HANSLOPE PARISH COUNCIL
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Minutes of the Meeting of Hanslope Parish Council on Monday 14th September 2026, 7pm at Hanslope Pavilion, MK19 7LG.

MINUTES

Present:

D Courtman (Chair)
R Simpkins
V Peddle
H Needham
A Havill

Ward Cllr: A Andrew
Clerk: G Merry

0 members of the public

MOTION: To exclude the public for items 26.108, in accordance with the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, PROPOSED by Cllr Simpkins SECONDED by Cllr Peddle and AGREED

26.97 Apologies: Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs Wallond, Price and Flatley

26.98 Minutes from previous meetings held 13/7/26 and 2/9/26
MOTION: to approve the minutes of the last 2 meetings, PROPOSED by Cllr Needham SECONDED by Cllr Havill and AGREED

26.99 Declarations of Interest: None

26.100 Public Participation: No items

26.101 Council

i. **Clerk's report:** At 31/08/26, income stood at £91,362 (55% of budget) and expenditure at £84,475 (51% of budget), with £14,986 from EMRs. The second instalment of the precept will be received this week. In July, meetings were held with the community centre WG, the allotment committee, and the Rec. liaison group. During August, there have been meetings of the Community Centre WG, as well as site visits to coffee shops in PC-owned parks. The 7 play events were well attended but ongoing issues with vandalism & antisocial behaviour over the summer, necessitated police reports and follow-ups, taking up clerk's time. The PC is now VAT registered and the month 1 refund received. Managing pitch preparation during a significant drought, proved difficult and how best to tackle this going forward is under review. The 'GoFundMe' campaign for the community centre now has £1615, including £300 from the sports quiz. Looking ahead, Milton Keynes will hold parish council elections on 6/5/27, including Hanslope. The process involves all current parish Cllrs stepping down and reapplying if they wish to stand again. It will not be known until April '27 who is standing and the clerk is not involved in administrating this process, although Cllrs will be kept informed re. relevant dates. If there are 9 or more applications, there will be an election, if there are less, there will be no election and the 9 or less, will form the council after May 6th. It is extremely helpful to know who is reapplying, as the clerk must publicise vacancies and ensure the council is quorate.

ii. **Neighbourhood watch, crime and ASB:** Cllr Andrew advised that Hanslope Fields and the Wheatfields have NW in place already. For the remainder of the village, someone would need to volunteer. It was agreed the clerk will find out the cost of signage and the matter

will go on to the next agenda. The clerk circulated the ASB log for July and August. All incidents have been reported and will continue to be reported, to TVP.

iii. **Highways/Speeding**: Highways expected the PC to pay for implementation of the speed limit change to Forest Rd, which the clerk has addressed. Cllr Andrew advised Highways will now follow their process, starting with consultations, followed by a TRO if there is sufficient budget to proceed. Installation of the SID pole at Tathall End by Highway's contractors, is still awaited.

iv. **Any additional reports from Cllrs:**

- **Ward Cllr Report:**
  - Station Road, letter sent to WNC. On track for full closure between 28th Sept and 23 October. Have checked in with the contractor too. I will be delivering some letters to let people know but would appreciate the PC's doing everything they can to let people know, as this will be a significant diversion for many and for several weeks. AA will further confirm it is going ahead the week before it is due to start.
  - MK North – there has been no further information coming forth from the New Town's Commission. The full debate can be viewed at Council, Milton Keynes City Council – Wednesday 17 June (19:30) - YouTube The petition from residents starts at 13 mins and the debate at 1:17:0.
  - There have been changes to the NPPF. MKCC has provided briefing notes to outline changes - circulated.
  - Response requested from Hanslope Surgery/Danes Camp Medical Group on their intention re. the S106 funds that are available. So far without success. There is approximately £780,000 that has been collected. Local PCs to write to the group to ask similar and perhaps help to provide a response? MKCC are working offering to coordinate with Northants ICB - Just need the practice group to respond and progress.
  - Road safety – The safety chevrons through Devils Dip and Tathall End have now been completed. Highways will confirm dates for the other matters from our onsite meeting when available.
  - TVP carried out Op Drover in the local area 14/9/26 with AA in attendance.

