



PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of The Parish Council Meeting held Monday 23rd February 2026 at 7.00pm at Hope Mansell Village Hall

Present: Councillor Lori Weber (Chairman), Councillor Ellen West,
Councillor Sheila Heath, Kate Howle (Parish Clerk)

Apologies: Councillor Tim Hardie; Councillor Janet Wall; Councillor Geoff Phelps

In Attendance: There were 2 members of the public in attendance.

1. Welcome and Attendance

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and attendance is recorded above.

2. To receive apologies for absence.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Hardie, Councillor Wall and Councillor Phelps.

3. To receive declarations of interest and written requests for dispensations.

None declared.

4. Open forum to receive the views of local residents on Parish matters.

4.1 A resident asked for three items to be addressed. The first referred to an email from his wife which is addressed in 7.7.2 below. Secondly the resident stated that the Minutes from the December meeting were not on the website. The Chair expressed surprise that this was the case and will check the process to ensure this does not happen again. Thirdly the resident expressed concern that the planning policy was non-compliant. The Chair said that the points of ambiguity raised previously had been changed and that the previous Clerk had sought advice to ensure compliance. The resident still believed the policy to be non-compliant. The Chair asked the resident to email the points that are considered to be non-compliant in order that the Clerk can investigate and change if necessary.

(update post meeting the resident offered his apologies as had been looking for 2026 Minutes when in fact the last Minutes were December 2025 and on the website)

4.2 A second resident wished to express massive appreciation and thanks to the councillors for the work they do for the parish and not to be put off by points of order being raised to make life difficult. This resident also stated that he would encourage fellow parishioners, particularly those with points of order to raise, to step up to the plate regarding the councillor vacancy. The Chair stated that the vacancy had been advertised in the Weston News and on the website. It was agreed to also share on social media. LMW & EW to action.

5. To agree and sign the minutes of the previous meeting held on Tuesday 9th December 2025.

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 9th December 2025 were agreed and signed.

6. Matters Arising.

The Action Log was noted and completed actions were removed.

Kiln Lane – See 7.3

Grants – Applications re-open in June 2026. EW will monitor the situation. To be discussed at Annual Parish Council meeting to decide what should be applied for.

Planning policy – to be reviewed once email received from resident see Item 4 above

Internet cable – reported

Risk Register – complete

Health & Safety policy – complete

External hard drive - complete

7. Standing Items.

7.1 Correspondence – see 7.7 below

7.2 Finance

The bank balance as at 23rd February 2026 of £2,231.64

Invoices paid – £708.00 for Lengthsman re stile & finger posts

Income received - £708.00 from HCC PROW Grant

7.2.1 Chair updated council regarding updating the bank mandate for signatories

7.3 Roads, Footpaths and Rights of Way

In his absence the Chair read the report from the PFO.

Completion of stile at Bailey Brook and replacement finger posts at beginning of HM2 and at lower end of HM12.

7.3.1 Quotes for culvert & road. Erosion on side of hill going out of Hope Mansell towards Drybrook is extremely serious. Balfour Beatty have inspected the area but no action taken to date. The Parish Council may wish to undertake the work under the Lengthsman Scheme and the Lengthsman has quoted for the work. It was agreed that this should be pushed back to HCC and discussed further.

Blockage of the culverts near Sutton Barn. The Lengthsman has also quoted to clear this blockage, however, the Clerk, who resides at Sutton Barn, has advised that it is believed to be more than a blockage in that the underground pipe has actually collapsed under the drive entrance as this was investigated a couple of years ago. It was agreed that this should be investigated further before undertaking any work.

7.3.2 Pothole signage. To assist parishioners in reporting potholes it was suggested that signage similar to that in WuP would be useful. It was noted that these signs had been up in WuP for sometime and unsure they were productive. Following discussion it was felt a page in Weston News detailing how to report potholes using Fix My Street would be more useful. EW agreed to put something together.

The Chair reported that Balfour Beatty have confirmed last week that there are currently 25 potholes or clusters of potholes scheduled for repair and due to be fixed by middle of March

7.3.3 HM14 – The Chair reported that she had emailed as many contacts as she had with regard to what was happening with HM14 in order that residents can lodge their agreement or rejection of the TRO by 27th February 2026.

7.4 Local Amenities

Huge thanks to Nigel & Liz Carter who look after the SID at Bailey Lane End and keep it operational.

7.5 Planning
Nothing to report.

7.6 Policing
It was reported that the cannisters are back at Bailey Lane End. LW to email PC Claire Denton.

7.7 Communication

7.7.1 Email received from a resident reporting the dangerous condition at Harechurch Hill and the lack of salt/grit bins. The Chair reported that the PFO has visited the site and would email for an update. With regard to salt bins the Chair agreed to phone Balfour Beatty to enquire about additional bins. It was noted that Hopes Ash Farm have offered to store a quantity of salt/grit as they have done previously for residents to collect.

7.7.2 Email received from a resident thanking the council and all involved for the new stile at Bailey Brook and also for their work in advising about the TRO for HM14.

7.8 Policies

The Chair reported that the Financial Regs Policy is currently being looked at and is a work in progress. Also the Planning Policy is ongoing – see 4.1 above.

8. Sub Group to discuss merging with WuP

The Chair tabled the setting up of a sub group to discuss and explore with WuP the possibility of re merging the two parish councils. The Chair advised that TH had offered to be on the sub group. EW also volunteered.

9. Matters for next agenda.

EW gave her apologies for the next meeting

10. Date of next meeting

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Monday 13th April 2026 at Bailey Lane End Chapel at 7.00pm

Meeting closed at 7.52pm.

Kate Howle, Parish clerk – 24th February 2026

SIGNED:

DATE:

Lori Weber, Chairman.