

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

MONDAY 17 NOVEMBER 2025 – Heckfield Village Hall, 7.30pm

Present: Parish Councillors Keith Alderman (Chairman), Guy Chessell, Jenny Roberts.
Clerk Susan Turner

2025.

88 WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

Apologies: Andy Piercy, Ward Councillor Anne Crampton, County Councillor Tim Davies.

89 PUBLIC SESSION No members of the public present.

90 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING of Tuesday 14 October, agreed and signed.

91 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST in items on the Agenda, none.

92 REPORTS TO MEETING

.1 **Remembrance service** was well attended including family with children; the event had a strong community feel. Also present, the new associate priest for HMR, Revd Helen Sherlock; police; parish councillors – KA took a reading and read a submitted poem **APPENDIX I**, JR laid the wreath. Thanks to grounds maintenance team for cleaning and clearing the bus shelter in advance.

.2 **Defibrillator training** hosted by Leather Bottle, morning of 12 November. Attended by 22 people, training comprehensive and well received; feedback that found useful, trainer good. Donation of £10 per person made to South Central Ambulance Charity.

TO RECORD thanks to the Leather Bottle for hosting and breakfast; thanks to GC for organising.

AGREED To arrange a evening session – after Christmas – for those unable to make a morning.

93 HOUND GREEN

.1 **Pond project** update re Hart input. Site visit with Hart's Flood Risk Management officer plus ST, KA on 10 November. Officer positive about the project; discussing soil testing and drainage engineer input; suggested further grant funding applications; he is supposed to be providing guidance on the project spec he would like to see. Requested to liaise with Ecologist; Ecologist agreeable; they each have the other's contact details.

.2 Christmas carols on the Green

i Carols – Hound Green residents are pursuing local choir support but proving difficult. Moving to thoughts of a backup recording with speakers and microphone. Awaiting a date for carols, then can further advertise.

ii Christmas tree

Hortus don't offer a service of delivering a live tree with root ball and then removing; they advised against.

Costs for a large tree with lighting is otherwise prohibitive. Examples

- 16ft Norway Spruce or Normandon Fir, eg cost £435 delivered

<https://www.realchristmastrees.co.uk>. We would need to do everything else.

- For a profession company to install a lighted tree cost £1K+ eg Silchester company <https://www.thechristmasdecorators.co.uk/>. We would still need to make provision for the tree to be installed and made safe.

Discussion

- Lighting is very expensive. Hartley Wintney decided one year to not light their tree due to cost – though a resulting public outcry.

- Is it feasible to put lights, or uplighters, in the Oak trees?

- To suggest a small tree (from Hortus) with lights, by the phone box? Question as to how this would be received.

- Happy to discuss providing a Christmas tree if the same provided for all areas of the Parish.

AGREED Parish Council cannot commit to providing a Christmas tree for just Hound Green, and planting a permanent conifer not in keeping. Would support alternative provision for carols – eg a brazier, with roast chestnuts, mulled wine, mince pies; similar has been suggested on Whatsapp. Residents very welcome to organise events on the Green, if they let us know what they are doing, Parish Council happy to give reasonable permission.

For signature (p1 of 4)

.3 Green maintenance

- i Brash pile by phone box (remainder). Groundsman back in contact, catching up. He can move the brash pile from by the phone box early December but definitely not within the next two weeks. Alternative to move to safe space and burn, Action KA.
- ii Ash tree by Lanterns – awaiting price and time scale from tree surgeon for felling, or course of action as advised.

94 GLEBE WOOD Cutting back by hand needed to make the Track easily passible; mostly encroaching bramble tendrils; A job for shears, action KA. Elm trees look to be doing well but the planting area grown up with nettles.

95 HIGHWAYS AND MAINTENANCE

- .1 Ditching on Vicarage Lane** Reported September meeting that the tractor hedge cutting prior to the ploughing match pushed in the field ditch which, importantly, drains from adjacent property. Then thought the situation was to be rectified, the ditch was to be cleared by the landowner; this hasn't happened, though the field has been sown. It seems that a reminder email sent on 14 November (ST) is unlikely to further the ditching work, though no direct response received

CONFIRMED – the ditch is landowner responsibility, it needs to be cleared as a matter of urgency; important to find some way forward.

- .2 Hedge and verge cutting at Little Church Farm.** Noted a really good job and has made a big improvement to visibility along the road.
- .3 Signage** The verge cutting as above revealed remains of village entrance sign for Mattingley. Re-posted request on County website to reinstate / replace the sign.

96 PLANNING

- .1 Parish Planning Applications** – Planning Update **APPENDIX II.**

- i. **New applications since last meeting**

[25/02295/LBC](#) (Validated 06 Nov) Mattingley Church [re farm]. Demolition of lean-to dairy. Request for Listed Building consent for church following withdrawal of previous HCC application 25/01877/HCC. Parish Council no objection, no comment.

