



Minutes of a meeting of Hilldale Parish Council

Thursday 8th January 2026, 7.00pm

at Hilldale Village Hall

Participants: Cllr G Ward (Chairman), Cllr I Bell, Cllr D Whittington, Cllr S Ashcroft, Trish Grimshaw (Parish Clerk)

1. **Apologies for Absence** – Cllr P Rawlinson
2. **Declarations of Interest and Dispensations**
 - a. **To receive declarations of interest from Councillors in relation to items on the agenda** - none
 - b. **To receive written requests for dispensations for disclosable pecuniary interests** - none
 - c. **To grant any requests for dispensation as appropriate** - none

3. **Public Participation: To adjourn the meeting for a period of public participation.**

Any member of the public may speak for up to 5 minutes within the overall time allocated. Please note that any representation or matter raised does not require any response from the Council and should not be debated since no decision can lawfully be made during this time. A member of the public is any person present other than a member or official of the Council. A member or official of the Council may (after the meeting) request a future agenda item be placed setting out what it is the Council is being asked to consider and decide upon.

The Chair reported the path on the slope at the side of the hall is lifting possibly due to tree routes. This will be investigated and a quotation obtained to resolve.

It was reported that the missing Christmas decoration has not been returned to the hall or Councillor Ward. It was resolved the Clerk should write to the hirer once more and if it is not returned within a week the hirer should be invoiced for the full cost.

4. **Minutes of the previous meeting - to resolve to approve as a correct record the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 4th December 2025.** It was resolved to approve the minutes of 4th December proposed by the Cllr Bell, seconded by the Chair and unanimously ratified by all.
5. **Parish Clerks Report (previously circulated).** The Clerk's report was noted.
6. **Items for information - reports from outside bodies** - none
7. **To receive an update on the additional SpID site.** The Clerk has received a response from Lancashire County Council who will investigate the additional site asap.
8. **To receive an update on the accessible picnic bench and the seated bench.** The accessible picnic bench should be ready very soon. We await feedback from the resident wishing to purchase a seated bench.

- 9. **To receive an update on the hazel.** There has been no take up for the hazel cut offs hence it was ratified to go ahead with the pruning following receipt of a quotation from Laurence.
- 10. **To receive an update on the village hall kitchen refurbishment project.** It was ratified the Clerk should commence work on drafting an application to Veolia, the first stage to consult with residents and users and non-users via a survey.
- 11. **To receive an update on the Arts Council grant funding for the May 2026 village fair.** The Clerk had circulated an e mail from the Arts Council which stated ‘Your project may potentially be eligible for our National Lottery Project Grants, which is our open access programme for arts, libraries and museums projects. It can support a broad range of high quality creative and cultural projects that benefit people living in England. The National Lottery Project Grants fund focuses on projects that bring creativity and culture to the public of England through one or more of our supported art forms. Our supported art forms are theatre, music, dance, literature, visual arts, combined arts (festivals, carnivals and circus), museums and libraries. Individuals and organisations can apply for grants from £1,000 upwards for projects that last up to three years. The Clerk requested ideas for a grant application up to the £1,000 value (in addition to the circus event).
- 12. **To discuss the age and shortage of batteries for the defibrillator; receive quotations for a replacement; establish a budget source and agree a way forward.** It was ratified to consider holding an event to fundraise for the defibrillator in addition to writing to local businesses for support. Following discussion given the urgent need to replace the device it was ratified to order a defibrillator from the defib shop given the Clerks previously circulated information regarding the current trade in deal offer.
- 13. **To discuss and decide on a way forward to canvass public opinion regarding a change of speed limit on Bannister Lane from the junction with Jacksons Lane to the current start of the 30mph limit near the junction with Chorley Road and the school.** Following discussion, it was ratified to seek public opinion via a survey/newsletter.
- 14. **Planning Matters – to discuss and decide a response (if applicable) to planning applications together with any received after the agenda is published.** The planning committee are meeting to discuss 10 Chorley Road.
- 15. **To review a second draft budget proposal for the 2026/27 financial year and agree priorities.** The budget was ratified for 2026/27
- 16. **To confirm the precept for 2026/27 financial year after receiving confirmation of the Council tax base and subsidies from WLBC. It was ratified: -**

Support Grant 2026/27 Tax Base 276.85 (up 7.42 from 269.43)

Precept Required before 2026/27 Grant £18,840.15 (5% increase)

Less Council Tax Support Grant 495.00

Precept to be raised from Council Tax £18345.15

Precept to be raised from Council Tax £18,345.15 with a tax base of 276.85 gives a Band D equivalent Tax level of £66.26 and increase of £1.50

17. **To consider and approve the schedule of accounts for payment.** Approved

18. **Financial reports – to ratify accounts and authorise payments.** Approved

There being no further business the meeting closed at 19.56

Signed.....G Ward..... G WARD, CHAIRMAN, Dated05.03.26.....