26.102 Planning

i. **New planning applications: July 2026 and updates**. No new applications this month.
MOTION: Not required

ii. Update S215 Notice – 2 Long Street Road: Planning enforcement notified that the S215 process had started and the clerk will chase this up. Cllr Andrew will follow up, as the process should not take this long.

26.103 Finance

i. **Reconciliations & financial situation report to August 31st 2026:** The clerk circulated the August accounts and Cllr Price is checking the reconciliation reports. There were no questions.

ii. **Internal auditor - to consider independence of auditor:** A new requirement this year from the external auditor. The clerk gave examples of where the internal auditor has acted objectively in the role, giving advice and notifying where there may have been conflict of interest. It was agreed that the auditor acts with professionalism and clear independence in her role.

iii. **Audit 2025-26 update:** The clerk had circulated the eternal audit report which had been signed off. She clarified an error, where she had included one fixed asset in two columns of the asset register. When picked up by audit, this was corrected and signed off.

iv. **Approval of payments Sept 2026:** The list of payments was circulated as follows: -

DATE	Invoice from	For	Net	Vat	Total
26/06/2026	Elan City	New SID	£ 2,500.00	£ 500.00	£ 3,000.00
09/08/2026	Anglian Water (Wave)	Rec. Supply May-Aug	£ 452.54		£ 452.54
10/08/2026	Anglian Water (Wave)	Allotments Supply May-Aug	£ 291.07		£ 291.07
17/08/2026	Terry Cordery	Solar Panel, windows and external cleaning	£ 250.00		£ 250.00
19/08/2026	Hugo Hardy Architect	3rd payment @5% RIBA stage 1	£ 3,150.00		£ 3,150.00
19/08/2026	PKF Littlejohn LLP	Completion of external audit	£ 630.00	£ 126.00	£ 756.00
27/08/2026	PropertyCare Bucks	Code change - Hall door	£ 60.00	£ 12.00	£ 72.00
27/08/2026	Defib Shop/Imperative Training	Replacement defib pads x 2	£ 190.00	£ 38.00	£ 228.00
28/08/2026	PCP Surveyors Ltd	Quantity Surveying RIBA stages 1-6	£ 2,800.00	£ 560.00	£ 3,360.00
31/08/2026	Suez	Aug empties - wheely bins	£ 71.85	£ 14.37	£ 86.22
28/08/2026	Rialtas Business Solutions	Software support and training for MTD	£ 80.00	£ 16.00	£ 96.00
29/08/2026	Tove Landscapes	Tress reduction Harkness Court pond	£ 400.00	£ 80.00	£ 480.00
29/08/2026	Tove Landscapes	Watering of 'dugout' areas - 2 x daily x 2 weeks	£ 516.00	£ 103.20	£ 619.20
29/08/2026	Tove Landscapes	Landscape Maintenance Contract - Aug	£ 2,522.91	£ 504.59	£ 3,027.50
29/08/2026	Tove Landscapes	Pitch Remedial Works (Football Fdn Grant)	£ 800.00	£ 160.00	£ 960.00
31/08/2026	Anne Washington	Aug Caretaking	£ 420.00		£ 420.00
01/09/2026	Simon Bates	Weed herbicide application - whole village	£ 860.00		£ 860.00
01/09/2026	Marcus Young Ltd	Bins and dog bins – Aug	£ 674.30	£ 134.86	£ 809.16
04/09/2026	Geoffrey Leaver Solicitors	Legal work re. pond	£ 637.50	£ 127.50	£ 765.00
04/09/2026	Pidge's Poop Scoop	4x cleans – Aug	£ 120.00		£ 120.00
07/09/2026	Tara Davies	Cleaning – Aug	£ 200.00		£ 200.00
07/09/2026	G Merry	PC Expenses – June	£ 58.30		£ 58.30
07/09/2026	Red Marshall	Podcast – Aug	£ 120.00		£ 120.00
10/09/2026	Reimburse H Needham	Refreshments for allotment social	£ 125.44		£ 125.44
11/09/2026	Premiership Sportsturf Ltd	Pitch marking - 2026-27 football season	£ 450.00	£ 50.00	£ 500.00
GRANT	**APPLICATIONS**				£ -
01/09/2026	Village Hall Committee	Annual Grant	£ 4,000.00		£ 4,000.00

The village hall application was discussed and the increase in costs acknowledged. For this reason, it was agreed to increase the usual £4000 by 10% to £4400, as a gesture of goodwill, to be reviewed each year.

