



BURITON PARISH COUNCIL

THESE MINUTES ARE DRAFT UNTIL APPROVED AND AGREED AT THE NEXT MEETING
**Minutes of a meeting of Buriton Parish Council held at Buriton Village Hall,
at 7:00pm on Monday 26th January 2026.**

Present: Cllr A Bray, Cllr D Lloyd, Cllr H Myers, Cllr T Wheeler and Mrs P Norris, Clerk.

In attendance: There were 3 members of the public in attendance.

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllr H Hill and County and District Cllr Mocatta.

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3. To approve minutes from BPC meetings held on 24th November 2025.

The draft minutes of the meeting held on 24th November 2025 were approved as a correct record and the Chair will sign a copy for the Council's Minutes Book. **Action: Cllr Wheeler.**

4. Matters arising from the minutes of the meeting held on 24th November 2025.

- Monks Walk driveway: still waiting for the development to be finished.
- Village Pond: the works to remove the silt and build up the island has been completed. A meeting of the Project Group was held on the 22nd January 2026. It was agreed that the island has a dip in it and will need building up again. As there is still some money left it was agreed to extend the contract and remove silt, reeds and bull rushes from the area by South Lane and fill in the dip. The planting of the island and other areas will be carried out in the spring and it is hoped that further grants be received to carry out more planting in the autumn. It was noted that Cllr Mocatta has some money left in his Cllr grant and Cllrs wondered if this could be used for planting. **Action: Clerk** to contact Cllr Mocatta. The Chair thanked Cllr Myers for all her work on the project.
- Pond Green and verges: works to the bridge on Pond Green will commence on 2nd February 2026.
- Car Charging points - Cllr Wheeler will contact the provider. **Action: Cllr Wheeler.**
- VH risk assessment – Cllr Lloyd working on this with the VH manager. **Action: Cllr Lloyd.**
- Gates on the Links and condition of the Hangers Way – HCC are not proposing to carry out any further work. Cllr Myers suggested meeting with the officers from HCC to show them out concerns. **Action: Clerk & Cllr Myers.**
- Clearing rubbish from the Nursery Garden and skate ramp – it was agreed to remove the shed and contents as they are not salvable, also the tank and the ramps that have been built on the skate ramp. Cllr Wheeler and Cllr Myers to obtain quotes from waste removal contractors. **Action: Cllrs Wheeler & Myers.**
- Greenway Lane development planting – a reply has been received and some planting has been carried out. Officers from SDNPA are monitoring the situation.
- Buriton Signs – Cllr Lloyd will obtain a quote to repaint the signs. **Action: Cllr Lloyd**
- Will show Cllrs Village Hall CCTV – this is now up and running covering the four sides of the Village Hall. The VH Manager will provide training to Cllrs Wheeler and Lloyd.
- Separate key safes – Cllr Lloyd will clarify with the VH Manager as to which keys hirers have. **Action: Cllr Lloyd.**
- Gullies in Weston – there are on the Lengthsman's worksheet.
- Incident on Milky Way – a supporting letter was sent to HCC about the Milky Way and issues with incidents that have occurred. The Clerk has chased a reply but none has been received.



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5. Chair's Update

The Chair reported that any updates were covered in the agenda.

6. County and District Councillor's Reports

County and District Cllr Mocatta sent his apologies but forwarded reports which are attached to these minutes.

Open Forum

A parishioner asked if the debris mainly plants floating around the pond will be removed as the grills will become clogged and they may regrow. Cllr Myers stated that these were being moved on a regular basis. The parishioner also questioned why the island was so big and queried about the deep in the middle. It is hoped that the outline of the island would soften once the planting has been completed and that the dip will be filled in.

A parishioner also stated that the village had looked extremely messy last summer and asked if there were plans to maintain the pond area and other areas of the village. Cllr Myers provided details of the recent works and plans for the future. HCC and EHDC have provided details of the grass cutting schedules for the year which are available on the website. The parishioner also asked if the sides of the banks be built up using the silt, it was confirmed that this will happen

A parishioner asked if there was any update on the proposed Kiln Lane development. It was noted that Cllr Mocatta has included an update in his reports, attached to these minutes.

A parishioner commented that the HCC workmen had been out three times to try and solve the issue with flooding in Ramsdean Lane, and asked who was paying for these repeated visits.

A parishioner asked if there was an update on the future of the Five Bells. Cllr Wheeler confirmed that the Asset of Community Value is in place, and that the brewery are selling the pub.