[25/02152/HOU](#) and [25/02153/LBC](#) (Validated 31 October) Old Post Office House, Reading Road. Erection of extensions and inclusion of an existing outbuilding into the footprint of the house. Concern re size of proposed extension over-dominating the character of the Old Post Office which is important as a listed building and in its contribution to the setting of / approach to, the Mattingley Green Conservation Area.

[25/02133/AMCON](#) (Validated 29 October) Pheasantry Lodge, Hazeley Heath. Application to vary Condition 1 (approved plans), Condition 2 (Construction Management and Materials Plan) and Condition 5 (landscaping) attached to Planning Permission 24/01562/AMCON dated 22/11/2024 - Variation of Condition 2 (approved plans) attached to planning permission 23/01108/FUL dated 20/09/2023. To change the position of the approved garage/annex building and remove chimney from stairs hall in main house.

A further application for Hatts Cottage. According to the Supporting Statement:

This application seeks to amend a number of the approved plans permitted under application 24/01562/AMCON through the variation of the drawings listed in conditions 1, 2 and 5 of the planning permission. The changes to the approved drawings are as follows:

- Omission of first floor annex accommodation
 - Revised roof design
 - Minor changes to the annex fenestration and ground floor layout
 - Siting of a ground source heat pump and air conditioning unit to the north of main dwelling
- The annex building is partially constructed to eaves level.

Parish Council no objection, no comment.

[25/01962/HOU](#) and [25/01963/LBC](#) (Validated 15 October) Yew Tree Cottage, Hazeley Bottom. Erection of a replacement garage with room in roof and additional single storey games room. Parish Council no objection, no comment.

- ii. **Ongoing applications 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.

Further comment from ighways posted 20 October. 'No objection with condition':

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

'Reason: In the interests of highway safety and amenity.'

Parish Council comment agreed last meeting to be submitted:

'Mattingley Parish Council notes that the Agent's correspondence of 19 September 2025, on behalf of the applicant, indicates that an additional eight parking spaces (on top of the 28 previously proposed) could be provided within the scrub/overgrown area in the SW corner of the site. The Parish Council would no longer object to this application if the provision of these spaces was made a condition of any approval.'

- .2 **Hart Local Plan Update** The Call for Sites (statutory time period) ended 10 October; re-launched 16 October.
- .3 **Wokingham's Local Plan** adopted in September 2024 includes the 'Loddon Garden Village', a development of c4K homes on Reading University land close to Shinfield and Lower Earley. A planning application has been submitted for c2,800 homes, two primary schools and one secondary school, community facilities and a country park; consultation is to 16 January 2026. Two further applications for the rest of the project are expected from Gleeson Land and Hatch Farm. (Noting a similarity with a previously proposed 'Loddon Garden Village' East of Old Basing.)

97 **FINANCE & GOVERNANCE**

- .1 **Accounts to date** **APPENDIX III** Bank reconciliation 15 November = £30,0005.03.

Payments since last meeting

37	EON – Phone box electricity	£9.63
38	PGGM-3207 – Maintenance OCT	£384.00
39	Clerk Salary – OCT	£468.00
40	Heckfield Village Hall-006 – Meeting venue	£32.00
41	Defib store – LB defib child pads (pedi-padz)	£112.80
42	Tesco – LB defib batteries x 10	£50.00
43	SC Ambulance – Donation Defib training	£220.00.

- .2 **Budget update** **APPENDIX IV**

- Phone box electrics including cabinet installation over-budget by £183.60; 'Community' budget presently over by £40 due to defibrillator training; latest estimated shows over budget by £240 at year end allowing for a further defib training session.
- 'General' Parish Maintenance and Glebe Wood budgets have funds remaining.
- Majority of Hart's £5K pond grant remains.

- .3 **Initial budget / Precept discussion for 2026/27** Basic Precept budget modelled on this year, shows a Precept increase of 5% maintaining the status quo with some small surplus to put to tree reserves.

For this year, the Precept was raised by 5% per household to achieve the £15,569 with a tax base of 329.51. Per Band D household = £47.25 (£47.25 x 329.51 = £15,569). An increase on previous year of £2.25 for Band D.

Discussion

- Five per cent increase suggested as a minimum. Over current inflation but a need to build reserves.
- Big unknown of Local Government Reorganisation plus potential to lose County LM funding and County Councillor grant funding budget.
- Five per cent just keeps us ticking over; does little to fund future tree work.

PROVISIONAL AGREEMENT For 7.5% increase, to be confirmed January meeting.

