

HORTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on 10th September 2026 @6.30pm. Broadway Methodist church.

Present: Cllrs B Mosley, Chairman, Cllrs D White, J White, A Mockridge, M Schmidt, P Babbington, H Massey.

12 members of the public

26/43 Public Forum – deferred to item 26/49.

26/44 Somerset Councillor Report – none received

26/45 Apologies for absence – apologies received and accepted from Cllr A Johnson

26/46 To receive declaration of interest forms from new Councillors – received and filed. Cllr Mosley thanked the new Cllrs for their positive contributions to the council.

26/47 Declaration of Interests – none noted

26/48 Approval of minutes

- **July 16th 2026** – approved and signed.

26/49 Planning:

- Update – Broadway Hill planning refusal notification.** Residents present noted that they considered the communication from the council was not sufficient, request was made for the PC to notify residents, possibly using leaflet drops, the onus should not be on residents to find information. The PC website is updated regularly; some residents are not able to access online communications. Noted that the developer has the right of appeal. Suggestions for submission to appeal included the following:
 - Video of children walking to school from new development – this may not be practical due to GDPR and identifying individuals. Cllrs will walk the route and report back.
 - Request active travel plan from Neroche School.

Noted that the school bus to Holyrood school coincides with school opening at 08.35hrs, potential excess traffic and resident activity. Other suggestions included commissioning a neighbourhood plan to prevent development. Noted that neighbourhood plans are expensive, very time consuming, there is no longer any funding available from Somerset council, and there is no legal impact supporting a neighbourhood plan. It was agreed to set up a WhatsApp group and working party once the appeal process is notified to the council. A working party must be set up by the PC, is for a specific purpose and is time limited, there is no legal basis for decisions outside of full council meetings, working parties can meet at any location and any resident can join, reports and recommendations come back to full council for discussion and action if required. Residents were advised that they should be aware that they agreed that their details could be used for the formation of a WhatsApp's group. Agreed that meeting dates will be published on the notice board and the website front page. Majority of residents left the meeting after the conclusion of this item and prior to Cllr S Osborne joining the meeting at 7.15pm. Cllr Osborne apologised for her late arrival. Noted that the developer may resubmit plans for fewer houses and possibly across several applications to try and get approval. Recommended to file a freedom of information request via SC website specifically regarding the removal of education support. It is possible that if schools are oversubscribed then the current option for parents to choose schools closer to their property may no longer be available. SC planning notification should notify the PC regarding any appeal and relevant hearing. Recommended that residents & Cllrs continue to collate

information ahead of any future meeting. Noted that Base Planning consultants are aware of the pending appeal and ready to assist if required.

Agreed that locations and type of notice board would be investigated, Clerk will purchase new notice boards as required. Cllr Schmidt will obtain extra keys for the notice board which can be used if necessary. Cllr Schmidt confirmed that all notices are posted as soon as they are received by Cllrs. Noted that the signs on the play area fence are out of date – Clerk to order new notices.

Cllr Osborne noted that increased parking charges across Somerset will be implemented and will include Sunday parking. Short term on-street parking will remain free until further consultation is complete.

The council thanked Cllr Osborne for her assistance and advice regarding this application.

26/50 Finance:

- a. **To approve and sign the Bank statements** – July 2026 to date – approved and signed, noted that the second instalment of the precept was received after publication of the agenda.
- b. **To approve and minute payment requests.** See Appendix A – approved and signed
- c. **To approve and sign bank reconciliations** July 2026 to date – approved and signed
- d. **External Auditor report -pending.** The final report had been received from the external auditor and is on the website and on the notice board. There are no actions resulting from the review, all matters were resolved.
- e. **To consider using Scribe accounting package.** Due to the limited number of transactions and cost, it was decided not to use this package.

26/51 Planning Inspectorate Appeal Reference: 6014169

Appeal In Respect of Application Decision Reference: 26/00230/OUT. The council noted that the previous objections remained valid. Clerk to reply to SC with a copy of the original response.

26/52 Proposal: Replacement of three deteriorated timber windows with like-for-like handmade timber replicas (Implemented) and proposed replacement of one further deteriorated timber window on a like-for-like basis. -Noted

26/53 Clerk report:

- b. **Playing field bin update.** Clerk to remind SC to fit bin housing and chase wheelie bin delivery
- c. **To consider adopting Internal Control Policy.** Policy adopted, unanimously agreed.
- d. **Village sign-** noted that SC Highways had been instructed to install sign with previously agreed wording. Work due to take place in March/April 2027.
- e. **Parish Council website administration** – noted that Clerk updates site.

26/54 Playground

- f. **To consider proposed new and replacement play area equipment.** Pending report from Cllr Johson
- g. To consider current play area and discuss plan for future development. Cllrs will find the previous plan and circulate
- h. **To consider Play Inspection Report.** The correct report was received just prior to the meeting – action pending.

26/55 To consider setting up a Facebook page for the Parish Council. It was noted that postings from personal accounts was not considered appropriate. Agreed to investigate setting up a Facebook page just for PC information and without the ability to comment. Agreed that a draft/test page could be set up and brought back to the next meeting. 5 in favour 2 against.

26/56 Drain clearance & path clearing. Noted that highways have cleared gutters and gulleys in Broadway – Cllrs will photograph areas in most need of clearance and send to Clerk.

25/57 Standing items.

i. Monthly updates:

- i. Highways/Village maintenance: See item 26/56 above
- ii. Consider annual schedule of grounds maintenance. - ongoing
- iii. Speed Indicator Devices – Clerk to sent download instructions to Cllrs J & D White
- iv. Bus shelter refurbishment/decoration. Cllr Massey to liaise with school re decorative panels.

Meeting closed @ 20.30hrs

Date of next meeting: October 08th 2026 6.30pm Broadway Methodist Church.

