HINTON CHARTERHOUSE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Wednesday 14th Oct 2026 in the Memorial Hall, High Street, Hinton Charterhouse, commencing at 7.30pm

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

70. Introduction
The Chairman welcomed everyone.

71. Apologies for Absence
Cllrs. Robertson, Featherstone

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

73. Minutes of The Meeting of The Parish Council 9th Sept 2026
The Council considered the minutes of the Meeting of The Parish Council held on 9th sept 2026. It was proposed by Cllr. Whiteley and seconded by Cllr. Jones 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 9th Sept 2026 be signed and adopted as a correct record.
(The Chairman then signed the minutes)

74. Financial Reports – 1st Oct 2026.
The Clerk had circulated to the Council the Financial Report for 1st October 2026, complete with the requests for retrospective and advance authority for payments.

The following payments were made in Sept:

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

The following payments would be made in Oct:

101466	CNB Housing Insights	1,584.00
101467	G Parkes – Oct	358.62
101468	D Turvey – Oct	340.28
101469	HMRC PAYE – Oct	166.60
101470	Enerveo Ltd. Quart.Maintenance	264.65

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

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

The Clerk reported that he would be starting on the draft Budget ready for the November meeting.

75. Resolution on Village Grants

The Clerk requested that the Council formally pass a resolution to make the three grants to Village Organisations agreed in the Budget. The grants were to: HC Millennium Green Trust - £1000. HC Memorial Hall Trust - £1000. HC Church Committee (for grounds maintenance) - £350.

Cllr. Jones and seconded by Cllr. Sturges proposed that the above grant payments be made to village organisations. All agreed.

Resolved That the Council make grants to the Millennium Green Trust, the Memorial Hall Trust, and the HC Church Committee.

76. Clerk's Report

The Clerk explained that he had given Councillors an advance warning that he may have to retire at some point due to overall workload, but that hopefully he would be able to continue for quite some time yet.

The Clerk stated that under routine council business that HCPC would be renewing its registration with the Information Commissioner in November.

77. Ward Cllr's Report

Ward Cllr Fiona Gourley thanked Cllrs Sturges and Robertson for attending the B&NES meeting on the Local Plan held at Camerton the previous week. She would arrange for the slides to be sent out. The main message of her report was to repeat that HCPC will need to lodge an 'Objection' to the current outline Local Plan with B&NES if the Council wished to be able to make any representations to the Planning Inspector – if say a developer put forward a scheme that the Council did not wish to see going ahead. The status of the two sites, put forward by land owners, for the Housing & Economic Land Availability Assessment (HELAA) exercise might be the area to object to. (The sites either being included or rejected).

The Chairman said that the Local Plan reflects the pressure on B&NES by central government to double the housing supply figures.

78. Planning

For discussion

i) Housing Needs Survey. CNB Housing Insights (wwwcnbhousing.co.uk). Cllr.Jones had circulated the completed the Housing Needs Survey report to the Council. The report's aim is to gather objective evidence on the scale and nature

of the housing need in Hinton Charterhouse. The report follows Government good practice and the relevant aspects of the National Planning Policy Framework. CNB had reported that the percentage of surveys returned was average and formed a legitimate sample.

The Council discussed the key paragraphs (5.9, 5.12, 5.15 and 5.23) from the Findings and Conclusions in Section 5 of the report. The Council agreed that these findings should form the basis of HCPC policy for the future. Cllr. Jones pointed out that one route may be for a 'Community Land Trust' to take forward any possible future projects like 'The Brambles' – although this may be difficult in a small village. Ward Cllr. Gourley said that B&NES has its own development company – 'Aqueos' – that might be interested in helping.

Cllr. Jones and seconded by Cllr. Holvey proposed that the CNB Housing Needs Survey be endorsed and adopted by the Council. And that the key findings be the basis of Council policy when responding to the Local Plan and any future developments All agreed.