7. Finance and Accounts

- **Summary of Reserves** – Cllrs noted the summary of reserves.
- **Approval of receipts and payments from 1st November 2025 to 31st December 2025 for the Parish Council** – Cllrs approved the following receipts: 2 totalling £440.00 in the current account and 1 totalling £311.39 in the reserve account. Cllrs approved the following payments: 17 totalling £4,528.66 from the current account. Details of payments over £500 are attached to these minutes.
- **Approval of receipts and payments from 1st November 2025 to 31st December 2025 for the Village Hall** – Cllrs approved the following receipts: 27 totalling £2,576.44. Cllrs approved the following payments: 30 totalling £5,486.84. Details of payments over £500 are attached to these minutes.
- **Budget against Performance up to 31st December 2025** – Cllrs noted the budget.
- **Interim Audit** – the Clerk reported that this went very well and there are a few actions required which are detailed on the action plan which is attached to these minutes. **Action: Clerk.**
- **Approve the Financial Risk Assessment** – Cllrs approved the Financial Risk Assessment.
- **Approve the Standing Orders** – Cllrs approved the Standing Orders.
- **Approve the Financial Regulations** – Cllrs approved the Financial Regulations
- **Asset Register** – Cllrs approve the Asset Register but asked if the figures could be increased by RPI. **Action: Clerk.**
- **Website** – Cllrs have looked at the questions raised to produce the Privacy Statement, they agreed that they were very in depth, Cllr Lloyd agreed to look at the questions. **Action: Cllr Lloyd.** Cllrs also required further information regarding the necessary upgrade of the website



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to version 11, together with the issues that will arise from the current version and the needs of the future and the costs involved. **Action: Clerk**

8. Village Hall and Recreation Report

Cllr Lloyd provided a report which is attached to these minutes:

- There are no bad debtors.
- All maintenance has been completed.
- Cllr Lloyd informed the meeting that it is planned to ask for volunteers from the parish to decorate some areas of the hall. Cllrs authorised to use £1,000 from the VH reserves for paint and materials.
- Cllrs agreed to ask the Lengthsman to remove the remaining metal cage from the beech tree by the tennis courts.
- Cllrs agreed to ask for a quote for pruning of the apple tree which is leaning. **Action: Cllr Myers**

9. Planning

- **Approve Planning Committee Terms of Reference** – Cllrs approved the Planning Committee Terms of Reference.

10. Work for Lengthsman & Highway Issues

- Cllrs agreed to raise the condition of repaired potholes and gullies that have been carried out in Weston with Cllr Mocatta. **Action: Clerk.**
- It was agreed to ask the Lengthsman to carry out the work to the Kiln Lane run-offs and to clear the brambles from the cinder path by the tennis courts.
- **Accidents on bends in Greenway Lane** – Cllrs discussed the request to place a Speed Indicator on Greenway Lane. Cllrs agreed that this would not be feasible.

11. Rights of Way

There were no issues raised relating to Rights of Way.

12. Update on Trees, Pollinators, Biodiversity and Climate Change Initiatives

The notes from the latest BEA meeting are attached to the minutes.

Cllrs agreed that no more trees should be planted on the recreation ground as this had been given the parish as a sports facility.

13. Correspondence

A list of all correspondence is attached to the minutes.

Date of next meeting: The next meeting of Buriton Parish Council is on 30th March 2026.

At the conclusion of business, the meeting ended 8.45pm.



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EHDC report January 2026

Local plan progress

Both EHDC and the SDNP are progressing their local plans. We are affected by the SDNP local plan that is likely to come to the SDNP planning committee in draft form in February.

The draft should be available on this webpage on 5th February.

<https://www.southdowns.gov.uk/meeting/planning-committee-12-february-2026/>

The latest draft public consultation from last year is here:

<https://www.southdowns.gov.uk/planning-policy/the-south-downs-local-plan-review/consultation-hub/>

The EHDC local plan is a contentious issue for many of the East Hants residents, but has far less impact on us locally.

<https://www.easthants.gov.uk/news/2025/authorities-ask-east-hampshire-help-housing-targets>

EHDC recognises the importance of the local chalk streams

The December Council unanimously agreed a motion supporting the chalk streams in the District. These rivers are a vital national resource, and EHDC is working hard with partners to improve these natural features.

