

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

MONDAY 23 FEBRUARY 2026 – Heckfield Village Hall, 7.30pm

Parish Councillors Keith Alderman (Chairman), Guy Chessell, Jenny Roberts;
Clerk Susan Turner; Guests: County Councillor Tim Davies.

2026.

12

WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

Apologies Andy Piercy, Ward Councillor Anne Crampton.

13

PUBLIC SESSION No members of the public present.

14

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING of Monday 19 Jan agreed and signed

15

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST in items on the Agenda, none.

16

REPORTS TO MEETING

.1 County Councillor report from Cllr Tim Davies.

i Local Elections

Re Government's decision to not go ahead with postponing elections in 30 council areas across the country, Cllr Davies confirmed that both HCC and Hart had agreed from the outset that their scheduled elections would go ahead in May this year. County as usual will be all-out elections (this time after five years). Cllr Davies confirmed he will stand again.

ii Local Government Reorganisation (LGR)

To question if Government might now think to delay Local Government Reorganisation. Hampshire County Council had requested the LGR process be postponed for a year to allow more time for transition but did not receive a response. Noting announcement is due in March on the configuration of the new Unitaries; may know by next meeting.

iii Re Mayoral elections originally scheduled for May 2026, currently postponed to 2028. Conservative candidate is Donna Jones; Liberal, Martin Tod; Labour, Lorna Fielker; Green Party, Anna Collar; Reform UK, Chris Parry.

iv Re potholes and recent County reports on the scale of the challenge, Tim confirmed the best approach is to report on the County Council website giving accurate location and ideally a picture. Please then copy details to him so he can follow up.

v The HCC part of Council tax will be 4.99% increase for coming year as maximum allowed. Looking back to 2010, there were three years of no increase, this funding not recovered from Government and with onward cumulative impact. Balancing budget from reserves is unsustainable and will run out in a couple of years; however for an increase of higher than 4.99% have to have a referendum.

17

HAZELEY HEATH (*Report JR*)

.1 Heath works and maintenance

i *Reference representations from a local resident to the January Parish Council meeting; and subsequent emails received from a further concerned resident*

- Strong feeling locally, and strong feeling of 'ownership' of the Heath.
- RSPB Reserves Warden met with residents on the Heath; a heated discussion, the Warden in a difficult position as seeking to do his job as required by RSPB. He has responded to emails; not stalling, but took time to provide appropriate response.
- Residents have escalated to complain to the RSPB; Natural England also become involved, they have been out to site.
- The Reserve Warden is required by RSPB to have the tree clearing works done. He does his best to be inclusive; invited people to walk around with him in order to explain the planned works.
- The RSPB website says of Hazeley Heath
www.rspb.org.uk/days-out/reserves/hazeley-heath

'To improve the heathland at Hazeley, we are undertaking a program of tree felling, scrub clearance, heather mowing, bracken control and soil scraping. This will mimic some of the traditional land uses that maintained the heath for millennia and create ideal conditions for heathland wildlife.

'Unfortunately, heathland restoration is rarely a pretty process. It can involve the use of heavy machinery and takes time. While we carry out the work, parts of the heathland may look a little unsightly – please bear with us, it will look better eventually.'

- There are a great number of brash piles about six feet high; must be 50 of the them at least. Do look unsightly but also may be a fire hazard and some near properties.
- RSPCA has undertaken similar clearing work at the Common at Black Bushe and made the brash into dead hedging which is a good solution.

ii Reparation work

- The log piles are gone – they are worth money. One pile of birch left for the bugs.
- RSPB are bringing the current contractors back. They have to reinstate footpaths to make them walkable and scrape areas to pull soil over a lot of the brash.

iii Discussion

- It is the contractors who are responsible for delivering the work and putting road closures place.
- RSPB are ultimately responsible for what their contractors do. Every time RSPB do work they leave a trail of devastation. What is going to make things work better?
- Tree felling in December 2024 caused the diversion – intentionally or otherwise – of all of the traffic through Hazeley Bottom with verges and ditches destroyed. On that occasion the contractor was Paragon Traffic Management on behalf of Euroforest, undertaking tree work for RSPB.
- Noting that the meeting minutes of the Hazeley Heath Consultative Group (HHCG) of 11 September 2025 say:

'Tree-felling alongside the B3011 did not go according to plan; work by Euroforest to take trees back on both sides of the road for reasons of both road safety and to provide improved habitat still needs to be completed.'

