

Meeting of Hodsock Parish Council

Minutes of **Hodsock Parish Council Meeting** held on the 12th Jan 2026 at Langold Village Hall, the meeting commenced at 5:00pm.

Council Members & Officer Present:	Cllr Sandy Walker	Chairman
	Cllr Graham Coe	Vice-Chair
	Cllr Gill Freeman	Cllr Jack Bowker
	Cllr Sam Perkins	Cllr Nick Smith
	Cllr Mel Morris	Cllr Jackie Wilkinson
	Cllr David Hamilton	
	Ed Knox	Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer
Also, Present	Gill Freeman	District Cllr
	Kath Walker	Chairman of LVHMC for 1 st item

87/25 To Receive Langold Village Hall Management Committee (LVHMC) Report

A member of the Committee advised an update:

- The running cost of the hall in 2025/26 was £55k and income around £50k. The hall committee will be renting out the old office from 1st Apr to generate additional income and increase the hire rates. However, they would ideally like an extra £3k from the parish council precept to help bridge the gap.
- A list of works has been put together for the Lengthsman to undertake around the hall.
- The fire assessment has highlighted the new fire-retardant strips are needed on certain internal doors and 2 of the emergency lights are faulty, the Lengthsman has agreed to undertake resolving these. The assessment also highlighted that a new fire door is required, Cllr Walker looking into costs for a replacement.
- CCTV system being upgraded to remove all the existing blind spots around the building and to relocate the control panel to an accessible location.
- The LVHMC Chairman discussed with Cllr Hamilton the possibility that an indoor bowls youth group could be started at weekends.

88/25 To Receive District & County Councillors Reports

Dist Cllr Freeman: Advised that no elections will be held at District Level until the Unitary Authority is created. Bassetlaw are undertaking the following improvements at Langold Lake:

- A new water treatment plant for the toilet block and the splash park.
- Toilet Block repairs, these will be undertaken in February with a view to open at the end of that month.

County Cllr John: Did not attend.

➤ Adjournment – (15-Minute Maximum) Public Forum

None.

89/25 To Approve Apologies for Absence

Cllr Batey did not attend and will therefore cease to be a Cllr before the next meeting.

90/25 To Record Declarations of Interest in any items to be discussed

Cllr Bowker declared an interest in 97/25 1.

91/25 To Approve the previous meeting Minutes

After discussion, Cllr Smith **Proposed**, Cllr Perkins **Seconded** and the council **resolved** to accept the minutes. The chairman signed the minutes of the previous meeting.

92/25 To Discuss the Know Your Place Process

The Clerk has emailed the Neighbourhood Planner to request the Know Your Place process to start in April/May 2026.

93/25 To Discuss Speedwatch

Cllr Hamilton has been in touch with Blyth Parish Council, they are keen to run a joint Speedwatch Group, as they haven't enough volunteers on their own. The Police have been approached but no response yet to get the process started.

94/25 To Discuss an update on the Youth Worker

Cllr Morris advised about a company called Lync Active Kids who can set up a Youth Worker Group over the School Summer Holidays. The cost of this is around £3,600. The group could work with 15 children 9am to 5pm to undertake a variety of activities. They can do themed weeks where activities vary each week. Cllr Walker offered to set up a working group with Cllr Morris to progress the idea, and work through all the various questions around how this would work and report back at the next Parish Council meeting. After further discussion, Cllr Perkins **Proposed**, Cllr Morris **Seconded** and the council **resolved** to proceed with a summer club via Lync Active, with the cost being met this year from VAT reclaimed in 2025/26, if the club is a success, and therefore arranged each year, the cost for 2027 onwards will be added to the Precept.

95/25 To Discuss a Cemetery Memorial Safety Inspector

Cllr Walker has been in touch with NAMM, they offer a 1-day training course with an exam and need a min of 6 people to attend to hold the course, the cost is £1000. Cllr Walker to reach out to Blyth and Carlton Parish Councils, who also operate their own cemeteries to see if there is interest in sharing costs for the training course. Cllr Walker to report back at the next meeting if there was enough interest from other parishes.

