

East Harptree Parish Council

Serving our community - Caring about our future

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on

Tuesday 20th January 2026 at 7.30pm in The Theatre, East Harptree

Present: Cllrs John Vinson (Chair), John Darvill, Richard Davis, Alan Harper, Andrew Jones, Ed King and Chris Pope.

Clerk: Sarah-Jane Streatfeild-James

Ward Councillor: Simon McCombe

Minutes - 2026/01

1. **Apologies for absence noted and accepted:** none

2. **Declarations of interest:** none

3. **Public forum:** 4 members of the public present to receive any update on Enforcement Case 25/00264/UNDEV Parcel 5532, Land E of Buckley Cottage, East Harptree. No planning application has yet been submitted to B&NES. Concerns expressed over potential breach of water by-laws, a supply pipe has been left exposed. Advised residents to report to Bristol Water as this is a private matter. Ward Councillor McCombe updated residents, please see report below.

Report from Ward Councillor – B&NES budget update, budgeting is underway at B&NES, a 'Fairer Funding' protocol is used, meaning that B&NES will receive less from central government.

Potholes should be reported via www.fixmystreet.com

Requests for infrastructure funding update – uncertainty about funding for a virtual path from West to East Harptree. Recent discussion on social media about a bus shelter at the crossroads by the clock are divided, but no funding currently available, and requires further discussion with residents.

Awaiting information from WECA about funding for X91 and 99 bus services.

Enforcement Case: Parcel 5532, Land E of Buckley Cottage. Cllr McCombe has a meeting on 21/01/26 at B&NES to ask that Enforcement Team now acts over the work that has been done without planning permission. Recent correspondence from Tessa Munt, MP to B&NES Planning Dept aiming to establish what enforcement has been taken to date. To concentrate on the main issue to date which is that the landscape has been changed in the Mendip AONB (hedging removed and large hardcore area laid without any

Signed by..... Date.....

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planning permissions). The AONB offers special protections to landscapes within its boundaries, to ensure Mendip AONB and Natural England are fully involved in this case.

4. Confirmation of the minutes of the previous meeting:

That the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 16th December 2025 are a true and accurate record.

5. Planning applications: none

To note: Enforcement Case: 25/00264/UNDEV Parcel 5532, Land E of Buckley Cottage, East Harptree (please see above)

6. Formal motions requiring a decision:

- i) All Parish Councils will be required to answer new digital and data compliance questions as part of the External Audit in April 2026 (Assertion 10). Agreed to keep current village website, but have this directed to a correct gov.uk domain. To move email system to Parish Online platform at a cost saving, total annual cost for domain and emails would be £160 in the first year and £260 thereafter. To add cloud storage provision for the Clerk to store council documents securely within the email platform at a cost of £42 pa. List of actions required to meet Assertion 10 requirements circulated to councillors, Clerk to continue to action.
- ii) No update on quote for work required to the clock tower. Cllr Darvill to ask clock overseer for update.
- iii) Agreed to purchase 2 x A3 and 1 x A4 ‘no parking’ signs for the Whitecross Road/Middle St/Church Lane junction. Total cost would be £64.50+VAT. Plan to secure them on (1) the low wall by the bench outside Solo Hairdressers, (2) to the left of the noticeboard opposite the clock, at the end of the pavement and (3) to the left of the clock, but to check with relevant landowners first.

7. Finance:

- i) To note standing orders:
 - SJ Streatfeild-James - clerks salary (January)
 - Paul Sperring - sweepers salary (January)
- ii) The bank reconciliation for last financial quarter of 25-26 was checked and signed by Cllr Harper
- iii) Agreed the following payments -

Date	Item	Payee	Net	VAT	Total
21.01.26	Clerk expenses – HWA	SJ Streatfeild-James	£12.00		£12.00
	Printing (Oct)		£2.60	£0.65	£3.25
	Canva (Nov)		£3.61	£0.72	£4.33
21.01.26	Salaries + PAYE & NI Clerk & Sweeper (month 11, Jan-Feb)	HMRC & employees			£952.20

Signed by..... Date.....

21.01.26	Salaries, PAYE & NI Clerk & Sweeper (month 12, Feb-March)	HMRC & employees			£952.20
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8. Matters of report:

- i) A large sinkhole developed on the verge on Smithams Hill, it was reported to B&NES via Fixmystreet on 14th Oct, it has been filled in but immediately washed out again. B&NES notified and awaiting further repairs. Ward Cllr McCombe to follow up.
- ii) Precept request for 26-27 has been submitted to B&NES and acknowledgement received.
- iii) Email received from B&NES regarding a District Tree and Woodland Strategy. Forwarded to EH Environment Group and local farmer.

9. Correspondence received:

- i) Email from Tessa Munt MP regarding Enforcement Case: 25/00264/UNDEV Parcel 5532, Land E of Buckley Cottage, East Harptree

Meeting ended 21.32pm

Next meeting **Tuesday 17th February 2026** at 7.30pm in The Theatre, East Harptree.

Signed by..... Date.....

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