- Verges are now destroyed on the cut through fork of Red Hill to the B3011 from opposite the houses just below the Mutton. (Also noted a lot of verge damage is from parking for the pub.)

iv To also reference previous report that RSPB recently restructured its funding such that the Warden has to work with less funding, fewer staff and a larger work load.

SUBSEQUENTLY REPORTED: 'Natural England have visited the Heath and are now okay with what has been done. The Red Hill area has been tidied and the footpaths have been reinstated.'

.2 Deer cull

- i Previous comments re managing contractors are relevant here. Questions raised re the professionalism of the cullers and their working hours.
- ii Again with reference to the minutes of HHCG of 11 September 2025; these say that:
'Mattingley PC will do a deer impact assessment jointly with the RSPB this winter.'
This has not progressed, not heard back from RSPB.

.3 Chairman's summary

- Communication needed from RSPB re deer cull.
- To also request they give us a diary of works.

.4 Next HHCG meeting Thursday 12 March 11am, Victoria Hall. JR and ST to attend.

18 HIGHWAYS AND MAINTENANCE

.1 Bus shelters

- i Question re use of the shelters by school buses? Reference email of 22 January from school.transport.enquiries@hants.gov.uk
'These stops are not currently being utilised by any of our contracted school routes, however that is not to say they are not being utilised by Schools' own buses or any public bus operators.'

To add to this, the local school buses – eg Robert May’s – and also the private schools – vary their rural pick-up points depending on where current school-age children live.

- ii Question re the feasibility of, the case for, keeping the shelters maintained. Recent maintenance check by Parish Lengthsman showed all need work but none are currently posing a hazard. (See report detailed in January minutes.)
- iii Merronbrook in the past have maintained the shelters as a contribution to the community. To approach them with request (Action GC).

.2 Hazeley Bottom dragon’s teeth

Re question of installing dragon’s teeth on the RSPB owned Common land at Hazeley Bottom bordering the road in the vicinity of post box and Parish Council noticeboard.

Discussion points as previously raised

- This land is owned by the RSPB and they have indicated they have no objection to dragon’s teeth being installed to prevent parking on the Common land.
- Cars are parked on the Common land for a variety of reasons – by local residents and by visitors wishing to walk on the Common. (There is a published local walks guide recommending a walk on the Common starting from this point.)
- If dragon’s teeth are installed it should be to prevent all parking on the Common land at this location, but it will serve to displace the problem.

AGREED that installing dragon’s teeth will not be effective at this location without unintended consequences and creating problems elsewhere. Therefore not to proceed.

.3 Pothole and signage reporting

- i Plough Lane (report JR)
 - The road surface at the top of Plough Lane where it meets the B3011 was in terrible condition. HCC have now resurfaced and done a complete job which took two days.
 - Half way down Plough Lane between Lea Farm and the bridge; the road edge remains broken away, big chunks are missing. Placed a cone alongside the road to prevent vehicles falling off the edge.

TO NOTE – The ‘Our Hants’ app enables reporting a pothole and uploading a photo directly to the website. www.hants.gov.uk/aboutthecouncil/ourhants.

- ii ‘Matingley’ sign on Red Hill – Track IT number 21750907. Last updated: 13/01/2026: Current Status: ‘Works to be scheduled.’ Enquiry updated: ‘The issue that you raised has been inspected and works are required.’

19 HOUND GREEN

.1 Green update

- i Moles – no further activity reported.
- ii Football pitch is being well-used; recently hosted an informal football match.
- iii Village event – Easter party on the Green is scheduled for 12th April from 1pm. Groundsman advised.

.2 Pond (Report KA) Cleared back a lot of brash and vegetation. But not a lot of water despite recent wet weather; area appears to be draining. To take photos (Action KA).

.3 Glebe Wood Track cutting back – agreed task for Lengthsman.

20 PLANNING

.1 Parish Planning Applications – Planning Update **APPENDIX I**.

i. New applications for discussion

[25/02574/FUL](#) (Validated 05 Feb 2026) Priors Farm, Reading Road. Demolition of existing sheds and construction of 1 no. 5-bed dwelling (Use Class C3) together with associated car and cycle parking, landscaping, refuse storage and private amenity space.

ii. Ongoing application of note

[25/00477/FUL](#) (Validated 21 March) The Mutton at Hazeley Heath. Erection of eight units of guest accommodation with associated parking, landscaping and new sewage treatment plant.

