



MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT THE VILLAGE HALL ON MONDAY, 27 JULY 2026 AT 7.30PM

Present: Andrew Marchant
David Oxley
Cllr David House
Amanda Parker
Jan Pledger

Members of the Public: Sarah Cruise
Robert Caldwell
Gemma Fry

District/ County Councillor: CC Terry Smith

Police: None Present

Apologies: Simon Bagnall
PCSO Leon De Bruyn
Jenny and Gus Goymour

Officer present: Caroline Jones (Clerk)

68.1 Apologies Received - Apologies were received from Cllr Simon Bagnall, Jenny and Gus Goymour.

68.2 Personal / Prejudicial Declarations - No declarations were made.

68.3 County / District Councillor Comments

68.4 County Council Update

CC Terry Smith provided the following update:

- Jeff Jones has been elected as the new District Councillor for Little Hadham and will also represent this area.
- Hertfordshire is currently experiencing a backlog in verge and tree cutting. An additional £500,000 of funding has been approved by Full Council to support this work. The reporting system is not functioning effectively and, as EHDC's service is outsourced, a backlog has developed. The Parish Council raised a concern that grass cutting has not been carried out at the school and playing field. It was confirmed that responsibility for verge cutting lies with NHDC, whilst the A10 verges are maintained by contractors. All related work is undertaken by third parties. The "No Mow May" initiative has contributed to ongoing maintenance delays, with recovery work continuing through June and July.

Local Government Re-organisation (LGR) Review

- The proposed four-way split of local government authorities was not supported by local councils.
- HCC proposed two unitary authorities, while EHDC proposed three.
- It was noted that additional authorities would result in increased administration costs, including a mayoral structure. Royston and Broxbourne are expected to be incorporated into East Herts.
- County Hall has now closed.
- The Secretary of State ultimately approved a four-unitary authority model.

Other Updates

- Construction has commenced on the new Amwell View SEND School off the A10.
- The Crisis Centre near Bowling Green Lane Car Park, Buntingford, is due to open in September.
- Concerns remain over antisocial behaviour in Buntingford, particularly around Baldock Road and the 24-hour shop.
- Planning permission has been granted for the "Torrine" development on Ermine Street, near the SEND school at the junction with Neal Drive. The development comprises 38 residential units and is located close to the Maples development (SG9 9RT).

68.5 Public Comments - No public comments were received.

68.6 Police - No crimes were reported.



68.7 Minutes from Meeting Held 18 May 2026

Village Hall Update: Amend should read "No further update. A full update was provided during the earlier AGM meeting." Newsletter: Amend "send" to "sent".

68.8 Planning

68.8.1 Little Thatch: 3/26/0775/HH – Installation of 18 ground-mounted solar panels and erection of screen fencing. Comments were due by 04.08.26. The application was discussed and no comments or objections were raised.

68.8.2 Snow End House, SG9 ODN: 3/26/0270/CLPO and 3/26/0147/LBC – Installation of 24 solar panels behind existing hedges and trees, with battery storage located within a shed. No comments or objections were raised. Decision awaited.

68.8.3 Land at St George's End: 3/25/1204/FUL – Proposed construction of two 2-bed and two 3-bed dwellings. Decision awaited.

68.8.4 Land off Flinthall Road / Anderson Lane: 3/26/0333/FUL – Approved on 12.06.26.

68.8.5 No other planning applications were discussed.

68.9 Finance

68.9.1 The summary of funds for the current financial year was approved and accepted.

68.9.2 The Bank Reconciliation dated 11 May 2026 was accepted and approved.

68.9.3 Payments for May and June 2026 were approved. The next payment to Sharpe Print will be reduced by £6 to account for a previous overpayment.

68.9.4 AGAR Audit Forms were approved and signed at the conclusion of the meeting, including:

- Certificate of Exemption
- Internal Audit Report
- Annual Governance Statement

68.9.5 Good Neighbours Scheme : A request was received for a £300 contribution towards insurance costs.

It was agreed to match last year's contribution (Hormead and Brent Pelham Parish Councils each contribute £100 towards the scheme).

68.9.6 RoW Modification Order

The submission has been approved and is currently ranked sixth in the priority order of applications received.

- The footpath at the top of the route did not previously connect to the main road; this has now been included.
- The public road terminates at the church.
- Planning officers have been informed.

Bone Alley

- Advice has been sought from solicitors in Cambridge regarding the historic village rights associated with Bone Alley.
- Historical maps show that the original road crossed the field and connected past the school. The Village Hall and School were once located on the same site.
- All interested-party submissions have been received.
- Thanks were expressed to those involved in progressing this work.

68.9.7 Highways / Vegetation

Grass cutting remains outstanding in the centre of the village. Areas around the school and playing fields have yet to be maintained, and visibility at the corner remains poor.

68.9.8 Flooding

68.9.8.1 Silkmead - No issues reported.

68.9.8.2 Cave Gate - No update received.

68.10 Playing Field

Sewage had previously pooled near the skateboard park. The playing field has not yet been reinspected.

68.11 Sewerage Charges Update

It was agreed that this item should be removed from future agendas and is being progressed outside council meetings.

68.12 The Hundred Parishes Society

The benefits of membership were discussed:

- Articles can be included as attachments within parish newsletters.



- The organisation promotes matters affecting rural communities.
- There are 149 walking routes available via its website.
- Membership costs £10 per year.
- Grant applications are available to member organisations after three years of membership.

Previous grant-funded projects have included:

- New and refurbished village signs
- Community gardens
- War memorial improvements

Members agreed that a village sign would be beneficial. Stocking Pelham was cited as a positive example. Grants of up to £7,000 were awarded during the previous year. It was unanimously agreed that the Parish Council would join the Society.

68.13 Church - No update was available.

68.14 School / Parking - No change or update was reported.

68.15 Village Hall

- The Film Club is currently taking a summer break and will resume in the Autumn.
- The school made significant use of the hall towards the end of term, including hosting the production of Matilda.
- The stage remains in place.
- During the recent hot weather, the hall remained noticeably cool and the Headteacher requested use of the hall as an overspill space during periods of extreme heat.
- The building's cooling system was utilised via the heating infrastructure.
- New committee members were welcomed: Dave Kellett, David Metcalf, Caroline Metcalf

The new members are bringing forward several fresh ideas.

68.16 Newsletter

The latest newsletter has been distributed. Thanks were extended to Andrew for collecting copies from the printers.

68.17 Anstey Quarry

No significant updates were reported other than observations of smoke from the site.

Enforcement action continues to be deferred pending a future decision by the landowner. This situation has now persisted for approximately three years. The site may soon acquire permitted development rights.

Action: Clerk to write to EHDC requesting an update.

68.18 Anstey Village Mobile Mast

Andrew reported that discussions with the council remain ongoing.

The proposal is currently on hold as the original site was considered visually intrusive.

An alternative location on the road towards Brent Pelham is being explored.

If mobile phone coverage improves sufficiently, the village telephone box may no longer be required.

68.19 Defibrillator - tested and confirmed to be operational as of 27 July 2026.

68.20 Correspondence Received - Noted.

68.20.1 Any Other Business - No additional business was raised.

68.21 Future Items / Matters Carried Forward

68.21.1 Laptop performance continues to be monitored and will be cleaned and checked by Oops! IT if required.

68.22 Next Meeting: To be held at the Village Hall on Monday, 21 September 2026, commencing at 7.30pm.

Meeting closed at 8.22pm.