

Harbottle Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 16th June 2025 at The Star Inn

Present: Cllrs. S. Bolam (Chairman), S. Kenny, J. Ormston, A. Stripp,

1. Apologies for Absence: S. Wardlaw
2. Declarations of Interest: None
3. Minutes of the Meeting held on 12th May 2025 were approved.
4. Matters Arising: None

5. Finance

Audit of the accounts for 2024-5 had been completed without issue
Balance of £3,843.09 in the General Fund and £976.59 in the Emergency Support Fund were noted.

Payments of £60 for a Gift Voucher for Elaine Young for audit work was approved. £20 each to The Star, Steve Poole and Julian Philipson towards electricity used by the defibrillators they host, were approved.

6. Planning

Planning Application 25/01888/COU for a Change of Use at Pedlar's Rest Sharperton to allow the property to be used as an institution for the provision of one child who has suffered severe trauma or abuse, was considered.

There would be two carers on site at all times, together with a teacher and other support and maintenance staff during the day. It was agreed to object to the application for the following reasons:

- (i) The property is situated in an isolated hamlet without services with all staff and visitors having to access it by private transport. This conflicts with the County Council's policies to combat climate change. Experience with a nearby residential institution is that it is difficult to recruit and maintain staff in such a location and that access during bad weather: snow, storm, flood, has proved to be a significant problem so that the institution cannot operate efficiently and well.
- (ii) The property is sited on a single track road without footpath, which is not treated in winter for ice and snow. All vehicles would need

to be able to park within the curtilage of the property and be able to turn and exit forwards onto the highway. We do not think that this is possible for up to six cars in the current space outside the house.

Councillors were also of the view that this is the wrong property in the wrong location for the provision required. It is a substantial property to purchase for the needs of one child removed from other children and families and with significant maintenance and running costs. These costs will be reflected in the charge for the services provided to the County Council and paid for by the council tax payer. A better and more cost effective service would be provided in a more modest property, closer to a community with available workers and public transport.

7. Date of Next Meeting: Monday 14th July

Chairman