MOTION: To approve invoices as presented PROPOSED by Cllr Simpkins, SECONDED by Cllr Peddle and AGREED

26.104 Recreation Ground

i. **New Community Centre:** The clerk circulated the current budget situation @£791,087 and the minutes from the last WG meeting, attended by Cllrs Wallond, Simpkins and Peddle. It

was discussed and agreed that the outcome of the QS costings @£1.5 million, was more than the parish council could raise and there was too much risk involved with the larger build. It was agreed to go back to the original priorities from the public consultation and plan for a smaller renovation build.
MOTION: To agree the updated designs, ground plans and internal accommodations NOT AGREED – MOTION NOT CALLED
MOTION: To agree cost of pre-application planning advice- MOTION not required

ii. **Watering:** Due to drought conditions in July and August, the clerk used her approval limit, to authorise the contractor to water 2 small areas of the football pitch, daily for one week. Following this, the clerk obtained approval from the chairman, as per Financial Regulations, for another week of daily watering.

26.105 Village Projects

i. **Updates on Hanslope Fields transfer of car park and Public Open Spaces:** The solicitor had confirmed that there has been no response from Bloor Homes, who will now have received the transfer document.
ii. **Update on transfer of Wheatfields Public Open Spaces:** No progress.
iii. **Bin emptying contract - to appoint a contractor for 3-years:** 4 tenders had been received and these had been evaluated by a working group of Cllrs Courtman & Simpkins and the clerk. It was agreed to award the contract the current operator, Marcus Young Landscapes, as pricing was significantly less than the other 3.
MOTION: To agree the recommendation from the working group – Marcus Young landscapes @ £2.75/bin, £3.30/DWB, £156.00/week, £8,408.40/year: PROPOSED by Cllr Havill SECONDED by Cllr Simpkins AGREED

iv. **Installation of bin at community orchard @ approximately £500 + 143 per year for empties:** The committee had requested a bin at the orchard and this was discussed & agreed.
MOTION: To agree the installation PROPOSED by Cllr Havill, SECONDED Cllr Needham and AGREED

v. **Community library update:** Siting the library was discussed and it was agreed to investigate the right-hand side of the alley, next to the shop. The clerk will organise permissions and Cllr Andrew will request books from MK library.
vi. **Buck's Best Kept Village:** The PC noted that Hanslope came joint 2nd in the competition this year and the judge's comments were circulated. It was agreed that Cllrs Needham and Havill will take over this project from Cllr Simpkins going forward.
vii. **Christmas lights and Lantern parade 5/12/26:** Mrs Glanville is organising the workshops to create the lanterns again this year and had suggested road closures for the parade. However, the clerk advised that whichever roads were closed, would result in bottlenecked traffic elsewhere, affecting safety. She suggested having extra marshals this year: RS +1, VE +1, RW + 4, AH + 1 and AF had already volunteered, totalling 13 Marshalls. All Cllrs were asked to check their availability. Tove landscapes have agreed to drive in front of the parade again, with music. All were asked to attend and the lights & tree installation were discussed.
MOTION: To agree the Christmas lights installation/removal quote at £1662, PROPOSED by Cllr Needham SECONDED by Cllr Simpkins and AGREED

26.106 Allotments: Cllr Havill advised that 3 eviction letters have been served, following 28-day notice periods, to those who had not worked their plots this year. There is a waiting list of applicants

once these plots have been tidied. Cllr Needham was thanked for installation of the new swap table and for the work she put into the picnic event on 6/9/26. The clerk advised that the S106 application for improvements, is due to go before the MKCC board in October, for approval.

26.107 Date of Next Meeting: 12th October 2026 at 7pm

Closed Session:

26.108 village pond: Due to unlawful stripping of plant life in the village pond by members of the public, an emergency PC meeting had been held on 21/8/26 and formal action agreed, by majority vote. These actions were PROPOSED retroactively by Cllr Courtman SECONDED by Cllr Peddle and AGREED.
Signage was discussed and it was agreed the clerk would put together costings for the next meeting, for different types of signs. It's important for the public to understand that the pond is maintained under ecology and biodiversity principles. Cllr Simpkins had contacted the ecology officer, who had advised the best course of action to recover the plant life, is to do nothing at this time.

…… **Signed**

…….. **Date**