Resolved That the Council endorse and adopt the CNB Housing Needs Survey. And that the key findings of the report form the basis of Council policy when responding to the Local Plan and any future developments.

The Clerk would ensure that the entire report was placed on the Council website and produce a summary page.

ii) B&NES Local Plan.

The Council agreed that a sub-committee of Cllr Jones, Roberston and Featherstone would meet and take the findings of the Housing Needs report and use it to submit a Local Plan response to B&NES before the 30th October deadline

iii) 26/03476/FUL – Broadfield Farm – Conversion of rural building to one dwelling. The Council noted that there had been one objection from residents, and one from the Highways Dept. It was agreed that HCPC had no comment to make.

79. Highways & Footpaths

(i) National Highways – A36 Trunk Road. There would be Highways Agency overnight closures of the A36 from October to January to carry out tree safety work.

(ii) Other B&NES Roads within the parish. Cllr.Holvey pointed out the dangerous nature of the public footpath crossing of Branch Road. There is very little visibility for either pedestrians or motorists. Ward Cllr, Gourley said she would ask the Footpaths team about this.

(iii) Footpaths/Footways. BT Openreach had been digging up the footway in Green Lane. The Clerk read out parts of the Parish Steward's report saying that Hinton House grounds team had agreed to keep vegetation that overhangs Green Lane under control.

80. Environment & Health

The Clerk reported that the Met Office anticipated higher than average rainfall this Autumn, even so it will be a struggle for the water companies to replenish reservoirs for next year following the summer drought and record temperatures of this year. It seems at least 120% of average rainfall is required over several months.

The Clerk had recently seen the NEB Briefing on the record El-Nino heating and potential Food Security problems. The Council agreed with Cllr. Holvey's proposal that the NEB should be screened in Hinton Charterhouse soon. The Clerk reported that most other neighbouring communities had already staged screenings and discussions.

81. Millennium Green Trust Committee & Play Area

The Clerk read out parts of the report from the Chairman of the Millennium Green Trust that outlined ideas to renovate the overgrown areas of the Green around the sculpture garden, and control the trees that overhang neighbouring gardens.

The Clerk had put the Chair of the MG Trust in touch with a local well qualified and independent Tree Surveyor who could advise the Trust on its mature trees and draw up a management plan for the future.

Cllr Jones reported that he had painted the railings below the Green; and removed the decayed planters beside the King's bench.

82. Village Facilities

(i) Memorial Hall. Following on from the findings of the CNB report (paragraph 5.23) it was agreed that the Hall Trust must hold a village meeting soon (November?) to develop the plans for renovating the hall. Cllr. Jones felt that this is of the first priority in village infrastructure. The Council thought it might be an idea to open the Hall for discussion; and to hold a film screening (see Minute 80 above) on the same day.

(ii) Replacement Public Notice Board. Cllr. Jones presented a quote for an attractive looking wooden notice board, at a reasonable price, and possibly ready within 8 weeks. The Council agreed that Cllr Jones should go ahead immediately. Actions were also in hand to repair the existing Official Notice Board for Council notices, which had 'slid' down off the wall.

(iii) Street Lighting. The Clerk reported that he had been in touch with SSE again and they had confirmed that their team would be let us know with a revised assessment of our power consumption. The Council agreed to wait and hear SSE's reply; and then rationalise electricity supply so that proper budgeting can be done for the future. Whatever happens the Clerk did alert the Council that he anticipated a significantly large invoice from SSE which would deplete the Council's Contingency Budget and put a hold on any further street light replacements until the shortfall was replenished.

83. Police & Crime

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

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

There were no comments or reports.

85. 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.

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

The next meeting would be on Wednesday 11th Nov 2026 at 7.30pm. Items for the agenda should be submitted to the Clerk three working days before the meeting.

The Meeting Finished at 8.55pm

Date of Next Meeting: Wednesday 11th Nov 2026 at 7.30pm in the Memorial Hall, High Street, Hinton Charterhouse