

Haselbury Plucknett Parish Council Meeting
Minutes of the meeting held Monday 8th September 2025, 7.00pm at
The Beaumont Room in the Church, Haselbury Plucknett

Present: Cllrs H Williams, W Hunt, J Farrant, L Deer, M Wroe, R Bourne, A Scott, M Rendall,
C.Cllr M Hewitson and L Gibbons (Parish Clerk)

Members of the Public: Two

Open Session: The matter of the purchase of more Poppies for the Poppy trail was raised. This was previously agreed, but the cost has increased a little. The cost for ten will be £50.

1. **Apologies for absence:** Cllr M Bryant
2. **Record of business of last Month 14/07/2025:** Approved and were signed as a true and proper record.
3. **Matters Arising:** None
4. **Declaration of Interest:** None.
5. **a) County/District Councillors Report:** As circulated.
b) LCN: The minutes of the last meeting will be circulated when they are received.
c) Items for escalation to our District/County Councillors: None.
6. **Planning:**
 - a) Planning Applications:** 25/02035/HOU – Birch Cottage, Puddle Town – partial Retrospective planning for extended patio as built and proposed installation of a sunroom 3m depth, 5m width, 2.4m height on rear patio. Councillors resolved that they have no comment to make regarding this application
 - b) Planning Applications received after publication of agenda:** None
 - c) Planning applications considered prior to this meeting:** None
 - d) Decisions received:** None
7. **Finance:**
 - a) Invoices for payment:** All payments were agreed:

Parsons Tree & Garden Services	Ranger Service - July	£550.00
The Play Inspection Company Ltd	Annual Park Inspection Fee	£96.00
L Gibbons	Clerk Salary/Expenses	£708.14
Parsons Tree & Garden Services	Ranger Service - August	£560.97
J Farrant	Bradfords Timber bench repair	£58.51
J Farrant	Land Registry fees/ bench straps	£27.96
Community Heartbeat Trust	Defibrillator Battery	360.00
 - b) Reporting of Invoices paid prior to meeting:** None.
 - c) Bank Reconciliation:** Was agreed and signed.
 - d) Savings Account:** It was agreed that we would transfer £25000 into a 32-day-notice savings account with Lloyds bank which currently has a rate of 1.95%

8. The Park:

Safety checks: The eight inspection reports for the preceding period have been distributed to councillors by WH. During the reporting period, several issues arose:

- The wooden memorial bench was vandalised damaging a leg and some slats. The bench was removed and repaired by HW and reinstalled in the park.
- The metal pedestrian and vehicle gates were adjusted to facilitate easier operation.
- The fence adjacent to the vehicle entrance has also been vandalised but is rotten in some places. Remedial action will be investigated.

The Convex Traffic Mirror opposite the entrance park has been removed, assumed stolen. WH will investigate the cost of a new mirror.

There are no other known issues.

We were contacted by Crewkerne Rangers U11's and U14's with regard to hiring the football pitch in the park for training up until the October half term. (Wednesday evening for the U14's 6.30pm - 7.50pm and each Thursday evening for the U11's 6.30pm - 7.30pm.) HW met with their representative and agreed that this was acceptable. If it works out well for both us and the Crewkerne Rangers, the arrangement will be formalised in the Spring when outdoor training resumes.

9. Road and Footpaths:

a) Roads and Highways: CCTV Flooding Investigations - L Norman (SC Assistant Highways Service Manager) informs us that he is still awaiting the report from Drainline following their CCTV investigations into the possible causes of repeated flooding at the three sites scheduled for work: the A30/A3066 (North Street) junction; Brook Farm House (North Street); and outside Bay Tree Farm (Smallbrook Claycastle).

Virtual Pavement Repainting - Some very pleasing news from A Barron (SC Traffic Engineer) who has agreed as a result of our suggestion to an annual repainting of the white linings and the pedestrian silhouettes on the Virtual Pavement.

Traffic problems in village due to diversion at the Misterton (A356) junction - As a result of the diversion signs at the Misterton (A356) junction in August there was a huge increase of traffic coming through the village including HGVs. Unfortunately, many drivers completely ignored the official diversion sign and took a short cut via Swan Hill and Puddletown creating numerous traffic jams and serious safety issues for residents of the village. The need for more diversion signs was reported to the Avon and Somerset Police Control Room as well as twice via the Somerset Council Contact Centre to Streetworks, to no avail.

MH was asked to request that there is better communication, with more notice given when a diversion through the village are to be put in place. This will allow us to make sure that we request adequate signage in good time. We also requested that MH looks into the possibility of getting signage permanently placed on the Swan Hill and Puddletown road to warn that they are unsuitable for HGVs.

b) Footpath Working Group Update: Nothing new to report.

10. Village Matters:

a) Village Maintenance: There seems to be an increase in dog faeces that are not picked up around the village. Additional signage will be put in place.

b) Ranger Service: The new Ranger continues to perform very well. All outstanding work has been caught up with, the next working days are 15th and 16th September.

c) SID and Speed Watch: WH advised that the SID is currently located on the NP road and is intermittently operational.

During the diversion through the village in August, there was a notable rise in the number of offenders. Despite a request for assistance from the Speed Enforcement Unit (SEU), no response was forthcoming.

Statistics for July 2025.

Number of watches – 10, Vehicles monitored – 1469, Speeders Reported – 110, Highest speeder – 41, Percentage of drivers exceeding the reportable limit – 7.5%.

Statistics for August 2025.

Number of watches – 9, Vehicles monitored – 1520, Speeders Reported – 105, Highest speeder – 33, Percentage of drivers exceeding the reportable limit – 7%

WH advised that the scheme had lost another two volunteers and that he was resigning along with the deputy coordinator from Speed Watch at the end of the year after a decade of involvement. He also indicated that he is seeking a new volunteer coordinator.

d) Wildlife and Habitat Group Report: The verge at Small Brook has been cut.

Flags have been erected along the Avenue of Trees, as markers for hedge cutting.

Further sessions are planned at Rebecca's Well to repair the brickwork and reinstate the oak frame on the top.

The group assisted with parking at Yesterday's Farming as in previous years.

e) Adoption of Frog Lane: This discussion arose from the planning permission granted for Brook Farm. The plans wrongly show that the footpath is part of the property. MH was previously asked to contact the planners to find out why our comments on this were not taken note of. LG will chase for an answer.

- 11. Matters to report:** Mike Lawrence has taken over the testing of the water at Small Brook. Rebecca's Well reads as pure water. At New Lane the phosphates reading are extremely high. The results have been sent to the Environment Agency.

M Banham has ordered and replaced the battery for the defibrillator.

- 12. Notices for Village News:** The deadline this month is the 20th September.

- 13. Items for next meeting:**

- 14. Next Meeting Date:** 13/10/2025 at the Beaumont Room in the Church at 7:00pm