No further update on website. However noted that parking continues to be a problem. At times impossible to get a car past and the only solution to take the alternative 'cut through' section of Red Hill up to the main road.

21 FINANCE & GOVERNANCE

.1 Accounts to date **APPENDIX II** Bank reconciliation 23 February = £27,441.93.

Payments since last meeting of 19 January (including VAT where applicable).

57	EON Next Ltd – Phone box electricity	£12.26
58	PGGM-3395 – Maintenance Jan	£384.00
59	EON Next Ltd – Phone box electricity	£12.96
60	Clerk – Salary Jan	£468.00.

.2 Budget update **APPENDIX III**

22 FURTHER REPORTS

.1 Hound Green garage – Refurbishment work has started, hopefully to be completed by mid-April. Apparently with a new steel roof (according to Hound Green Whatsapp). Good news, reportedly has now been let to new tenants who are planning to be in by the beginning of April and will continue as an MOT centre and repair garage.

.2 Defibrillator updates

- Hound Green checked – confirmed fortnightly.
- Leather Bottle checked – confirmed fortnightly.
- To check re New Inn Circuit registration (Action JB)

23 NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

Tuesdays, 7.30pm, Heckfield Village Hall.

16 March, 20 April, 18 May (AGM), 15 June, 20 July, 17 Aug
21 Sept, 19 Oct, 16 Nov.

Meeting close at 9.15pm with thanks to all

For signature (p4 of 4) Date

APPENDIX I - PARISH PLANNING UPDATE 23 FEBRUARY

NEW APPLICATIONS SINCE LAST MEETING of 19 JANUARY

26/00281/AMCON (Validated 20 Feb) Ramsdale House, Reading Road. Application to vary Condition 2 (Drawing and Documents) of Planning Permission 25/00643/HOU Replacement windows and doors.n

26/00081/LBC (Validated 20 Jan 2026) Little Church Farm, Mattingley Green. Splicing in of new timber to a lower section of structural column to the Barn.

25/02574/FUL (Validated 05 Feb 2026) Priors Farm, Reading Road. Demolition of existing sheds and construction of 1 no. 5-bed dwelling (Use Class C3) together with associated car and cycle parking, landscaping, refuse storage and private amenity space.

PROGRESS OF RECENT APPLICATIONS

25/02543/HOU (**Pending**, Validated 17 Dec) Yew Tree Cottage, Hazeley Bottom. Erection of a replacement garage and additional single storey games room

25/02239/HOU (**Grant 30 Jan**, Validated 02 Dec 2025) Flittermouse Cottage, Hazeley Lea. Demolition of single storey rear lean-to and erection of a single storey rear extension, creation of downstairs shower room, with new window to side elevation and relocation of kitchen, requiring the in-filling of two side windows.n

25/02152/HOU and 25/02153/LBC (**Refuse 29 Jan**, Validated 31 October) Old Post Office House, Reading Road, Mattingley. Erection of extensions and inclusion of an existing outbuilding into the footprint of the house.

24/00428/HRA (**Pending**, Validated 03 Oct) Priors Farm, Reading. Application under Regulation 77 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 pursuant to 24/00428/GPDAGD Application for notification for prior approval for the change of use from use as agricultural buildings to use falling within Class C3 (dwellinghouses)

25/00477/FUL (**Pending**, Validated 21 March) The Mutton at Hazeley Heath. Erection of eight units of guest accommodation with associated parking, landscaping and new Sewage Treatment Plant.

NOTE 29 Sept: Objection from Conservation. More info required from Highways.

NOTE 13 Oct: New docs to website 30 Sept – new Parking Plan; agreement with Farm cover letter from Agent.

NOTE 15 Nov: Further comment from Highways posted 20 October.

Prior to commencement of the proposed guesthouse, offsite staff parking at Hazeley Farm should be provided for the lifetime of the development thereafter.

NOTE 18 Nov: Further comment from Parish Council posted.

