

MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Monday 16th February 2026 at 7.30pm, held at the Hurstbourne Tarrant Community Centre.

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Councillors present:

Cllr Ian Kitson (Chairman)

Cllr Mark Thomas (Vice Chairman)

Cllr Jamie Williams

Cllr Neil Hedger

Cllr Louisa Russell

County Cllr Kirsty North

Clerk

84. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

84.1 Apologies were received from Cllr John Bentley & Borough Councillor North.

85. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

85.1 There were no declarations of interests relating to items on the agenda or requests for dispensations, in accordance with the Council's code of conduct.

86. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

86.1 Cllr Williams proposed, Cllr Thomas seconded, and Councillors agreed and approved the minutes of the last meeting which was held on 19th January 2026, and which were signed by the Chairman.

87. ACTIONS ARISING

87.1 The old telephone exchange at the top of the hill out of the village towards Andover was raised and the issue of it being lived in. Cllr Williams had been in touch with TVBC enforcement almost a year before. Cllr North advised to report it again if there was any indication that someone was living there. Cllr Williams updated that the owners did not appear to be sleeping there overnight. However, the non-consented development may become an issue in the future, but at present it was 'temporary'. The plot has spread, and that has been reported to TVBC enforcement again.

88. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

88.1 There were four members of the public present. There were no matters raised.

89. PLANNING

89.1 **25/02986/VARN** | Variation of condition 02 (approved plans) of 23/01449/FULLN (Conversion and extension of hotel to create nine residential units) - Including different split in the approved 9 dwellings (now four houses and five flats), revised entrance on east elevation, house 4 will now have rooms in the roof space with dormer windows | **Esseborne Manor Doiley Hill HBT**. No comment.

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- 89.2 **26/00105/TREEN*** | T1 - Corkscrew Willow - Cut back the northwest side of the crown overhanging the adjacent allotment area only, by reducing the lateral radial spread by no more than 1.5m from the branch tips, to a height not exceeding 3m above ground level, and prune any roots encroaching into the allotment plot | **The Old House Ibthorpe**. No comment.

90. COUNCILLORS' UPDATES

- 90.1 Cllr Williams updated that the resident who had been leaving copious amounts of dog poo bags outside White Hart House and on Locks Drove, had been confronted and had denied it, then complained that there was no bin. Since being spoken to, there had been no repeat issues.
- 90.2 The ditch at the bottom of Windmill Hill was again in need of digging out. Cllr Williams/Cllr Kitson agreed to find a date to achieve this, during the first weekend of March.
- 90.3 Cllr Hedger wished to thank Dr Watson for his assistance with repairing the Speed Indicator Device on the A343 which was back in place and working again.
- 90.4 Cllr Thomas raised, from an HTCC perspective, if whether a resurfacing of the access road from Lower Farm entrance to the car park could be expedited if the HTCC made a financial contribution. Cllr Williams suggested that a cambered road with planings would work, or a proper re-tarmac by a contractor. Cllr Kitson to make some enquiries.
- 90.5 Cllr Thomas attended the Sustainable Bourne Valley meeting the previous week. There was a new volunteer toad patrol team in HBT. SBV had asked if HBT would be prepared to host the next meeting in October, for local groups to be present, as well as other exhibitors. It was unanimously agreed to cover the cost of the hire of the hall.
- 90.6 The community orchard on KGV was progressing, and the apple/fruit trees were in hand to be delivered.
- 90.7 Cllr Thomas raised an idea of utilising the edge of the football field for a project to plant more trees linked to the birth of new children in the village. This was hoped to give a sense of connection to the community for them, as well as an environmental benefit. An alternative location would be Dene Green in a copse-like fashion. A financial commitment would be needed, as well as watering facilities. It was agreed to bring the project to fruition.
- 90.8 Cllr Thomas wished to thank Mike Nash for checking the church and community centre on a daily basis, which often highlighted insecurities and other issues.
- 90.9 Cllr Kitson updated that the installation of a path from red phone box library to the rear school entrance, had been delayed at half term owing to the wet ground and would hopefully be completed at Easter. It was to be a 4' wide path under the hedge, around bench, made with planings, and undertaken voluntarily by a parent with whom Cllr Kitson had liaised.
- 90.10 Cllr Hedger reported that he had logged a lot of potholes on the reporting portal. Locks Drove was particularly bad, as well as the Netherton Valley road.

91. CLERK'S REPORT & CORRESPONDENCE

- 91.1 The clerk updated that her last day working for Vernham Dean Parish Council would be 28th February but that she would maintain a close working relationship with the new clerk, particularly over Upton village and the defibrillator which was a shared asset.

92. FINANCE

- 92.1 On the day of the meeting, the bank balance stood at £5391.20 in the Treasurer's Account and £22497.73 in the savings account, with earmarked reserves of £17,912.20.

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92.2 The clerk had circulated the payments made since the last meeting. Cllr Russell agreed them as an accurate record.

TYPE	DATE	PAYEE	AMOUNT	REMARKS
DD	2/2/26	TVBC	117.36	Grass cutting
DD	9/2/26	Hugo Fox	35.86	Village website annual charge

93. NEXT MEETING

93.1 The next ordinary meeting of the Parish Council was due to be held on Monday 16th March 2026.

The meeting concluded at 20:09 hrs.

Signed Chairman