96/25 To discuss an update on Langold Cemetery Matters

Cllr Walker advised there's been an issue disrespectful person quad-biking around the cemetery over graves! There's also been some antisocial behaviour and someone driving a car down the footpath on the right-hand side of the cemetery. Cllr Walker has reported matters to the Police and obtained a crime number, the Police advised that if anyone sees anything happening at the cemetery, to ring 999 and they will come straight out. After further discussion of a solution to keep motorists to the designated carpark, Cllr Wilkinson **Proposed**, Cllr Coe **Seconded** and the council **resolved** to use £600 from the cemetery reserve fund to install key coded gates which will prevent access beyond the carpark.

97/25 Finance:

Payments & Receipts

After discussion of the Financial Information, circulated by email before the meeting, the council unanimously **resolved** to accept them as a true and accurate record and the Chairman signed the bank reconciliations and statements.

1. To Approve Payments:

The Council **approved** the following: -

<u>Payee</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Rent-A-Cut Ltd	Cemetery Maintenance & Liaison Officer Two months	£1,960
Rent-A-Cut Ltd	Cemetery Inter ashes (A114 Robinson)	£129.25
Lili Waste Services Ltd	Cemetery Bin Service Direct Debit	£85.99
Lili Waste Services Ltd	Cemetery Bin Service Direct Debit	£94.69
Lengthsman	Cemetery Chainsaw Blade, Petrol 10Ltr, Strimmer wire & paint	£79.50
Pear Technology Ltd	Large Paper A0 Folded Maps	£30
Toparia Environmental Ltd	Cemetery Lime Tree Pollarding and Clear up	£4,434
Cllr Walker	Amazon Dog Fouling Stencils & Paints	£45.85
Member of Public	Refund for Plot G132 no longer required	£500
Total Payments		£7,359.28

2. Receipts:

<u>From</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Dolbys Funerals	Cemetery Ashes Interment A45 Mould	£340
Member of Public	Cemetery Transfer EROB D57 Pickford	£40
Pear Technology Ltd	Cemetery Refund (Discount) on Cemetery Mapping Package	£840
Dolby Funeral Directors	Cemetery Interment Plot G112 Cavanagh & EROB Transfer	£840
Memories In Stone	Cemetery Memorial Amendment Plot G112 Cavanagh	£100
Beecroft memorials	Cemetery Memorial Amendment A114 Robinson	£100
Member of Public	Cemetery Memorial Amendment G146 Hill	£100
Unity Trust Bank	Interest	£441.84
Total Receipts		£2,801.84
<u>Unity Trust Bank</u>		
<u>Current Account</u>		£20,886
<u>Deposit Account</u>		£66,869.86
Grand Total All Bank Accounts		£87,755.86

Direct Debits (Cemetery Lilli Waste, Water Plus, Bank Charge) and Standing Orders for staff salaries including PAYE and Pension, previously **approved**.

Budget/Ringfenced items:

• Christmas Lights	£4,550.37
• Cemetery	£7,874
• Total Earmarked Reserves	<u>£12,424.37</u>
• General Reserves/Operating Costs	£75,331.49
• Total	<u>£87,755.86</u>

3. To Approve the next financial year’s Budget & Set a Precept:

The Clerk circulated the draft budget with precept requirement options for the next financial year and the to allow each member time to prepare for making a decision.

Bassetlaw District Council Concurrent Grant has reduced year on year to just **£67**. Explaining the reduction of the Concurrent Grant, Bassetlaw District Council wrote to each Parish Council to state that: “*we continue to reduce the concurrent grant; therefore, you need to factor in these reductions, you will see that Harworth & Bircotes Parish Council decided some years ago to substantially increase their precept and invest in their infrastructure for their local people.*”

NALC (National Association of Local Councils) and the SLCC (Society of Local Council Clerks) advise that Parish Councils should not set any arbitrary, random figure for their precepts, the law requires parish councils to set a precept that is a ‘balancing figure’ known in legislation as the ‘council tax requirement’. The precept should be set to be the amount of money required to ‘balance’ the accounts after deducting all ‘other expected regular annual income’ in our case this is all rental income from Parish Land and Property:

