

MINUTES OF THE HAMBLEDEN PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Held on Monday 9th March 2026, Hambleden Village Hall

PRESENT: Mr A Armstrong – Chair, Cllr S Webb, Mr C Hussey, Mr G Hartley Russell, Mrs A Hopkins, Mr S Taylor, Mr R Ashcroft, Mr R Lilley.

Mrs L Coldwell – Clerk
Cllr Mark Turner – Buckinghamshire Councillor
0 members of the public

Minute 10305

Public Question Time

None in attendance.

Minute 10306

To receive any apologies for absence

Cllr D House.

Minute 10307

Declaration of disclosable pecuniary and personal interests by Members relating to items on the agenda

Cllr Webb declared a personal interest in planning application PL/26/00148/FA – Hamblebrook House. Cllr Armstrong declared an interest in agenda item 8, grass maintenance contract.

Minute 10308

To confirm and approve the minutes of ordinary Parish Council meeting held 9th February 2026

The minutes of the meeting held in February were confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chair. Clerk had made an amendment to the final minute number which was incorrect in the draft.

Minute 10309

Clerk and any Councillors if appropriate to report on matters arising and any updates from previous minutes which are not on the agenda

- Minute 10293 – Clerk ordered 2 additional posts which will be installed when the contractor is passing the location. Cllr Webb advised that 4 posts will be needed; Clerk to speak with contractor.
- Action:Clerk**
- Minute 10293 – Clerk reported the alleged breach to Planning Enforcement. They have said that no further action will be taken.
- Minute 10293 – Cllr House ordered the additional battery charger for the MVAS. A second mounting bar has been purchased for us in Fingest, payment to be made at this meeting.
- Minute 10297 – Clerk joined 20 is Plenty on behalf of the PC. Stickers have been delivered and will be distributed to Councillors for any residents who would like one.
- Minute 10298 – Clerk forwarded grass contracts to all.
- Minute 10299 – the LAT confirmed that the flooding in Skirmett is with the Capital Maintenance team, to be looked at in the new financial year.
- Minute 10300 – Clerk submitted comments regarding the license application.
- Minute 10302.3 – Clerk reported the potholes via Fix My Street.
- Minute 10302.4 – Clerk has investigated the matter, and it appears that Transport for Buckinghamshire (as it was at the time) did not want to carry out the necessary works on the tree, so the PC stepped in.
- Cllr Rick Lilley has been appointed to the PC, following an uncontested election.
- Clerk has renewed the parking lease in Hambleden for overflow parking.
- Clerk organised for Buckinghamshire Council to place signs at the sub-station in Frieth. They are keeping this as a possible location for a camera. Clerk has forwarded photographs to the Officers showing multiple canisters that a resident removed from the area.
- Cllr Hopkins applied to the Police Crime Commissioner fund for a grant for an additional MVAS.
- The “slow down” posters have been delivered; Clerk is sourcing stakes to display them and then will put around the parish.
- SSE have been carrying out works in Bottom Hill. Cllr Armstrong visited the foreman on site, regarding the new track that runs underneath the poles on the common which was made to allow the maintenance to be carried out. He proposed to them to leave the track for future access, with a gate installed to stop vehicular access. Cllr Hussey said that the wildlife surveyor he previously met with thought it would be good to open this area as a permissive footpath. Cllr Armstrong will speak with the foreman about installing a gate and allowing pedestrian access. Cllr Hussey will contact Lawyers for Nature about a site visit in the spring as discussed.

- The new Devolved Services “Memorandum of Understanding” for 2026/27 has been received from Buckinghamshire Council. Clerk has completed the paperwork and returned.
- AED machines have been checked and reported to The Circle. The Fingest AED is still offline, as is the Hambleden AED following the expiration of the pads at the end of December. One set of pads is due to be delivered to the Clerk this week, they will be installed in the Fingest AED.
- Road closures have been placed on the website and Facebook page.
- Clerk has reported various potholes, damaged signs, blocked drains and faded white lines around the parish. This can be done by anyone via [Fix My Street](#).