98 **FURTHER REPORTS**

- .1 **SID update** Re conversations with Police at Remembrance service (item 92.1), police value the Speed Indicator and Reminder signs. Important to have them regularly deployed before Mattingley Green and by Hortus.
A recently increased presence with the police camera van in the purpose-built layby by Pegasus. Noting also increase in road racing and drifting / car meets at Wellington roundabout with dark evenings and wet roads.

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.2 Hazeley Heath

- The deer fence is going up for the Bramshill House deer park.
- Agreed to forward KA contact details re the deer cull review.

.3 Plough Lane

- Horse box not there at present, comes and goes; has been parked further away from the road.
- Large pothole between Lea Farm and the bridge; traffic cone by it as a danger to cars (JR), to log on HCC website (ST).

.4 Litter pick Suggestion for community litterpick along B3349; has been done in past, ending from all directions at Leather Bottle. Caution expressed re danger of road. To discover from Hart if they have a schedule for litter clearing the main roads (ST).**.5 Hampshire County Council budget consultation** – circulated.**99 NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS**

Tuesdays, 7.30pm, Heckfield Village Hall meeting room

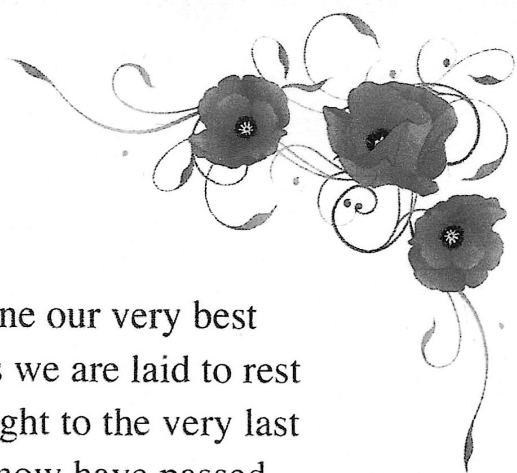
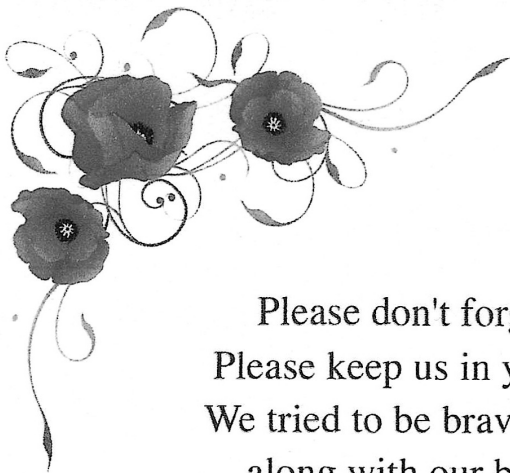
Provisional schedule for 2026

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

Meeting closed 9pm with thanks to all.

For signature (p4 of 4) Date

APPENDIX I REMEMBRANCE POEM – READ AT BUS SHELTER SERVICE 2025



Please don't forget us, we done our very best
Please keep us in your hearts as we are laid to rest
We tried to be brave and we fought to the very last
along with our brothers who now have passed
War is so horrendous but we all stood our ground
to keep you safe with such horror all around
You never forget the sorrow and also the pain
and the sad memories in your mind
that will always remain
And as you're fighting this war
you think of your families back home
waiting for your return and they feel so alone
The adrenaline runs through you and also fear
as the fighting goes on and you pray the end is near
With all of our strength we fought to the very last breath
to be with our loved ones who we once left
We march the path of glory
with angels by our side
Looking down on you all
and our hearts are filled with pride
As the poppies grow and blow softly in the breeze
there is one for each soldier
Don't forget them, please

Marie Wilkinson, Romford



APPENDIX II PARISH PLANNING UPDATE 15 NOVEMBER

NEW APPLICATIONS SINCE LAST MEETING of 14 October

25/02295/LBC (Validated 06 November) Mattingley Church. Demolition of lean-to dairy. Request for Listed Building consent re church following withdrawal of previous HCC application 25/01877/HCC.

25/02152/HOU and 25/02153/LBC (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.

25/02133/AMCON (Validated 29 October) Pheasantry, Lodge Hazeley Heath. Application to vary Condition 1 (approved plans), Condition 2 (Construction Management and Materials Plan) and Condition 5 (landscaping) attached to Planning Permission 24/01562/AMCON dated 22/11/2024 - Variation of Condition 2 (approved plans) attached to planning permission 23/01108/FUL dated 20/09/2023. To change the position of the approved garage/annex building and remove chimney from stairs hall in main house.

25/01962/HOU and 25/01963/LBC (Validated 15 October) Yew Tree Cottage, Hazeley Bottom. Erection of a replacement garage with room in roof space and additional single storey games room.

