



## HILLDALE PARISH COUNCIL

### **DRAFT** Minutes of the meeting held on

Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> July 2026, 7.00pm at Hilldale Village Hall

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

1. **Apologies for Absence** - none
2. **Declarations of Interest and Dispensations** - none
  - 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

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.**

Concerns were expressed by a resident regarding speed compliance in the village; it was agreed that data from the SpID will be downloaded to analyse.

A query was raised regarding ownership and plans for the strip of land at the bottom of the field. The Chair confirmed this was auctioned off over 10 years ago via sealed bids, however land registry should have the detail.

Cllr Ashcroft raised concerns regarding a number of large branches which are overhanging the path on the field. Cllr Ashcroft to meet with the Clerk and Laurence to point out the areas and obtain a quotation; this to be agreed via e mail.

4. **Minutes of the previous meeting** - Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> May and 11<sup>th</sup> June 2026 were approved, proposed by Cllr Rawlinson and seconded by the Chairman.
5. **Parish Clerks Report (previously circulated).** The report was noted. Estimates were received to resurface the sloping path to the hall and remove the tree that is causing the path to lift. It was agreed the area should be cordoned off for now and review options in the future.
6. **To receive reports from outside bodies.**

**LGR Implications for Parish/Town Council Elections**

E mail received from WLBC Democratic Services. 'To formalise in law the changes that come about through Local Government Reorganisation, Central Government will lay a Structural Changes Order in Parliament. We anticipate, similar to what happened with North Yorkshire's reorganisation, that the Structural Changes Order for Lancashire will include a section relating to Parish/Town Council elections. This is with a view to ensure that Parish/Town Council election cycles align with the election cycle of the new unitary authority.

This would mean that all Parish/Town Council areas would have elections in 2027, regardless of the date of their last election. This would be combined with the shadow elections for the new Unitary Authority. Those elected would serve a 5-year term of office until 2032 when elections would take place again combined with the Unitary elections. A 4-year cycle would then be in place with further elections in 2036, 2040 and so on, always in combination with unitary elections.' This was noted

**7. To receive an update on a traffic survey to identify the current volumes and timing of HGV traffic.**

The Clerk contacted Paul Connell (Road Safety Officer LCC) who provided information regarding data collection companies. A quotation was received which would provide a week of 24 hours data with detailed classifications. Paul stated a community traffic survey where volunteers are safely positioned to visually assess and mark passing vehicles onto a standardised tally could also be an option. It was ratified to look into this option with volunteers collating data.

- 8. To receive and consider a quotation for a maintenance treatment on the timber play area.** The quotation was circulated and agreed, the treatment will be applied after the school holidays.
- 9. To receive and consider the quotation for the renewal of the village hall kitchen floor.** It was ratified that both the floor and kitchen require replacing at the same time; a price for a commercial kitchen will be sought.
- 10. To discuss available options of ways to raise finance to fund development of the Village Hall.** Following discussion it was ratified to investigate borrowing money; NALC will be contacted for further advice.
- 11. To discuss and agree a way forward on agreeing a short program of cultural events to be funded in part by the arts council grant.** It was ratified that a full program of cultural events for all ages would be put together to attract new people and groups.
- 12. To receive an update on the feasibility of buying the land adjacent to the playing field.** Cllr Rawlinson provided an update; a message has been passed onto the owner to declare the Parish Council's interest in the land.
- 13. To receive an update on the external audit.** No response to date.
- 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. To note and approve the increase in the NJC mileage rate to 0.55p per mile wef 01.04.26.** The increase was noted.
- 16. To receive the budget monitoring report/receipts and payments summary to the end of quarter one (2026/27 – April to June) for members to note.** Parish Councillor's noted.
- 17. To consider and approve the schedule of accounts for payment -** Approved.
- 18. Financial reports – to ratify accounts and authorise payments -** Approved.

Clerk: Trish Grimshaw

E mail: Clerk@hilldaleparishcouncil.gov.uk

Signed:

G WARD, CHAIRMAN, Dated .....