



Minutes of the Highclere Parish Council Meeting

Westridge Studio

Tuesday 13 January at 7.30pm

Members Present: Cllr York (chair), Cllr Bartholomew, Cllr Morrey, Cllr Falconer, Cllr Easton, Cllr MacIver, Cllr Malone, Cllr Eye

Clerk: Amy White

In attendance: Colin Wall, one member of the public

1. 86/25 Apologies for Absence

None.

2. 87/25 Declarations of Interest

None.

3. 88/25 To agree Minutes of Meeting held on 09 December 2025

The Minutes of 09 December 2025 were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman, Cllr York.

4. 89/25 Matters arising from Meeting held on 09 December 2025

Number	Action	Person
67/25	Colin Wall to research a different SEA provider to compare to the quote already requested from AECOM. See item 8. Remove from actions.	Colin Wall
80/25	Clerk and Cllr Izett to work together on a banner for A343 regarding Oakley Farm- remove from actions, see item 8.	Clerk/ Cllr Izett
83/25	Clerk to purchase ElanCity SID.	Clerk

5. 90/25 Public participation

No one was present.

6. 91/25 Reports from County and Borough Councillors

No one was present.

7. 92/25 Update on 7, 7A Bus Services: Current Action

The Ashmansworth taxi service is now up and running (as of 12 January 2026). HCC will be sending out flyers in the next few days which the Clerk will post on noticeboards and bus stops.

Action: Clerk to post Ashmansworth taxishare info to noticeboards.

8. 93/25 Planning

Steve Lee's regulation 18 draft response:

Cllr York has added some Highclere-specific wording to the draft document. He will work with Colin Wall to add more information on the proposed extra 20 house allocation to Highclere. The deadline for completion is 23 January 2026.

Cllr MacIver has created two more documents, one a summary of the HPC response, the other a more user-friendly guide to why HPC is objecting to Oakley Farm. Both will be added to the website/Facebook etc.

Action: Clerk to add Regulation 18 documents on Facebook/website when complete.

Impact on the developing Neighbourhood Plan: Colin Wall attended and also provided a position summary:

Since the report from the SEA of the HNP was published, Basingstoke & Deane BC (B&D) have put a revised Local Plan Update (LPU) out for a consultation which concludes on 23/01/26. This LPU raises the Housing Requirement (HR) placed on HNP from 10 dwellings to 20. This will likely need a new SEA which may or may not bring the same result.

The same LPU includes a policy allocation of 500 dwellings on the site of Oakley Farm on the opposite side of the Andover Road to the recently authorised Watermill Bridge development of 270 dwellings of which some 150 lie within the HNP Neighbourhood Area (NA).

Since the SEA was published the Government has put a new Draft National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) out for consultation until 10/03/26. This is significant for providing a variety of conditions under which NP HRs may be made or revised.

Despite the above changes our objective remains to complete the NP as expeditiously as possible. However, until the full implications and validity of the latest changes have been explored, understood and agreed we are unable to move forward.

What we need to move forward

In order to restart the process we need to know if we can get the SEA revised for 20 without redoing the whole exercise- AECOM have yet to respond to those questions. We want an HR for the whole NA. Currently we can see 650 dwellings and 1500 residents coming to Highclere, doubling the Parish population. The Watermill Bridge numbers now seem set at 270 of which approximately 150 are in Highclere. It seems the Oakley Farm developer originally asked for 550, the SHELAA suggests 440 but the LPU says approximately 500.

At this point, *it was agreed to suspend advancement of the Neighbourhood Plan until HPC gets clarification on the Local Plan and funding required for completing it.* Advice may still be sought from Plan-ET on an as-required basis.

Meeting with Cllr Harvey 15 January 2026

HPC, EWPC and Ashmansworth councillors are invited to attend this meeting at Woolton Hill Church Hall.

Cllr York will introduce Highclere's position, with other councillors asking specific questions on sustainability (Cllr McIver), Neighbourhood Plan (Colin Wall), DC committee (Cllr Falconer), and what Highclere get out of it in terms of facilities (Cllr Eyre).

9. 94/25 HPC Action Plan

The new ElanCity SID has been purchased at a cost of £2489.99. Once received, Cllr Easton will investigate the data potentials before Kevin Tooze (SID contractor) places it along the A343.

There is no update on National Landscapes (no reply received).

Cllr Morrey has still had no response from Savills ref The Glebe.

Projects identified at the previous meeting are still to be included for discussion in February.

Footpaths- Clerk will report two broken footpath signs on the Hants website.

Action: All to consider HPC projects for next meeting.

Action: Clerk to report two broken footpath signs (733/732) on the Hants website.

10. 95/25 Financial Matters

a. Accounts for payment

The Clerk presented accounts for payment (see end of Minutes).

Bank reconciliation as at 31 December 2025:

Unity Bank Current Account: £20592.05

Unity Bank Savings Account: £46287.61

Total: £: **66879.66**

The Clerk confirmed a December payment of funds to Penwood Nurseries and Bruno Hamel for Westridge Studio landscaping. This is within the earmarked reserve for Westridge for 25/26.

b. Budget third draft- attached to end of Minutes

Currently £11k of unallocated reserve, to be allocated to appropriate projects (see above item).

c. Precept decision

The Clerk advised a 3% increase in precept spend, based on 25/26 underspend and the budget for 26/27. This equates to £27059, or £35.02 per band D property, based on the tax base received from BDBC, an increase of £1.41 from 25/26.

The precept request was agreed at £27059.

d. Internal Auditor

The council agreed for Eleanor Greene (DoTheNumbers) to continue as the internal auditor for 25/26 financial year.

11. 96/25 Items to take forward to subsequent meeting

Projects for next F/Y and 3-5 years (as per Action Plan). Policies and procedures for updating.

Date of next Meeting: Tuesday 10 February 2026

Actions from 13 January 2026 Meeting

Number	Action	Person
92/25	Clerk to post Ashmansworth taxishare info to noticeboards.	Clerk
93/25	All to consider HPC projects for next meeting. Clerk to add Regulation 18 documents on Facebook/website when complete.	All Clerk
94/25	All to consider HPC projects for next meeting. Clerk to report two broken footpath signs (733/732) on the Hants website.	All Cllrs Clerk