

East Harptree Parish Council

Serving our community - Caring about our future

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on

Tuesday 17th February 2026 at 7.30pm in The Theatre, East Harptree

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

Clerk: Sarah-Jane Streatfeild-James

Ward Councillor: Simon McCombe

Minutes - 2026/02

- 1. Apologies for absence noted and accepted:** Cllrs John Darvill and John Vinson.
- 2. Declarations of interest:** none
- 3. Public forum:** 11 members of the public present to comment on Enforcement Case 25/00264/UNDEV Parcel 5532, Land E of Buckley Cottage, East Harptree. The owners of the site explained that they are aiming to submit a full planning application in September this year to move a chicken farm to the site and to build a rural workers dwelling. Three bat surveys are required prior to submitting the planning application. B&NES Enforcement Team have visited the site due to work undertaken on the site to date and will wait for the planning application to run through the process prior to taking any action. Neighbours concerned about disregard for planning rules to date, advised an application will be submitted later this year when greater discussion can take place when all the details available. Cllrs encouraged all parties to listen to each other's points of view as this may help ensure the future planning application addresses them.

Report from Ward Councillor –

Request for new white lines on Whitecross Road from the shops to east of Harptree Court driveway reported on Fixmystreet have been requested but will not be undertaken in this financial year.

Advised to report blocked gullies on Smitham's Hill via Fixmystreet

Potholes should be reported via www.fixmystreet.com

A collection of ambulances has been parked in a field in West Harptree just beyond the East Harptree boundary. Advised that new landowner will be applying for retrospective planning permission to set up an ambulance training centre.

Funding for X91 and 99 bus services has been extended until the end of July. User numbers are being closely scrutinised, to encourage residents to use the buses in the upcoming months.

- 4. Confirmation of the minutes of the previous meeting:**

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

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That the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 20th January 2026 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. Advised that a planning application will be submitted at the end of 2026 once bat surveys are completed. B&NES Enforcement Team visited the site last week and are monitoring the site.

6. Formal motions requiring a decision:

- i) Discussed benefits of moving the current website to a gov.uk website with Parish Online, in addition to the agreed new email system and cloud storage. A package for emails, website and cloud storage would be £350 +VAT pa (£250 +VAT in the first year). EHPC currently has no website support. This would ensure we are meeting Assertion 10 requirements concerned with digital and data compliance, and accessibility, and would provide website support that is currently lacking. Agreed unanimously to move to Parish Online service. Clerk to action.
- ii) Renovation work is required to the clock tower, agreed to ask 2 further local welding businesses for a quote. Awaiting photos to send with request for quotes.
- iii) Agreed to hold the Annual Village Meeting on Tuesday May 19th from 5-7pm prior to monthly PC meeting.
- iv) Agreed not to respond to a request for a £200 grant from Crimestoppers, the service is already available but agreed to promote at the Annual Village Meeting.
- v) EHPC is expected to be under the £25,000 threshold for an External Audit for 25-26. Agreed to apply for an exemption from External Audit for this reason.

7. Finance:

- i) To note standing orders:
 - SJ Streatfeild-James - clerks salary (February)
 - Paul Sperring - sweepers salary (February)

ii) Agreed the following payments -

Date	Item	Payee	Net	VAT	Total
18.02.26	Clerk expenses – HWA	SJ Streatfeild-James	£12.00		£12.00
	Printing		£2.60	£0.65	£3.25
	Canva		£3.61	£0.72	£4.33
18.02.26	Salaries + PAYE & NI Clerk & Sweeper (month 11, Feb-March)	HMRC & employees			£952.20
18.02.26	Salaries, PAYE & NI Clerk & Sweeper (month 12, March-April)	HMRC & employees			£952.20
18.02.26	Road signs	Arien Signs			£95.40

8. Matters of report:

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

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- 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.
- ii) Highways asked that the request for white lines to be repainted be added to Fixmystreet. This has been done. Will be actioned in next financial year.
- iii) Chew Valley Nature Recovery Network are looking for residents with an aim to connect individuals and groups so that they can share each other's enthusiasm, expertise, knowledge and experience. Publicity shared with residents.

9. Correspondence received:

- i) Funding for the X91 and 99 bus services has been extended until the end of July 2026.

Meeting closed at 8.30pm

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

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

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