

Minutes of the meeting of Hilperton Parish Council, held at Hilperton Village Hall on Tuesday March 17th 2026 at 7.45pm.

Councillors present. Clark (Chairman), House, Linham, Bayley, Hayes, Robinson, Prett, Sawyer and Jamieson

Clerk and two members of the public.

AGENDA.

26/47. Acceptance of apologies for absence.

Cllr Uncles who is sick. Accepted

26/48. Declarations of interest.

Cllr Clark on item 26/64 as he is currently Parish Council representative on Trowbridge Rugby Club Board of Trustees

26/49. To receive and sign the minutes of the Full Parish Council meeting held on February 17th 2026, previously circulated to council members and available on PC website. The minutes were approved and signed as an accurate record of the meeting by the Chairman. Proposed by Cllr Clark and seconded by Cllr Hayes. All agreed

26/50. Chairman's announcements.

None.

26/51. Report from Wiltshire Councillor.

Cllr Clark reported that Wiltshire Council is arranging various local groups to see how it will go forward in respect of St. Stephen's Place Multi storey car park.

Cllr Clark (as Wiltshire Councillor) has raised the question of lowering the speed limit on Elizabeth Way. LHF1G have looked at it and thought a good idea but cost of a review would be about £3200 but expected Hilperton Parish Council to contribute £800. Cllr Clark had replied to Wiltshire Council suggesting that Hilperton Parish Council should not contribute anything as it was a main road. Cllr Hayes reported that at a recent LHF1G meeting our request for bollards at Marshmead was dismissed as it was not Wiltshire Council property.

26/52. Report from Police.

None received, but further details can be obtained at <https://wiltshire.police.uk/trowbridge-rural>

26/53. Planning applications.

PL/2026/00865 – Maxcroft Barn, Maxcroft Lane BA14 7PY – Construction of oak framed extension to existing garage.

It was resolved that the Parish Council reply that they are concerned with local bats and suggest a survey be done. It would also like to point out that the boundary of this application is the same as the Maxcroft Farm Development where the Parish Council has also raised concern over bats.

PL/2026/01072 – Land north of Devizes Road – Demolition of existing building and development of up to 80 dwellings. Redcliffe Homes Ltd.

Cllr Clark had already called this in. Similar objections to previous application in that it was dangerous to come out on to roundabout. It would affect local ecology, and is outside boundary/limit of the village. The Chairman suspended the meeting for a couple of minutes so that Celia Beckett could speak and mentioned that this is a piece mill development and does not take into account adjacent larger developments. Lower density would be beneficial. They refer to existing Local Plan but at moment now has limited weight. Other objections concerned crossing of cycle path, Possible lowering of already low water pressure and pressure of drainage/sewage. It was resolved that the Parish Council Objects to the application but reserves the right to add

comments at a future date. Proposed Cllr Bayley and seconded by Cllr Sawyer. All in favour with 1 abstention (Cllr Clark).

PL/2026/01411 – 105 Church Street, Hilperton BA14 tRG – Work on trees in conservation area. 3 Silver Birch, 2 Cypress, Yew tree and Silver Birch. It was resolved that the Parish Council make No Objections.

26/54. Planning decisions.

PL/2026/00063 – Land opposite 17 Hanewell Rise – T1 Horse Chestnut – repeat crown reduction. T2 Oak – minor crown raise on secondary branches to maintain height over public open space. Approved with conditions.

Appeal decisions

APP/y3940w/25/3371024 – Land off Ashton Road – Appeal dismissed

APP/y3940w/25/3371023 – Land off Ashton Road – Appeal dismissed

26/55. HAAG

Celia Beckett reported that the Local Plan is not going ahead at present. There is going to be an in person meeting with Wiltshire Council. She said there is likely to be chaos because of the stalled Plan and suggested perhaps a meeting with present Developers at some time in the near future. She suggested her future roll might change, now that the Plan is stalled and concentrate more on gathering more evidence to help in future defence. She suggested more contact with Keith Cowan who is a bat expert and prepared to help. The other area still will continue to look at is the possibility of a Judicial Review. The Parish Council ought to have the proper expertise in Transport. It was agreed that Celia source a Highways expert and try and get some idea of costs.

26/56. Rural Play Area Funding

Cllr Bayley gave an update on progress. There is a meeting scheduled and discussion over contractual side of things. There will then be a meeting with our Solicitor and report back at next Parish Council meeting.

26/57. Parish Steward.

Any suggestions for work to Cllr Clark but Parish Stewards are still helping with pot holes.

26/58. Allotments/Community Orchard.

Cllr House reported that he had sent out the yearly invoices and already has 60% of the money in with only one so far not continuing but he had already re-let the plot. Pond is looking very good.

26/59. Update on revised Hilperton Neighbourhood Development Plan

No progress at present.

26/60. Update on Councillor vacancy.

No requests for an Election so now up to Parish Council to co-opt. Really need more representation from Hilperton Marsh end of the village. Social media might be the way forward. The Clerk will put a notice on the notice boards.

26/61. Church Farm/War memorial.

Cllr Linham reported nothing to report and will be taken off Agenda.

26/62. 'Clerk's report.'

Bank balances - The Clerk reported that the bank balance in the Community (commercial) account was £118,497.4906. This was due to another £30,394.83 of CIL money being received. There was £110,703.02 in the new Instant access account and £863.26 in the old Bus Instant account. CCLA was £125,046.95 and Redwood Bank was £133,371.57.

Cllr House now has the ability to access internet banking but still waiting on others to have that ability.

The Blair Charity account was brought up by Cllr Hayes. The Clerk will endeavour to get the accounts up to date so a decision can be made on closing.

26/63. Approval of invoices for payment.

The Clerk explained the following payments

Payments made since last meeting

RA Books £105.00

Payments for this meeting

Idverde (February) invoice 10962655 £121.60 including £20.27 VAT

Cloudy IT (March) invoice 10829 £83.81 including £13.97 VAT

Clerk's salary (February) £499.63

HMRC £155.91

Water2Business £4.30 credit

Core Clean £250.00 (In future before and after photographs be supplied)

Mulch and fertiliser for allotments – R&L House £69.93

Proposal to pay the above made by Cllr Clark, seconded by Cllr Bayley. All agreed

26/64. CIL Money

A letter had been circulated from Trowbridge Rugby Club regarding floodlights. A CIL committee will be arranged before the next Parish Council meeting.

26/65. Website

The Clerk reported he had recently contacted our web master. He will also make contact with another web builder.

26/66. Meetings for councillors to consider attending.

Trowbridge Area Board, 6.30pm on March 19th, County Hall

26/67. Correspondence received.

Amanda Wilkes – Request for funding. It was proposed by Cllr Sawyer and seconded by Cllr House that the Parish Council contribute £500 (section s137). All agreed

Insurance renewal letter received and Clerk will act accordingly and also mention we will be getting more play equipment.

Andrew Whyborn letter re speeding in Church Street/Hill Street. The Clerk had replied accordingly.

Jamie Mundy letter – Various proposed works had been circulated and included an explanation of the 20mph speed assessment.

LHFIG form from Christine Champeny. The Clerk had written back and explained we are waiting for the lining to be done.

26/68. Items for future meetings.

None

26/69. Items for notice board or publication.

Poster regarding Energy in your Community Workshop on April 2nd 2026

26/70. Date, time, and venue for the next parish council meeting.

Tuesday April 21st 2026 at 7.45pm, at Hilperton Village Hall, Whaddon Lane.

Meeting closed at 21.04.

Signed

Dated April 21st 2026.