NOTE 23 FEB: No further documents posted

APPENDIX II ACCOUNTS TO DATE

MATTINGLEY PARISH COUNCIL - INCOME 2025/26 - 23 Feb						
Balance brought forward 1st April 2025						£24,885.07
Date	Item	Precept	Grants	VAT	Interest	Total Receipts
18/05/2025	Parish Precept	£15,569.00				£15,569.00
06/01/2025	Vat claim 2024/25			£58.55		
	Vat claim 2025/26-to Dec			£1,101.48		£1,160.03
2025/26	Bank interest				£444.58	£444.58
	TOTALS	£15,569.00	£0.00	£1,160.03	£444.58	£17,173.61

£17,173.61

RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS SUMMARY	
Bal brought forward 1st April 2025	£24,885.07
Plus income	£17,173.61
Minus expenditure	£14,616.75
Balance	£27,441.93
BANK RECONCILIATION	
Club, charity, trust	£63.88
Bus instant access	£27,378.05
Balance to take over	£27,441.93

Club, Charity And Trust Account

30-96-29, 00778969

[View a mini statement](#)

Available funds:

£63.88

[Set up st](#)

Business Instant Access

30-96-29, 07266599

[View full statement](#)

> £27,378.05

[View full statement >](#)

Vat to reclaim from this year £92.18

MATTINGLEY PARISH COUNCIL - EXPENDITURE 2025/26 - 23 FEB

No	Inv Date	Pay Date	Supplier	Description	Salary	Admin/ Governance	Clerk allowance	Community / Donation	Parish Maintenance	Maintn Contract	Mnt Hound Green-other	Hound Green trees	PROJECT Phone box	PROJECT Gateway	PROJECT POND	VAT	TOTALS
SUB-TOTAL APRIL TO SEPTEMBER					£2,808.00	£1,373.65		£50.00	£12.24	£1,892.75	£200.00	£0.00	£691.88	£930.00	£268.00	£831.89	£9,058.41
34	01/10/2025	01/10/2025	Defib store	Adult replacement pads					£125.00							£25.00	£150.00
35	03/10/2025	13/10/2025	HVH-96	Meeting venue Sept		£32.00											£32.00
36	03/10/2025	13/10/2025	RBL poppy appeal	50xlamppostpoppy 1xwreath				£270.00									£270.00
37	02/10/2025	17/10/2025	EON	Phone box electricity					£9.17							£0.46	£9.63
38	25/10/2025	27/10/2025	PGGM-3207	Maintenance OCT						£320.00						£64.00	£384.00
39	OCT	27/10/2025	Clerk	Salary -OCT	£468.00												£468.00
40	02/11/2025	09/11/2025	HVH-006	Meeting venue Oct		£32.00											£32.00
41	12/11/2025	12/11/2025	Defib store	Child pads - pedi-padz					£94.00							£18.80	£112.80
42	14/11/2025	14/11/2025	Tesco	Defib batteries x 10					£41.67							£8.33	£50.00
43	14/11/2025	14/11/2025	SCAmbulance	Donation Defib training			£220.00										£220.00
44	03/11/2025	18/11/2025	EON Next LTD	Phone box electricity					£9.51							£0.48	£9.99
45	20/11/2025	28/11/2025	PGGM-3352	Maintenance NOV						£320.00						£64.00	£384.00
46	NOV	28/11/2025	Clerk	Salary -Nov	£468.00												£468.00
47	02/11/2025	28/11/2025	HVH-006	Meeting venue Nove		£32.00											£32.00
48	12/12/2025	12/12/2025	PGGM-3383	Moving brash pile							£120.00					£24.00	£144.00
49	01/12/2025	18/12/2025	EON Next LTD	Phone box electricity					£10.32							£0.52	£10.84
50	16/12/2025	16/12/2025	CMM Contract Arborits	Ash-reduce_deadwood/Oak								£750.00					£750.00
51	09/12/2025	22/12/2025	PGGM-3395	Maintenance DEC						£320.00						£64.00	£384.00
52	DEC	27/12/2025	Clerk	Salary-Dec	£187.20												
53	DEC	27/12/2025	HMRC	PAYE-Oct, Nov, Dec	£280.80												£468.00
54	06/01/2026	06/01/2026	Ben Christian	Moles Dec and mole traps							£120.00						£120.00
55	09/01/2026	09/01/2026	Hugo Fox	Website hosting 2025		£119.88										£23.98	£143.86
56	12/01/2026	12/01/2026	HVH-online	Meeting venue Jan		£38.00											£38.00
57	20/01/2026	20/01/2026	EON Next LTD	Phone box electricity					£10.22							£2.04	£12.26
58	28/01/2026	28/01/2026	PGGM-3395	Maintenance DEC						£320.00						£64.00	£384.00
59	18/02/2026	18/02/2026	EON Next LTD	Phone box electricity					£10.80							£2.16	£12.96
60	Jan	23/02/2026	Clerk	Salary -Jan	£468.00												£468.00
TOTALS					£4,680.00	£1,627.53	£0.00	£540.00	£322.93	£3,172.75	£320.00	£870.00	£691.88	£930.00	£268.00	£1,193.66	£14,616.75
Date		Supplier	Description	Salary	Admin/ Governance	Clerk allowance	Community / Donation	Parish Maintenance	Maintn Contract	Mnt Hound Green -other	Hound Green trees	PROJECT Phone box	PROECT Gateway	PROJECT POND	VAT	TOTALS	

