

**HINTON CHARTERHOUSE PARISH COUNCIL**

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council  
held on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2026  
in the Memorial Hall, High Street, Hinton Charterhouse,  
commencing at 7.30 pm**

**Present:** Cllr. W.Sturges.  
Cllrs: Robertson, Holvey, Whiteley, Jones  
Mr Geoffrey Parkes (Parish Clerk)  
**Apologies:** Ward Cllr. Gourley. Cllr. Featherstone

**148. Introduction**

The Chairman thanked everyone for coming to the meeting.

**149. Apologies for Absence**

Cllrs Featherstone, Gourley

**150. Declarations of Interest**

Councillors were reminded of their duty to declare any interests in any items on the agenda. There were no declarations.

**151. Minutes of The Meeting of The Parish Council 11<sup>th</sup> Feb 2026**

The Council considered the minutes of the Meeting of The Parish Council held on 11<sup>th</sup> Feb 2026. It was proposed by Cllr. Robertson and seconded by Cllr. Whiteley that the minutes of the meeting be signed and adopted as a correct record. All present agreed.

**Resolved:** That the minutes of the Meeting of The Parish Council held on 11<sup>th</sup> Feb 2026 be signed and adopted as a correct record.  
(The Chairman then signed the minutes)

**152. Financial Reports – 1<sup>st</sup> March.**

The Clerk had circulated to the Council the Financial Report for 1<sup>st</sup> March 2026, complete with the requests for retrospective and advance authority for payments.

The following payments were made in Feb:

101431	G Parkes – Feb	225.46
101432	D Turvey – Feb	324.21
101433	HMRC PAYE – Feb	274.60
101434	Wilts & Bath Air Ambulance	100.00

The following payments would be made in Mar:

101435	G Parkes – Mar	225.46
101436	D Turvey – Mar	324.21
101437	HMRC PAYE – Mar	274.60

Cllr. Whiteley and seconded by Cllr. Holvey proposed that this Statement be accepted.  
All agreed.

**Resolved** That Financial Report for 1<sup>st</sup> March 2026, complete with the requests for retrospective and advance authority for payments be accepted.  
(The Chairman signed the Financial Statements)

**153. Clerk’s Report – Internal Audit**

Clerk reported that the Internal Auditor from ASL had been in touch with a list of documentation required. The Clerk had started to collate the information ready for April. The Clerk confirmed that there were currently three vacancies on the Council and that it is free to co-opt new Councillors. The criteria are: Over 18, living in or within 3 miles of the Parish, being British, Commonwealth or EU citizens (US citizens are not eligible) and not being a bankrupt.

**154. Planning**  
**For discussion**

- i) 26/00801/TCA – Rock Cottage – Rosemary Lane – Fell Apple Tree. The Council didn’t feel the small tree was a problem but had no comment to make.
- ii) Housing Needs Survey. Cllr Jones reported that the survey is funded by WERN and that consultancy agents would be in touch about drafting the survey questions. The grant funding for the survey could be with the Council soon.

**155. Highways & Footpaths**

- (i) National Highways – A36 Trunk Road. 50mph – minor road crossings etc.
- (ii) Other Roads – B&NES.  
The Council noted that all the minor roads in the Parish had surface damage, but this was unsurprising considering the winter conditions.
- (iii) Footpaths/Footways. The footpath from the A36 to Rosemary Lane was now open. The bridleway sign had gone missing near Friary. Cllr Holvey would contact the B&NES Public Rights of Way Officer.  
Link between Freshford and Hinton Charterhouse. There was some more discussion on the possibility of using the old tunnel under the A36, but this would depend upon the land owners of Abbey Farm and the Priory being amenable to some sort of permissive footway across their land.

**156. Environment & Health**

The Council had heard from the team proposing a Community Farm (Pear Tree Farm) project on Church Lane, Limpley Stoke. The team had asked the Council to help publicise the opportunities for local communities to buy produce, volunteer and get involved. Three of the directors of the project were residents within the Parish. There had been a briefing session at the Rose & Crown the previous week.

Parts of the South West had received four times their average rainfall over the previous three months.

**157. Millennium Green Trust Committee & Play Area**

The Council had applied, on behalf of the MG Trust, to the Ward Empowerment Fund for a small grant towards designs for an information board on the Millennium Green. The Chairman noted that the wall of the Millennium Green alongside Branch Road could do with some attention where it has been scraped by passing vehicles. The wall had been

assessed by a structural engineer who had no concerns about it, but strongly recommended that repairs be done with lime mortar and not concrete.

**158. Village Facilities**

- (i) Bin Bag Storage. Some work had started on the construction.
- (ii) Information Board on the Millennium Green. (See above).
- (iii) Public Notice Board. The second notice board outside the Rose & Crown had fallen apart. The Council agreed to look at a replacement in the next financial year.
- (iv) Memorial Hall. The Chairman had made some progress with re-establishing some of the organisations that will have an initial Trustee on the committee, although it seems from information at the Charity Commission that the Trust has six registered Trustees all still living in the Parish. Cllr Roberston and the Clerk had looked at the rules surrounding Charitable Incorporated Organisations (CIOs) that reduce the potential liabilities for Trustees. The Clerk made it clear that both Trusts are independent Charitable organisations run by residents on a management committee for the benefit of the community. The Trustees role is to ensure oversight of the Trusts activities and that the committee are acting in accordance with Charity Commission rules. At no point does the Parish Council become an owner of the assets of either of the two Trusts (the ownership in theory ultimately residing with The Charity Commissioner).

**159. Police & Crime**

There was nothing to report.

**160. Free exchange of information not covered by any of the above**

The Chairman reported on the Pear Tree Farm briefing session recently held at the Rose & Crown. There did not appear to be a lot of interest from within the village.

**161. Correspondence**

The Clerk placed the following correspondence on the table for Councillors to consult. Posters attached to this correspondence would be placed on the notice board. Any discussions about correspondence are noted below.

- (i) Nothing significant received.

**162. Date of Next Meeting & Specific Items for the Agenda**

The next meeting would be on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> April 2026 at 7.30pm. Items for the agenda should be submitted to the Clerk three working days before the meeting.

**The Meeting Finished at 8.35pm**

**Date of Next Meeting: Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> April 2026 at 7.30pm in the Memorial Hall, High Street, Hinton Charterhouse**