APPLICATIONS PENDING / RECENTLY DECIDED

25/01916/CA (Validated 06 Oct) Bannisters Farmhouse, Mattingley Green. T1 -Oak – deadwood. T2 - Wild cherry - Crown reduce by 5m and crown lift to 3.5m from ground level.

24/00428/HRA (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)

25/01877/HCC (**Withdrawn 06 November**, Validated 29 Sept) Little Church Farm, Mattingley Green. Demolition of Lean-to Dairy

25/01772/CA (**Pending**, Validated 15 Sept) Yew Tree Cottage, Hazeley Bottom. T1 Sweetgum (Liquid Amber) – Lift canopy by up to 3 metres from ground, and crown thin by up to 20%.

25/01647/PREAPP (**Opinion issued 05 November**, Validated 29 Aug) Stags Barn, Hazeley Lea. Replacement outbuilding and new lightweight glazed link to existing listed barn conversion with repositioned access into curtilage. Planning & heritage advice sought to include an on-site meeting and written response.

From Officer Report: There is an objection to the principle of the proposed physical linking of the two buildings by way of the single storey glazed link. Although reduced in scale upon the previous withdrawn scheme (21/00064/HOU and 21/00065/LBC), due to the sizeable distance between the two buildings it would result in a link extension with a large footprint, which would not appear as a modest link, despite being glazed. The clear, distinct detached character of the two buildings would be blurred by their linking, which would result in a visually large, dominant and discordant extension to the former barn. Furthermore, the replacement of the existing outbuilding, which is itself listed [though though to have been rebuilt], would not be supported without a full assessment of its significance and justification for its removal. Any future application should carefully consider these matters and engage with Historic England where necessary.

The RSPB raised concerns with the works relating to the closing of the existing access and creation of a new access and required further information on whether the works would result in any net loss of the SSSI. Such information would need to be provided in any forthcoming submission for planning.

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.~~

APPENDIX IV BUDGET UPDATE

MPC THIS YEAR at 14 NOV	2025/26 TO DATE	2025/26 LATEST ESTIMATE	2025/26 BUDGET - MAR 2025	2026/27 BUDGET - DRAFT	2027/28 BUDGET - DRAFT
EXPENDITURE					
CLERK'S SALARY	£3,276.00	£5,616.00	£5,191.20	£5,191.20	£5,191.20
CLERK'S ALLOWANCE		£324.00	£324.00	£324.00	£324.00
EXPENSES		£100.00	£100.00	£100.00	£100.00
TRAINING					
GOVERNANCE/ADMIN	£1,437.65	£1,565.00	£1,775.00	£1,825.00	£1,875.00
COMMUNITY / DONATIONS	£540.00	£740.00	£500.00	£500.00	£500.00
HOUND GREEN contract	£2,212.75	£3,688.58	£3,688.58	£3,873.01	£4,066.66
HOUND GREEN other maint	£200.00	£500.00	£500.00	£500.00	£500.00
PARISH MAINTENANCE	£282.68	£500.00	£500.00	£500.00	£500.00
GLEBE WOOD		£500.00	£500.00	£500.00	£500.00
HOUND GREEN TREES - ANNUAL		£1,000.00	£1,000.00	£1,000.00	£1,000.00
Routine (Precept funded)	£7,949.08	£14,533.58	£14,078.78	£14,313.21	£14,556.86
<u>Projects</u>					
Mapboards		£800.00			
Hound Green trees - five-yr					
HOUND GREEN POND	£268.00	£5,000.00	£5,000.00		
Phone Box power & electrics	£408.28	£408.28	£408.28		
Red Hill Gateway	£930.00	£930.00	£3,131.00		
Phone B Debif cabinet install	£283.60	£283.60	£100.00		
VAT	£947.88	£947.88			
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	£10,786.84	£22,903.34	£22,718.06	£14,313.21	£14,556.86
Routine expend (incl VAT)	£8,896.96	£15,481.46	£14,078.78	£14,313.21	£14,556.86
Project expenditure	£1,889.88	£7,421.88	£8,639.28		
INCOME					
PRECEPT	£15,569.00	£15,569.00	£15,569.00	£16,347.45	£17,164.82
County Cllr grant		£800.00			
Grants other					
Vat refund		£1,006.43			
Bank interest	£337.80	£450.00	£350.00	£400.00	£450.00
TOTAL INCOME	£15,906.80	£17,825.43	£15,919.00	£16,747.45	£17,614.82
Surplus // Deficit	£5,119.96	£5,077.91	£6,799.06	£2,434.24	£3,057.96
Balance	£30,005.03	£19,807.16	£18,086.01	£20,520.25	£23,578.21

ALLOCATED RESERVES 2025/26 - YE latest estimate	
Working balance	£15,569.00
Tree Fund	£4,238.16
TOTAL	£19,807.16

Precept 2025/26=

£15,569.00