<https://www.easthants.gov.uk/news/2025/ehdc-recognises-importance-local-chalk-streams-and-rivers>

Improvements to Buriton Pond

EHDC owns Buriton Pond, and has worked with the parish council and local environmental groups to produce a plan to improve the pond. The goal is to make it a more attractive feature for both local residents and visitors.

<https://www.easthants.gov.uk/news/2026/ducks-diggers-amphibious-excavator-cleans-buriton-pond>

Climate Grants

The council tries to help provide local organisations in East Hampshire with grants. The latest set of these were climate grants, awarded in December. The full list is here:

<https://www.easthants.gov.uk/news/2025/more-ps128000-climate-grants-agreed-council>



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Message from leader of HCC:

(Reproduced from the Hampshire Chronicle)

As we turn the page on 2025 and look ahead to the promise of 2026, I want to begin with a simple thank you. Public service is a team sport, and nothing we achieve in Hampshire happens because of one person, one department, or one council chamber speech. It happens because residents, volunteers, community groups, officers, councillors, and countless unsung heroes quietly get on with the business of making our county a better place to live. If there's a theme that has run through this past year, it's that Hampshire works best when Hampshire works together.

And what a year it has been. We've opened new school places, expanded support for children with special educational needs, and continued the long, patient work of improving the services families rely on. We've pushed forward on infrastructure—sometimes celebrated, sometimes cursed when it involves roadworks—but always with the aim of keeping our county moving. Best illustrated by the fantastic work ongoing at the moment to build the new underpass at Junction 10 of the M27 in Fareham. Standing watching the work earlier this week was a reminder that progress is rarely glamorous, but it is always worth it.

Of course, 2025 wasn't without its challenges. Local government continues to face financial pressures that would make even the most seasoned accountant reach for a strong drink. Yet despite the strain, we've kept our focus on what matters: delivering essential services, protecting the vulnerable, and planning responsibly for the future. Hampshire has a long tradition of resilience, and this year proved once again that we don't shy away from difficult decisions when they are the right ones.

As we step into 2026, I'm hopeful—not because the challenges have vanished, but because our capacity to meet them has never been stronger. We will continue to push for sustainable funding for local government, because residents deserve services that are secure, reliable, and fit for the future. We will keep investing in the infrastructure that underpins daily life. And we will carry on championing the values that make Hampshire a place people are proud to call home.

But perhaps most importantly, we will do all this together. At a time when national and global debates can feel increasingly polarised, and as we enter what I very much hope is an election year for the county council, it is worth restating something I have said many times: no one enters politics to do harm; we simply disagree about how we should do good. That belief has guided me throughout my years in public life, and it remains the foundation of how I try to lead—collegiately, respectfully, and with a sense of humour whenever possible. (If you've ever tried explaining local government reorganisation and devolution on Facebook, you'll know humour is sometimes essential.)

Division is easy. Unity takes work. But Hampshire has never been afraid of hard work. In 2026, let's continue to choose cooperation over conflict, shared purpose over point-scoring, and kindness over cynicism. If we do that, I'm confident the year ahead will bring not just progress, but pride.

Thank you for your support, your patience, your ideas, and your commitment to our county. I wish you and your loved ones a peaceful, healthy, and hopeful New Year.



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Government currently consulting on May 2026 elections.

You may have seen reports suggesting that next year's Mayoral elections will be postponed for two years, until 2028. It is massively disappointing. It's important to note that this does not affect the County Council and other local elections which will still go ahead on May 7th 2026. It is important to separate two distinct issues here. While the election of a Mayor may be delayed, the creation of the Combined Authority — and the transfer of powers and funding from Westminster that comes with it — remains vital.

The Labour Government has invited Hampshire County Council to make formal representations regarding the capacity constraints which the May 2026 elections could create, and the potential impact of those constraints on the progress of local government reform in Hampshire.

My view and the view of the Leader of HCC is that democracy is far more important than administrative convenience, so elections should go ahead this May. A Full Council meeting and a Cabinet meeting has been hastily scheduled for this week to debate and agree our position. Our general view is that the Government has created this problematic situation, and so Ministers themselves should take a decision about the elections.

In any case, Councillors are inherently conflicted when it comes to any decision to extend their current term. I note that the Electoral Commission agrees with this point. I thought this was rather a good statement from their Chief Executive:

<https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/media-centre/electoral-commission-responds-potential-election-postponements>

Enhancement to Connect to Support website

To meet our statutory duties, the County Council provides information and advice for families, young people, and those with special needs. This advice has hitherto included the Families Information and Services Hub (FISH) and the Local Offer. In order to streamline our web presence for the benefit of residents, I would like to let you know that both FISH and the Local Offer have now moved to the Connect to Support Hampshire (CTSH) website.

