



Draft Minutes of a meeting of Hilldale Parish Council

Thursday 8th May 2025, 7.30pm

at Hilldale Village Hall

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

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

- None received

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.

It was noted that Cllr Adrian Ownes is the County Councillor for West Lancs East.

4. **Minutes of the previous meeting - to resolve to approve as a correct record the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 06.03.25.** It was resolved to approve the minutes proposed by the Cllr Bell, seconded by the Chairman and unanimously ratified by all.
5. **Parish Clerks Report (previously circulated).** The Clerk's report was noted. The Clerk enquired if the Parish Councillors had considered the quotation (previously circulated) for painting of the fence at the bottom of the playing field. It was ratified to seek an additional quotation.
6. **To receive reports from outside bodies.** Cllr Bell provided an overview of the LALC meeting held on 10th April at the Council Offices in Ormskirk. The Police Representative from South Rural Task Force was not present to provide an update on the work of the RTF including anti-Social behaviour, heritage crime and agricultural machinery theft. Discussions took place regarding the cost of transferring bin collections to Parish Councils and charging for emptying bins, however this will not affect Hilldale. Household grey bins will reduce from every 2 weeks to 3 weeks and a food caddy will be introduced from 1.4.26. Green garden waste collection will increase by £1 this year; grass cutting and road sweeping will be undertaken twice a year.

7. **To consider the request from 'Recycle Solutions' to host a clothes bin at the village hall and agree a way forward.** Following discussion, it was ratified to decline the request due to their being no suitable location for a clothes bin.
8. **To receive feedback from to LCC Highways in relation to the request that wooden posts be added to the white posts round the edge of the grassed area at the Chorley Road/Malkiln Lane, Hilldale, junction in the manner of the wooden posts recently added to the edge of the grassed area at the junction of Tannersmith Lane/Halfpenny Lane/Hall Green Lane, Mawdesley.**

The Clerk received the following response (previously circulated) from Kerry Murdock, Highways District Lead Officer, Lancashire County Council. *'Thank you for your email dated 24 March 2025, requesting wooden posts to be added to the white posts on the grassed island at the junction of Chorley Road with Malkiln Lane and Hilldale. Unfortunately, we have no plans to install wooden posts at this junction island. We do not fit wooden posts on request. The posts installed at the junction at Halfpenny Lane were installed due to safety specific highway reasons. We would also not install posts at this junction to prevent the over running at this island, as following inspection this was deemed as minimal'*. Cllr Whittington has subsequently spoken to the highways department and is awaiting a response.

9. **To receive an update regarding land drainage at Hillside Ave.** Parish Councillors ratified to leave this issue in obedience (there has been only one resident raising concern).
10. **To discuss progress on the SpID project and consider a grant application for the posts required.** The Clerk shared the most recent quotation from Elan City. Parish Councillors confirmed 2 posts are required. The Clerk was requested to obtain a final update on all prices (SpID and posts) for the next meeting. Meanwhile the Clerk will seek any other funding opportunities.
11. **To receive an update on this year's application for capital grant from WLBC.** The Clerk confirmed she has e mailed Liz McEwan (interim capital accountant) for an update on the grant application and awaits a response.
12. **To receive the budget monitoring report receipts/payments summary for the full year end (2024/25) for members to note.** Parish Councillors noted the report.
13. **To receive feedback report (previously distributed) on the Year End Health Check undertaken by Scribe.** The Clerk reported the year end check went well.
14. **Planning Matters – to discuss and decide a response (if applicable) to the following planning application together with any received after the agenda is published:** None
15. **Ratification and bank reconciliation of the financial year end 2024/25 and subsequent documents to be submitted to the internal auditor.** The bank reconciliation for the financial year 2024/25 was ratified and the documents to be submitted to the internal auditor noted.
16. **To receive an update on the VAT return for year ending 31.03.25.** The Clerk reported a refund of £1797.79 had been received into the Parish Council bank account on 16.04.25 following the VAT claim up to 31.03.25.
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 19.49

Clerk: Trish Grimshaw E mail: Clerk@hilldaleparishcouncil.gov.uk

Signed..... G WARD, CHAIRMAN, Dated 03.07.25