



## **Minutes of a meeting of Hilldale Parish Council**

**Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2026,**

**7.00pm at Hilldale Village Hall**

**Participants:** Cllr G Ward (Chairman), Cllr D Whittington, Cllr S Ashcroft, Trish Grimshaw (Parish Clerk) and 2 members of the public.

1. **Apologies for Absence** – Cllr I Bell, 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.**

Rebecca Whitfield, Headteacher of Richard Durnings school raised concerns in respect of the speed of traffic along Chorley Road. The school council has written to County Cllr Owens and Cllr Whittington and letters have been shared from the school children with the local council. Feedback received was disappointing as it is not deemed a priority due to the minimal accidents. The Chairman fully supported the school's campaign and advised that the recently purchased SpID will be moved further down Chorley Road in the hope to highlight and reduce the speed of drivers. It was suggested to speak to the local police officer to collaborate on campaigns to curb speeding in school zones ie display of handmade posters to directly urge drivers to slow down.

4. **Minutes of the previous meeting - to resolve to approve as a correct record the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> January 2026.** It was resolved to approve the minutes of 8<sup>th</sup> January proposed by the Cllr Ashcroft, seconded by Cllr Whittington and unanimously ratified by all
5. **Parish Clerks Report (previously circulated).** The Clerk's report was noted. The Clerk added that she has been advised by the Play Inspection Company of a slight delay in undertaking the annual play area inspection.
6. **Items for information - reports from outside bodies**

- **To consider the e mail from Lancashire County Council re its internal Staff Volunteer Scheme which is looking to identify a small number of one-off projects that would benefit local communities, ideally outdoors or in community centres (e.g., emulsions walls, painting)** Parish Councillors ratified that a project on the field should be explored e.g. a free community herb garden.
- **To note the e Mail received from Democratic Services regarding the Elections 2026 and LGR Implications for Parish/Town Councils. The Government announced on Monday 16 February that the planned postponement of elections was to be rescinded. Therefore, the Borough Council elections for West Lancashire will be taking place on Thursday 7 May, in combination with any contested Parish areas. As such, the information contained in the briefing note around standalone Parish elections is now obsolete. Borough Poll Cards will be issued and will contain Parish wording were applicable. Costs around polling stations, staffing, and other items will be split if Parish areas are contested. Postal Votes will continue to be issued as a standalone item for contested Parish areas. The Notice of Election will be published on Friday 27 March, and nominations can be accepted between 9am-4pm each working day from Monday 30 March until Thursday 9 April. Nomination packs can be obtained from the Electoral Commission via <https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/sites/default/files/2026-02/Nomination%20pack%20PARISH.pdf> or we can provide paper copies on request.** Parish Councillors noted the e mail.

7. **To receive an update on the additional SpID site.** The Clerk confirmed the e mail from Paul Connell (LCC) who had provided a suitable site to slow traffic on the approach to Robin Lane Junction (image circulated between 52 and 53 Chorley Road) this would require a new post. It was ratified to put this on hold and review after the SpID has been moved to its second location.
8. **To receive an update on the accessible picnic bench and the seated bench.** The Clerk confirmed the date of delivery and installation (26<sup>th</sup> March) has been received from Classic Memorial Benches, The Chair said he should be available to attend and confirm a suitable location for the bench.
9. **To receive an update on the hazel.** The work on the hazel has been completed and opens up the area at the bottom of the field much better.
10. **To receive an update on the village hall kitchen refurbishment project.** A questionnaire was designed to establish the need from existing hirers of the hall; this is ready to be distributed to residents. The Clerk has also met 2 kitchen suppliers on site. Following receipt of drawings from one of the contractors (previously circulated) it was ratified to put this project on hold and take steps to investigate the condition of the kitchen floor which appears to be slightly dropping in one corner.
11. **To receive an update on the Arts Council grant funding for the May 2026 village fair.** The application was not been progressed as the HCA were able to fund the event due to minimal costs incurred.
12. **To discuss unauthorised traffic mirrors that have appeared along Chorley Road and agree a way forward.** Following concerns raised with the Parish Council it was ratified to report to Lancashire County Council as this falls under the highway's authority.
13. **To confirm the precept for the 2026/27 financial year has been forwarded to WLBC.** This was noted.
14. **To pass a resolution to agree the Parish Council standing orders** Approved
15. **To pass a resolution to agree financial regulations** Approved
16. **To pass a resolution to agree risk management policy statement** Approved
17. **To pass a resolution to agree the internal auditor and fee - Heelis and Lodge,** approved
18. **To pass a resolution to agree the risk management register** Approved

19. **To pass a resolution to agree the parish council asset register** Approved
20. **Planning Matters – to discuss and decide a response (if applicable) to planning applications together with any received after the agenda is published.** The Chair raised proposals which have been circulated from 'Wain Estates' for around 220 residential homes on land off Chorley Road, Parbold. Whilst no formal planning application has been submitted residents have leaflet dropped to request feedback.
21. **To receive the budget monitoring report receipts/payments summary to the end of quarter three (2025/26) for members to note.** Parish Councillors noted quarter three monitoring report with no queries raised.
22. **To consider and resolve the Year End Health Check service offered by Scribe.** Approved
23. **To consider and approve the schedule of accounts for payment.** Approved
24. **Financial reports – to ratify accounts and authorise payments.** Approved
25. **Staffing Review – in view of the confidential nature of this item, members of the public and press may be excluded at this point.** A note of this minute is contained in a separate note.

**There being no further business the meeting closed at 19.50**

**Signed.....*Gary Ward*..... G WARD, CHAIRMAN, Dated ..... 21.05.26.....**