Hinton St George Parish Council

2nd Quarter Report: July - September 2026
Prepared by RFO

2nd Quarter Overview

Following the appointment of Cllr Emma Way as Chair in the first quarter, Cllr Paul Lanham was elected to replace her as Vice Chair. After completing the necessary notification and advertising processes, Councillors Ian Yorston and Rob Haggerty were co-opted to the Parish Council, with all vacancies now being filled.

The Parish Council hosted a CPR and defibrillator training session at St George's Hall in August. We had an excellent turnout with over 60 people attending. Training was provided by Ashley from Dorset & Somerset Air Ambulance, with support provided by our own Rebecca Sly. Thank you to everyone who attended - we hope this can be repeated in coming years.

Community policing representatives attended the September meeting to engage with residents and respond to concerns raised. They encouraged residents to submit reports for any incidents they witnessed or experienced and noted that in spite of staff shortages, they are trying to increase visible policing in the village as much as possible.

After concerns were raised with SSE regarding the high tariff increase for the Green Street defibrillator, SSE confirmed that they are looking into how best to support us and a few other organisations in similar positions. For now, SSE has provided the Parish Council with a goodwill credit of £248.99 (already credited to our account), which will offset the increase in rates for the next 6 months. SSE have confirmed that they hope to have another solution in place for us by the end of our current contract.

The Chair reported that Somerset Council is using Hinton St George as a test case to establish a new protocol for other villages wishing to follow a similar Conservation Appraisal process. Once this protocol has been finalised, the draft report will be shared publicly on the website, with several printed copies being accessible for review. Residents who may be impacted by boundary changes will be notified directly prior to the release, and all electors will be sent a form requesting their feedback on the draft, for collation by the Clerk. Feedback received will be presented and discussed at the following Parish Council meeting, with a longer public forum proposed to accommodate any further comments from residents.

Planning Report

The following planning applications were reviewed by the Parish Council in the second quarter:

26/01396/HOU at The Old Malthouse, High Street
Application for the erection of a single storey rear extension and renovation works was approved following a site visit with a note to consider the necessity of the wall linking what is now two separate blocks of buildings and separately its height as it is visible from the street.

26/01351/HOU at 2 Hinton Close
Two-storey front extension and single-storey side extension to dwelling was approved following a site visit.

26/01502/LBC at End Cottage, Church Street
Application to remove cement-based mortar to the south-west and north-west elevations and repoint with a lime-based mortar was approved.

26/01588/HOU at 6 Teakettle Lane
Conversion of a carport for use as a study and gym was approved.

General Report

The External Auditor's Report and Certificate for the year ended 31 March 2026 were published on 11 September 2026 in accordance with statutory requirements. The report was clear but two specific matters were noted by the External Auditor with the following actions agreed:

1. A new Internal Auditor will be appointment for 2026-27
2. An amendment was made to the 2024/25 comparative figures on the AGAR submission, with the discrepancy arising from a cheque issued at the end of 2024/25 which only cleared at the start of 2025/26, which had been misaligned across the financial years. The Clerk confirmed that the necessary adjustments have been made as advised by the external auditor, and that these amendments did not impact the final balance carried forward to 2026/27.

Councillors met with Wessex Internet who is bringing full fibre broadband to parts of Hinton St George in 2027, especially those hard to reach areas. This is part of the government-funded Project Gigabit contract providing broadband to communities across Dorset & South Somerset who haven't yet been reached. Wessex Internet requests that anyone who is interested registers their interest (without any commitment), either online www.wessexinternet.com or by calling 0333 240 7997. If there is a lot of interest registered, it may help to speed up the process.

Financial Report

Income

The second precept payment was received in September, totalling £16,680.00. The outstanding VAT reclaim of £676.04 was also received in September and two interest payments totalling £18.83 were received from Barclays.

The bulk of the receipts due for 2026-27 have now been received, with the only additional amounts due being quarterly interest payments.

