

HINTON CHARTERHOUSE PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council
held on Wednesday 9th Sept 2026
in the Memorial Hall, High Street, Hinton Charterhouse,
commencing at 7.30pm**

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

55. Introduction

The Chairman welcomed everyone.

56. Apologies for Absence

Cllr. Jones

57. Declarations of Interest

Councillors were reminded of their duty to declare any interests in any items on the agenda.

58. Minutes of The Meeting of The Parish Council July 2026

The Council considered the minutes of the Meeting of The Parish Council held on 8th July 2026. It was proposed by Cllr. Whiteley and seconded by Cllr. Featherstone 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 8th July 2026 be signed and adopted as a correct record.
(The Chairman then signed the minutes)

59. Financial Reports – 1st August & 1st Sept 2026.

The Clerk had circulated to the Council the Financial Report for 1st August and 1st Sept 2026, complete with the requests for retrospective and advance authority for payments.

The following payments were made in July:

101454	G Parkes – July	358.62
101455	D Turvey – July	340.48
101456	HMRC PAYE – July	166.40
101457	Enerveo Light Maintenance.	264.65
101458	H.C. Millennium Green Trust	350.00

The following payments were made in August

101459	G Parkes – Aug	358.82
101460	D Turvey – Aug	340.28
101461	HMRC PAYE – Aug	166.40
101462	Playsafety Limited Inspection Report	199.20

The following payments would be made in Sept:

101463	G Parkes – Sep	358.62
101464	D Turvey – Sep	340.48
101465	HMRC PAYE – Sep	166.40

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

Resolved That Financial Reports for 1st August & 1st September 2026, complete with the requests for retrospective and advance authority for payments be accepted.
(The Chairman signed the Financial Statements)

60. **Clerk’s Report**

The Clerk reported the Council’s Internal Auditors – Auditing Solutions Limited (ASL) – had been in touch asking for the Council to sign a letter of re-engagement for their services confirming that ASL are independent of HCPC and that there is no conflict of interests. ASL asked that the Council formally minute this decision.

Cllr Whiteley seconded by Cllr Roberston proposed that the Council re-engage ASL as independent Internal Auditors. All agreed.

Resolved That the Council re-engage ASL as Internal Auditors for the 2026-27 year.
(The Chairman and Clerk signed the Letter of re-engagement)

61. **Planning** **For discussion**

- i) Housing Needs Survey. CNB Housing Insights (www.cnbhousing.co.uk). The Survey had completed and was now being processed by CNB. It appeared about 27% of Households had replied (which is a typical response rate). The headline results were: An identified need for smaller affordable homes – with a number of households in need. There is strong community support for a small locally-restricted housing scheme (82% in favour) with particular interest in energy-efficient homes and smaller homes suitable for older residents wishing to downsize.
- ii) 26/03060/LBA – Rock Cottage – Rosemary Lane – Rebuilding stone wall. The Council had no problem with supporting this application for urgent repair work.
- iii) B&NES Local Plan. Ward Cllr. Gourley explained that the B&NES Local Plan was now out for public consultation until late October. The Housing Target figures for B&NES had been doubled during the plan period; and Council needs to recognise that Green Belt designation, and previous Housing Development Boundaries are no longer a ‘defence’ against development. She recommended that the Council make a collective response to B&NES and that it do this as an ‘objection’. The reason for doing this is it allows HCPC to speak to the Planning Inspector when the Plan is reviewed. It is a very good idea if HCPC has an outline plan and expresses its preference for possible housing sites – and that this is backed by evidence. The Housing Needs Survey will give the Council a much firmer base to argue from.

The Clerk pointed out that in Hinton Charterhouse landowners had put forward two sites under B&NES Housing & Economic Land Availability Assessments (HELAA). B&NES had previously scored both sites as of low suitability and had not included them in its plans, however, this could now change. The two sites are the field adjacent to The Brambles, and the field south of Tuggy's Lane.

- iv) The Chairman had received a letter of complaint about the retrospective application for the conversion of a building at Pipehouse Farm. The Clerk stated that the consultation period on this application had closed in the summer.

62. Highways & Footpaths

- (i) National Highways – A36 Trunk Road. There was nothing to report.
- (ii) Other B&NES Roads within the parish.
Green Lane speeding. The Council discussed what realistic and affordable options there were to reduce speeds. Ward. Cllr. Gourley suggested that flashing speed signs seem to be the most effective.
B3110 – High Street. There were concerns raised about buses waiting in the High Street outside the Post Office. Residents had also asked about a shelter outside the Post Office – but it was felt that there isn't enough footway space and that it would block the frontages to houses.
A36 – Pipehouse Lane bus stop. Residents had asked about a more obvious bus shelter here (The lay-by is actually in Freshford Parish).
- (iii) Footpaths/Footways. There was nothing to report.

63. Environment & Health

The Clerk reported on Friary Wood that B&NES Tree Officer had attended the site and that they seemed to be 'completely satisfied that the complaints were without substance, and was entirely happy that the work is being done selectively and carefully'.

64. Millennium Green Trust Committee & Play Area

There was nothing to report.

65. Village Facilities

- (i) Memorial Hall. The Chairman reported that a group was underway looking at plans for the hall.
- (ii) Replacement Notice Board. The Council understood that this task was in hand with someone who is doing it as a wood working enthusiast.
- (iii) Street Lighting. The Clerk reported that he had been in touch with SSE again and they confirmed that their team would be let us know with a revised assessment of our power consumption. The Clerk had explained that the HCPC does need to have a definite plan from SSE so that the Council can carry out its annual budgeting .

66. Police & Crime

There was nothing to report. Reports had been fairly quiet on Neighbourhood Watch.

67. Free exchange of information not covered by any of the above

The Council noted the passing of Isla Tuck – a long standing resident of the Parish; a friend to the Village; and the generous benefactor of the Horse Pond to the H.C.Millennium Green Trust

Cllr Holvey reported that neighbouring parishes had been screening the National Emergency Briefing film and proposed that HCPC do the same. All agreed that the Council should arrange a showing of the film. The Clerk would send the link to the NEB to all Councillors.

68. 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 received.

69. Date of Next Meeting & Specific Items for the Agenda

The next meeting would be on Wednesday 14th Oct 2026 at 7.30pm. Items for the agenda should be submitted to the Clerk three working days before the meeting.

The Meeting Finished at 9.00pm

Date of Next Meeting: Wednesday 14th Oct 2026 at 7.30pm in the Memorial Hall, High Street, Hinton Charterhouse