Other Income	Income Amount	Precept Saving per home @ Band D	Precept Saving per home @ Band A
Bassetlaw Concurrent Grant	£67	£0.09	£0.06
Bassetlaw Street Cleaning Grant	£1,661	£2.20	£1.46
Notts County Council Lengthsman Grant	£1,150	£1.52	£1.01
Bassetlaw District Council Cemetery Grant	£1,696	£2.24	£1.49
Cemetery Income	£8,000	£10.58	£7.04
Openreach Wayleave Telegraph Pole	£10.50	£0.01	£0.01
Total	£12,584.50	£16.64	£11.07

Guidance from NALC when setting a precept and budget includes the following advice: “*In recent national and regional County Officer meetings there has been discussion about setting precepts; several County Officers have been alarmed to hear comments from Parish Council Members such as ‘we can’t increase the precept because of the ‘cost of living crisis’.* If your council has an “average” council tax rate then a 10% inflationary increase in your council’s precept would only cost a Band D household 50p a month more. This is regardless of the size of your parish, i.e., such an increase doesn’t impact smaller parishes more, contrary to popular opinion. The same applies if your council chooses NOT to apply an inflationary increase to your precept, i.e., reducing your council’s spending power to “save parishioners money” will not have a meaningful effect on the costs facing households but will limit your abilities as a local council. It is worth remembering that the average total Band D bill only accounts for just under 4% of that overall bill, compared to the County Council for example, which accounts for 74% of the same bill. we hope these few words will help councils to justify any increases and to remove any guilt councillors may feel about those increases.”

Inflation CPI for the previous 12 months approximately 3.5%. In addition to the usual running costs, after taking into consideration the self-generated income, a precept rise is required to cover the balance of regular recurring expenditure, including inflation.

The Council noted that if the summer youth club event becomes a success and is made an annual event, that between £3,600 and £4,000 will need to be added to the 2027/28 precept. The cost of the Christmas Lights in 2025/26 was £4,100, there is enough ring-fenced reserves of £4,550 to cover 2026/27, therefore, it would be in 2027/28 when it needs to be added to the precept if the lights are to continue.

After discussion of the budget options, Cllr Walker **Proposed** a vote, all members in favour for approving the draft budget, with one amendment to increase the expenses cost of the Lengthsman Scheme from £2,000 to £2,500, the request for £3,000 extra to the village hall was also discussed therefore, **resolved to 1)** approve the budget, with £500 extra for the Lengthsman scheme and £2,000 extra to the Village Hall. **2)** to set precept

of £94,470 = to Band D at £124.89 per year (£10.41 per month). **Action**, the RFO to submit the completed Precept paperwork to Bassetlaw District Council.

Last year the precept was:

- Band D amount was £108.25 per year (£9.02 per month).

It is also worth noting that homes in bands A to C, will pay less than the Band D figure. Homes with only 1 adult occupant, are entitled to receive a further 25% reduction on the above figures, with additional reductions for residents in receipt of certain benefits. Details are found by contacting Bassetlaw Council regards Council Tax reduction.

In comparison with other parishes in Bassetlaw, this is still a modest precept, for example, at Band D, **last year** in Tuxford which is the same size as Langold 2135 electorate, was £187.70, Misterton Electorate 1709 £177.48. Carlton-In-Lindrick's precept is only £104 because they have an electorate 4837, had Carlton had the same electorate as Langold their precept at Band D would be in the region of £282.

98/25 To Note Dog Fouling Issues raised with Bassetlaw District Council

The Council noticed that the stencil programme is working on certain areas of Langold. The Lengthsman will continue to refresh the stencil markers every quarter. Cllr Bowker to put up signage about dog fouling which Cllr Freeman has from Bassetlaw Council. Cllr Walker asked if anyone had any further ideas on dog fouling, Cllrs had nothing further to add beyond what has previously been agreed.

99/25 To Note any Planning Responses via the Scheme of Delegation

Since the previous meeting the parish council responded via the scheme of delegation as follows and also discussed the following at today's meeting:

- **25/01258/HSE - Erect Two Storey Rear Extension and Front Porch Extension - 61 Church Street Langold S81 9NW** – The Council responded as follows *“The Council supports the application and has no further comment to make”*.

There being no further business, the Chairman thanked everyone for their contributions and closed the meeting at 6:35pm.