Hatfield Broad Oak PARISH COUNCIL

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MINUTES

for the Extraordinary Meeting of the Parish Council

St Mary's C of E Primary School, CM22 7HH
On **Wednesday 25th February 2026** at **7:30 PM**

Those present:

Chair:	Cllr K Artus
Vice-Chair:	
Parish Councillors:	Cllrs V Ambler, A Fisher, K Stedman, C Webb, A Wilson
Officers:	Mrs A Ferraro
Other councillors:	Cllr N Reeve
Members of the public:	10

26/2/28 Chairman's Welcome

Cllr Artus opened the meeting, explaining that Cllr Strutt was unwell. He extended a welcome to the new councillors.

Cllr Stedman highlighted that the Council had received correspondence from Broadoak Community Investments CIC dated 16th February 2026 inviting the appointment of a new representative director, and that there are no related decisions on this agenda. She added that this item will be considered at a future meeting, noting that some previous CIC-related decisions were taken during a pre-election period.

26/2/29 Public Questions

The Clerk received a request to provide the exact financial increases in the parish council council tax element which were provided as below according to a calculator provided by UDC.

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
Ratio to Band D	**6/9**	**7/9**	**8/9**	**9/9**	**11/9**	**13/9**	**15/9**	**18/9**
2026/27	£173.21	£202.08	£230.95	£259.82	£317.56	£375.30	£433.03	£519.64
2025/26	£92.61	£108.04	£123.48	£138.91	£169.78	£200.65	£231.52	£277.82
Increase	£80.60	£94.04	£107.47	£120.91	£147.78	£174.65	£201.51	£241.82
Increase	87.0%	87.0%	87.0%	87.0%	87.0%	87.0%	87.0%	87.0%

A member of the public asked how the Council was going to inform residents about this increase.
Cllr Artus responded that there was a proposal to issue an information leaflet, and at the initial paper permission hearing of the judicial review, full costs were awarded to the council so that the full cost of the hearing would not fall upon residents. However, there is a renewal hearing at the end of March.
There was a general discussion about informing residents and how the money is to be refunded in the following year's precept.
A member of the public enquired about public participation being streamed.

26/2/30 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Strutt.

26/2/31 Declaration of Interests

Cllr Wilson stated that before he was a councillor he signed in support of proceeding with the judicial review and was involved in BOOST. He added that BOOST now doesn't exist so has no declarable interest in anything that would get in the way of forming a decision.

Cllr Ambler declared a non-registerable interest in the judicial review.

Cllr Artus spoke about interests and the importance of compliance with the code of conduct and that councillors should ensure they have fully considered their interests. In particular, clause 8 requires disclosure where a matter affects the financial interest or well-being of a body in which a member has a role or other registrable interest, and clause 9 requires members to consider whether a reasonable member of the public, knowing all the facts, would believe that such an interest might affect their view of the wider public interest.

Cllr Ambler raised an email sent by the former Clerk in 2024 regarding Cllr Artus which she agreed to send on to him.

The Clerk stated that she felt Cllr Wilson and Cllr Fisher are conflicted on judicial review matters.

Cllr Artus proposed to defer the item on the judicial review committee pending legal advice, this was not seconded.

Cllr Fisher clarified he had no intention of joining the judicial review committee.

26/2/32 Review of Public Participation Arrangements

Cllrs Webb, Fisher, Stedman and Wilson stated that they would like to return to the original public participation format.

Cllr Ambler added that she would like public participation at both the beginning and end of the meeting to be considered.

Cllr Artus stated that he agreed with returning to the original formation, but thought the compromise of retaining the written question options was ideal. He added that he had no objection to public participation also being at the end of the meeting.

Adopted in principle with a formal decision to be taken at a future meeting.

26/2/33 March Meeting Schedule

It was proposed to move the March meeting date to the 18th of March.

Proposer: Cllr Ambler
Seconder: Cllr Stedman
Passed unanimously.

26/2/34 Committee and Working Group Memberships

a) To review the membership of the following committees and working groups:

i) It was agreed to add Cllrs Ambler, Webb and Wilson to the HR/Personnel committee.

Proposer: Cllr Wilson
Seconder: Cllr Ambler
Passed unanimously.

ii) Cllr Artus stood down from the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Committee to due a conflict of interest with the CIC.

It was agreed to add Cllr Fisher to the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Committee as the Chair of the committee.

Proposer: Cllr Fisher
Seconder: Cllr Webb
Passed unanimously.

iii) The Neighbourhood Plan Working Group membership will be considered by the Steering Committee.

iv) It was agreed to add Cllrs Fisher, Stedman and Ambler to the Planning Working Group.

Proposer: Cllr Fisher
Seconder: Cllr Stedman
Passed unanimously.

v) It was agreed to disband the Village Green Committee.

Proposer: Cllr Artus
Seconder: Cllr Stedman
Passed unanimously (Cllr Ambler abstained).

b) It was agreed to add Cllrs Stedman and Ambler to the Highways/Road Safety Committee.

Proposer: Cllr Stedman
Seconder: Cllr Wilson
Passed unanimously.

Cllr Ambler left the meeting.

It was agreed to add Cllrs Wilson and Stedman to the Judicial Review Committee.

Proposer: Cllr Artus
Seconder: Cllr Fisher
Passed unanimously.

26/2/35 Newly Elected Councillors

Councillors noted the appointment of Cllrs Fisher and Wilson.

Meeting closed – 20:06