Expenditure

The cost of the external audit (£252.00) was not budgeted for, as we were previously under the income threshold for this. All other costs remain in line with the budget at the end of the second quarter and our forecast remains under budget for the year.

PAYMENTS		Budget 2026/27	Forecast Actuals 2026-27	Actuals YTD
Infrastructure / maintenance costs		£1,000.00	£777.96	£370.42
	Chapter 8 equipment (budgeted in previous year)		£1,360.96	£1,311.41
	Lengthsman	£8,500.00	£11,913.26	£4,459.21
Staff Costs				
	Salary, PAYE	£5,700.00	£5,211.49	£2,580.55
	Clerk and Councillor training	£500.00	£254.15	£45.00
Insurance		£1,750.00	£1,180.17	£1,180.17
Audit and Professional membership		£500.00	£608.16	
	Information Commissioner			£52.00
	Internal Audit			£94.50
	External Audit			£252.00
	SALC membership			£209.66
Legal fees		£500.00	£0.00	£0.00
Misc including room hire and printing		£900.00	£920.49	£0.00
	Village Hall hire			£233.00
	Conservation App printing			
	Stationery & general printing			£117.72
Subscriptions eg. Norton		£600.00	£229.98	£129.98
Grants / Community Support				
	Parochial Church Council (grass cutting)	£2,275.00	£1,500.00	£1,500.00
	Poppy Appeal	£75.00	£75.00	£0.00
	Hinton Hound printing (budgeted under Misc)		£292.33	£162.18
	Grants:	£300.00	£250.00	£0.00
	* Dorset & Somerset Air Ambulance			£150.00

	* Citizens Advice Somerset			£100.00
Defibrillator- running costs and parts		£2,500.00	£1,657.88	£0.00
	Monthly electricity costs			£69.48
	Replacement pads			£236.40
	Replacement batteries			£0.00
Pelota Wall		£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Lighting (incl project)		£1,500.00	£0.00	£0.00
Gritting		£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Election fees		£3,000.00	£100.00	£0.00
Conservation Area Appraisal		£500.00	£5,500.00	£0.00
Website and gov.uk email		£3,500.00	£300.00	£300.00
Bank charges (not budgeted for)		£0.00	£35.00	£0.00
TOTAL PAYMENTS		**£33,600.00**	**£32,131.83**	

Budget provision has been made for the outstanding cost of the Conservation Area Appraisal, as detailed in the first quarter report, as the budgeted amounts from previous years have been carried forward to cover this. This has been proposed to be set up as an earmarked reserve to ensure the funds are available once the work has been completed.

Cllr Yorston has taken on the responsibility of undertaking quarterly checks of the Parish Council accounts, based on his financial experience.

Bank Reconciliation and Reserves

Bank Accounts as of 7 October 2026	
Current Account	£41,819.003
Pelota Wall Account	£420.50
Reserves	£3,225.91

After researching possible banking alternatives for the Parish Council, it was agreed to proceed with opening a banking facility at Unity Trust, with the following accounts approved: Current Account, 32-day Notice (General reserves), 32-day Notice (Pelota Wall reserves), and an Instant Access Savings Account. Although this current account incurs a monthly £7 fee, the savings interest earned will leave the Parish Council in an overall more favourable financial position.

The Parish Council approved the transfer of £25,000 from the current Barclays account to the new reserves account to maximize interest earnings, which will be actioned once the new accounts are set up.

It was resolved that all Councillors would be appointed as authorized signatories, with any two of these Councillor signatories being required to authorize transactions. The application process is underway and we hope to transfer our accounts to Unity Trust by the end of November 2026.

Schedule of Payments over £500

Approved	Name	Description	Amount
20 July 2026	PCC of Hinton St George	St George's Church Grass Cutting	£500.00
10 Sept 2026	Home & Garden Services	Lengthsman duties	£1,802.71