. The Clerk noted a letter from Quicksilver Community Group encouraging Somerset parish councils to make representations to Somerset Foundation Trust and NHS Somerset Integrated Care Board asking them to cancel their plans for closure of the Hyper Acture Stroke Unit.

1230. Items for next Agenda – Review of Policy Updates; Review of Insurance quote.

1231. Next meeting date: The next meeting will be held on Monday 15th June 2026 at 7.15 pm in St George's Hall, Hinton St George.

The meeting ended at 9pm.

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