Minute 10310

To receive updates if any from meetings attended since the previous ordinary meeting by Clerk and Councillors

Any slides have been circulated to the Councillors, Clerk has attended:

11/02/26 – Great Collaborations – Community Resilience

16/02/26 – Planning Liaison meeting. The Local Plan was discussed, which will be finalised and published by Buckinghamshire Council in late July.

Minute 10311

To receive any updates from the Climate Change Working Party; to discuss any other matters relating

Cllr Hopkins reported that a productive meeting was held last week, to discuss the upcoming visit to Frieth by Emma Reynolds MP. A number of organisations have been identified as good representatives to discuss traffic issues, nature loss and community with her. Cllr Hopkins will invite them to the village hall which she has booked to meet with our MP. The handout for water was also discussed, it was suggested to have an evening for residents of the parish to discuss with an inspirational speaker, and a film to raise awareness of the impact that actions have on water courses.

Action: Cllr Hopkins/Climate Change Working Group

Minute 10312

To discuss the open spaces in the parish and the grass maintenance contract; to consider any additional works needed; to consider employing a parish lengthsman

Cllr Armstrong has said he would be able to take on a contract for circa 62 days per annum, at a cost of approximately £15,000 plus VAT. This would be for grass cutting and any other jobs as necessary, such as bus shelter/sign cleaning and some works to the Hamble brook. He left the room whilst discussions took place. Cllr Hartley Russell proposed and Cllr Webb seconded, with all in agreement for an interim period for Cllr Armstrong to undertake this work, whilst an official schedule is drawn up and put to the wider community to see if there is interest from other parties.

Action: Clerk

Minute 10313

To discuss a request to formally support a 20mph campaign request to Buckinghamshire Council; to consider the response from the Department of Transport regarding traffic in the parish

It was proposed to support the campaign for a 20 mph limit where appropriate in residential areas, particularly those that have no footpaths. All in agreement, Clerk to draft a letter to Buckinghamshire Council

The letter from the DfT to be considered at the April meeting.

Action: Clerk

Minute 10314

To consider quotations for total resurfacing works to be carried out in Frieth car park

Cllr House obtained 2 quotations for work, both of which are at a 5 figure cost. A discussion ensued, and it was resolved for Clerk to determine that the PC does own the car park; to write to the school, Village Hall, and Church; and to obtain quotations for patching the potholes in the interim period.

Action: Clerk

Minute 10315

To ratify the decision to cut back the hedge at Ellery Rise, Frieth to enable works to take place before nesting bird season commenced

All agreed via email between meetings. The work was carried out by a local contractor, who cut back the road side and the top of the hedge by the speed limit sign which was obscured. All in agreement for this to be cut annually, in January as the best time for wildlife.

Minute 10316**Finance:**

a) **To approve the accounts for March 2026:** Approved and noted.

Accounts to be paid in March 2026:

Mrs L Coldwell – salary (via standing order)	1022.96
BC Pension Fund (via standing order)	316.09
Mrs L Coldwell – expenses	35.96
Cllr House – expenses additional MVAS charger	138.67
Mr P Smith – additional MVAS bracket, Fingest	48.97
Hambleden Village Hall – hire	36.00
Buckland Landscapes – grass maintenance	1387.50
M Tuddenham – Hambleden toilet clean and open/close	128.15
Lloyds Bank – account charges	4.25
Total	3118.55
Balance as 1st February 2026	39706.67
Less February payments	(4884.09)
Balance as of 28th February 2026	34822.58
Of which CIL Funds	3653.95
Church Wall reserve	20000.00
Other Earmarked reserves	3250.00
Hambleden Parking fund	696.39
Unrestricted Reserves	7222.24

Film Fund

Total of all funds at 1 st February 2026	19327.82
Lloyds – account charges	(4.25)
Total of all funds at 28th February 2026	19323.57

Savings Account

Total of all funds at 1 st January 2026	30002.47
Interest	13.56
Total of all funds at 31st January 2026	30016.03

b) **To nominate a Councillor to check and approve the bank reconciliation for February**

Cllr Ashcroft to checked and confirmed the reconciliation.