£14,616.75

APPENDIX III BUDGET UPDATE

MPC THIS YEAR at 23 FEB	2025/26 TO DATE	2025/26 LATEST ESTIMATE	2025/26 BUDGET - MAR 2025	2026/27 BUDGET - DRAFT	2027/28 BUDGET - DRAFT	
EXPENDITURE						EXPENDITURE
CLERK'S SALARY	£4,680.00	£5,616.00	£5,191.20	£5,772.00	£5,928.00	CLERK'S SALARY
CLERK'S ALLOWANCE		£324.00	£324.00	£324.00	£324.00	CLERK'S ALLOWANCE
EXPENSES		£100.00	£100.00	£100.00	£100.00	EXPENSES
TRAINING						TRAINING
GOVERNANCE/ADMIN	£1,627.53	£1,775.00	£1,775.00	£1,825.00	£1,875.00	GOVERNANCE/ADMIN
COMMUNITY / DONATIONS	£540.00	£740.00	£500.00	£500.00	£500.00	COMMUNITY
HOUND GREEN contract	£3,172.75	£3,688.58	£3,688.58	£3,873.01	£4,066.66	HOUND GREEN -contract
HOUND GREEN other maint	£320.00	£500.00	£500.00	£500.00	£500.00	HOUND GREEN other maint
PARISH MAINTENANCE	£322.93	£500.00	£500.00	£500.00	£500.00	PARISH MAINTENANCE
GLEBE WOOD		£500.00	£500.00	£500.00	£500.00	GLEBE WOOD
HOUND GREEN TREES - ANNUAL	£870.00	£1,000.00	£1,000.00	£1,000.00	£1,000.00	HOUND GREEN TREES
Routine (Precept funded)	£11,533.21	£14,743.58	£14,078.78	£14,894.01	£15,293.66	Routine (Precept funded)
Projects						Projects
Mapboards		£800.00				
Hound Green trees - five-yr						Hound Green trees
HOUND GREEN POND	£268.00	£5,000.00	£5,000.00			HOUND GREEN POND
Phone Box power & electrics	£408.28	£408.28	£408.28			Phone Box
Red Hill Gateway	£930.00	£930.00	£3,131.00			Plough Lane gateways
Phone B Debif cabinet install	£283.60	£283.60	£100.00			Debif cabinet install
VAT	£1,193.66	£1,193.66				VAT
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	£14,616.75	£23,359.12	£22,718.06	£14,894.01	£16,383.41	TOTAL EXPENDITURE
Routine expend (incl VAT)	£12,726.87	£15,937.24	£14,078.78	£14,894.01	£15,293.66	Routine expend (Precept funded)
Project expenditure	£1,889.88	£7,421.88	£8,639.28			Project expenditure
INCOME						INCOME
PRECEPT	£15,569.00	£15,569.00	£15,569.00	£17,125.90	£17,982.20	PRECEPT
County Cllr grant						County Cllr Dev budget
Grants other						Grants other
Vat refund	£1,160.03	£1,252.21				Vat refund
Bank interest	£444.58	£500.00	£350.00	£400.00	£450.00	Bank interest
TOTAL INCOME	£17,173.61	£17,321.21	£15,919.00	£17,525.90	£18,432.20	TOTAL INCOME
Surplus // Deficit	£2,556.86	£6,037.91	£6,799.06	£2,631.89	£2,048.79	Surplus // Deficit
Balance	£27,441.93	£18,847.16	£18,086.01	£20,717.90	£22,766.69	Balance

ALLOCATED RESERVES 2025/26 - YE latest estimate	
Working balance	£15,569.00
Tree Fund	£3,278.16
TOTAL	£18,847.16

Precept 2025/26=

£15,569.00