The website is managed by HCC to meet statutory requirements under the Care Act 2014 and will now serve as an **all-age information hub** for care and support, offering one website for residents and professionals to access information regardless of age, rather than different locations as previously. You can access the website via this link:

[Connect to Support Hampshire.](#)

Local Nature Recovery Strategy for Hampshire published

You may recall that HCC consulted on its Nature Recovery Strategy last year. On 8 December 2025, HCC published its final Strategy. The plan aims to restore nature, protect precious habitats, and create more opportunities for people to connect with the outdoors. This new strategy brings together expertise from organisations and authorities across the region and sets out practical steps



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for how Hampshire can ensure a minimum of 30% of land and sea is secured for biodiversity by 2030.

To achieve these shared goals, everyone needs to keep playing their part in nature recovery. This strategy sets out how, together, we can protect and enhance our natural environment. The strategy has been designed to help guide land use choices, inform planning decisions, and encourage investment in nature-based solutions to wider environmental challenges such as climate change and flooding.

The full strategy is available to read here:

[Local Nature Recovery Strategy for Hampshire | Environment | Hampshire County Council](#)

M27 J10 update

Great news to start the New Year.

The M27 between Junctions 9 and 11 reopened a full 24 hours ahead of schedule, at 4am, Saturday 3 January — an extraordinary achievement after one of the most complex engineering operations Hampshire has ever delivered.

Over ten days, around 130 people worked day and night through the Christmas period to install a brand-new underpass at Junction 10 using an innovative “box slide” technique. A 60-metre concrete structure — weighing 8,500 tonnes — was slid 65 metres into place with millimetre precision, avoiding months of lane closures and disruption.

We want to pay particular tribute to:

- Our outstanding Hampshire County Council highways and engineering teams
- The main contractor, VolkerFitzpatrick
- The many skilled local subcontractors who brought their expertise, machinery, and sheer determination to the job

Their professionalism, teamwork, and relentless effort — in all weathers, at all hours — are the reason the motorway can reopen earlier than planned.

This phase of work is a major milestone toward the new, free-flowing, all-moves Junction 10, which will support the Welborne Garden Village development and strengthen Hampshire’s infrastructure for years to come.

Thank you to residents and drivers for your patience during the closure. And an enormous thank you to every member of the team who made this possible. This is Hampshire engineering at its best — public and private partners working together to deliver for our county.



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Payments over £500:

Parish Council

3/11/25	Idverde Ltd	£788.06	Grass cutting
2/12/25	Idverde Ltd	£788.06	Grass cutting
22/12/25	Idverde Ltd	£788.06	Grass Cutting
22/12/25	HMRC	£562.80	PAYE & NI

Village Hall

11/11/25	Cleaning	£582.83	
26/11/25	Chub Fire	£611.50	Fire extinguishers
4/12/25	A1 Security	£1,107.12	CCTV deposit
11/12/25	Cleaning	£582.83	

Interim Audit Action Plan

Audit Point	Interim Audit Findings	Council Comments
B. REGULATIONS, GOVERNANCE AND PAYMENTS	<p>I recommend that the wording in italics below be added to the template Acceptance of Office form for future Councillors and, in the meantime arrange for councillors to sign a consent form to be kept with their Acceptance of Office forms so this can be tested again at the final audit.</p> <p><i>“As per Schedule 12 of the Local Government Act 1972, I consent to the receipt of all council meeting papers by electronic methods. I understand I may withdraw this consent at any time”</i></p>	The Acceptance of Office form has been amended to include the consent. Councillors signed a consent form at this meeting.
B. REGULATIONS, GOVERNANCE AND PAYMENTS	I could not locate a Privacy Statement on the website – this will be tested again at the final audit.	A Privacy Statement is currently being prepared by the council's website contractor to be added to the website
B. REGULATIONS, GOVERNANCE AND PAYMENTS	<p>The summons should be dated and signed by the clerk as proper officer of the council to fulfill the requirement of Sch. 12 Paragraph 10 (2) of the Local Government Act 1972.</p> <p>I also remind council it is required to also post any supporting documentation with the agendas as outlined by the Information Commissioner's Office</p>	<p>The agenda (summons) is now signed and dated.</p> <p>More clarification will be sought about adding documentation with regard to data protection. (listing details of payments and whether names should be published?)</p>