It was agreed that the invoices to be paid by the Clerk via BACS.

Minute 10317**Members questions: including any items for the next agenda**

- 1. **Cllr Webb** – the roundabout driving into Henley will be closed overnight for resurfacing works.
- 2. **Cllr Hartley Russell** – there is an overgrown hedge spilling into the highway in between Fingest and Turville. Clerk has already reported this; Buckinghamshire Highways have said that they will cut it back.
- 3. A resident collected 4 bags of rubbish whilst walking from Skirmett to Hambleden and back.
- 4. **Cllr Armstrong** – the NOS gas cannisters area appearing in Pheasants Hill. Clerk will report to Thames Valley Police.

Action:Clerk

Minute 10318**Planning**

To consider all recent applications received from Buckinghamshire Council detailed and any other planning applications submitted and published on the Buckinghamshire Council Planning Portal between the circulation of the agenda and the meeting:

[PL/26/00580/VRC – Rockwell End House Farm Rockwell End Lane Rockwell End](#) – Variation of condition 5 (agricultural use) attached to planning permission 23/05208/FUL (Construction of agricultural livestock building) to allow for the building to be used for private equestrian purposes as well as agricultural uses – **no objection**

[PL/26/00645/FA – Woolleys Skirmett Road Hambleden](#) – Construction of a new porch with pitched roof and parapet, fenestration alterations, extension to the existing garage, creation of a staff parking area, demolition of the 1930s curved wall, and formation of a new access drive linking to the existing drive – **no objection**

[PL/26/00148/FA – Hamblebrook House Rectory Hill Hambleden](#) – Replacement Conservatory – **no objection**

Planning Application Decisions made since the date of the last Parish Council meeting – for information only:

[PL/25/4817/TP – Gite Adeline Skirmett Road Skirmett](#) – Reduce back up to 5 branches by 3 metres as directly touching the electric wires. and remove one branch from the opposite side of the tree to retain correct cosmetic balance x 1 Beech – **Conditional permission**

[PL/25/4354/HB – Barlows Frieth Hill Frieth](#) – Listed building consent to repair south facing wall of annexe using correct materials (e.g. flint and lime based mortar) by dismantling failed flint wall and re-laying entire section of this wall in stages – **Withdrawn**

[PL/25/3808/FA – 33 and 34 Yewden Cottages Skirmett Road Hambleden](#) – Combining 33 and 34 Yewden Cottages into 1 family home with single storey rear extension – **Conditional permission**

[PL/25/5590/FA – Bradstone Frieth Hill Frieth](#) – Changes to external materials including roof finishes, changes to fenestration, proposed new outbuilding, changes to landscaping and new vehicular entrance gate – **Conditional permission**

[PL/26/00086/SA – The Firm Frieth Hill Frieth](#) – Certificate of Lawfulness for proposed erection of rear outbuilding – **Certificate Refused** (PC not consulted)

An appeal to the Planning Inspectorate regarding planning application [25/06137/FUL](#), APP/K0425/W/25/3375513 – Rockwell End House Farm Rockwell End Lane was allowed by the Inspector.

An appeal has been submitted to the Planning Inspectorate regarding planning application [PL/25/4483/AGN](#) – Land at Spurgrove Lane. The original objection comments that the PC made will be available to the Inspector.

Minute 10319

To confirm the date for the next meeting as:

The date of the next meeting was confirmed as Monday 13th April – Frieth Village Hall.

The meeting was closed at 21.59.

Signed Date