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B. REGULATIONS, GOVERNANCE AND PAYMENTS	I recommend that the council adopts the current NALC model of Financial Regulations so they reference the Procurement Act 2003 and the Procurement Regulations 2024.	Councillors adopted this version at this meeting.
B. REGULATIONS, GOVERNANCE AND PAYMENTS	I recommend that at the next review Council adopts the current NALC model Standing Orders, as they incorporate and reference all the many statutory requirements to which the council is subject.	Councillors adopted this version at this meeting.
C. RISK MANAGEMENT AND INSURANCE	Check there is Fraud and Dishonesty (Fidelity Guarantee) cover in place.	The Clerk has checked with the insurance provider and this is in place.
I BANK AND CASH	Bank reconciliations are currently not completed against month end bank statements, and it was discussed that the clerk will put this in place going forward.	This started at this meeting and was signed by the chair.



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Village Hall Report

- The CCTV has been installed with cameras covering all four sides of the hall and is working continuously.
- The fire extinguishers have been checked and some replaced at a cost of £611.
- There have been issues with the electric boiler which has meant that there has been no hot water. The emersion has been put on and the contractor who installed the boiler has been contacted. The contractor has also been reminded of other outstanding repairs.
- The Fire Alarm service is due next month.

It is proposed that procedures/information sheets be provided for:

- Village Hall Manager cover
- CCTV system
- Alarms
- Hallmaster system
- Music system
- Dishwasher

A 4-week cleaning schedule will be produced to include additional tasks such as cleaning the outside main door area weekly and cleaning the woodwork, skirtings and stage doors.

Marketing

- Market the Village Hall to obtain more bookings and generate more revenue to both main and small halls
- Advert in the Parish Magazine
- Take new photographs and videos of regular events
- Make a short video to promote the hall.

Look at putting together Party Packages, to include tables and chair etc instead of hiring all separately



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Following on from the recent BEA meeting, there's been a very useful chat with Karima (the parish's contact at the County Council who coordinates all their work to support pollinators and nature more widely).

With regard to the cutting regimes for places like Pond Green, the area in Heatherfield and elsewhere she recommends following HCC's own practices on their RVEIs (Road Verges of Ecological Importance) and guidance issued by Plantlife.

This means:

- **only cut once or twice each year** (fewer cuts allow plants to complete their life cycle and support more insects)
- **removing the cuttings is important** (leaving cut grass enriches the soil and favours coarse grasses; removing cuttings reduces soil fertility, allowing wildflowers to thrive)
- **avoid cutting during spring and early summer** (April–August) when plants are growing and flowering
- **the main cut** (and the only one if only one cut is possible) should be in the late summer / early autumn after flowers have set seed
- **Cutting height matters** (avoid cutting too short; a higher cutting height helps protect insects, small mammals and plant bases)
- **a metre around the edges / alongside paths** can be cut more often (to help people understand that the areas are being managed, not just forgotten or neglected; and to ensure highway verges don't affect road safety).

This guidance fits with the practices established on the Parish Council's Recreation Ground over the last five years where benefits in the variety of plant species and butterflies, moths etc can already be seen.

We suspect that late September would be good for the main cut – and late March for the other cut if it's decided to go for two (and Cut & Collect machines are available).

It's hoped that this information is timely for the forthcoming Parish Council meeting and that these recommended practices can be established on Pond Green (by EHDC and their contractors) and by HCC (and its contractors) in Heatherfield.

As is already known, both HCC and SDNPA have Cut & Collect machines that can be borrowed and used in parishes like Buriton where pollinator / nature initiatives exist.



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Correspondence

Date	Details	Sender
2.12.25	Copy email to Cllr Mocatta re missing hedge Petersfield Road	Resident
9.12.25	Potential hazards in the village hall	Jill Martin
7.1.26	Enquiring about the works at the pond via website	Geraldine Sheedy, Bramshott & Liphook PC
7.1.26	Copies of email regarding accidents on Greenway Lane bends	Robert Mocatta, HCC
19.1.26	Request for Buriton Environmental Association to use the Upper Hall free for meetings	Fran Vessey, BEA
19.1.26	Request for the PC to organise the annual litter pick	Fran Vessey, BEA
25.1.26	Update on the planting at Greenway Lane development	Richard Ferguson, SDNPA