



DRAFT Minutes of a meeting of Hilldale Parish Council

Thursday 4th December 2025, 7.30pm

at Hilldale Village Hall

Participants: Cllr G Ward (Chairman), Cllr I Bell, Cllr D Whittington, Cllr P Rawlinson, Trish Grimshaw (Parish Clerk) and two members of the public

- 1. Apologies for Absence** – Cllr S Ashcroft
- 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.

Bill highlighted the Alice and Howard Bridge charity which includes capital grants for village hall repairs. This will be investigated further to check eligibility.

Bill raised awareness of a recent programme on the BBC highlighting 'scam awareness', Bill asked if this type of event could be held in the village hall, perhaps by Lancashire Police. The Chair commented it would be useful to have expression of interest before committing a session.

The Chair raised an issue regarding the use of some type of restraint on the outside door, a visitor to a recent event thought the hall was closed as external door was closed. It was suggested signage on the door or a wedge would be a way forward however during the colder months the hall's heating would be compromised if the external door is left open.

A resident asked if the SpID is going to be moved. It was acknowledged the SpID would be moved in due course.

County Cllr Adrian Owens introduced himself to Members and members of the public. He explained that he is currently setting up his diary and workload and has already started to attend meetings. He has 9 parish councils in his division but will endeavour to attend meetings at least once or twice a year. In relation to Hilldale, Cllr Owens spoke of his recent

discussions with the Head teacher at Richard Durning's who wishes to campaign to slow down the speed of traffic near the school. Cllr Bell suggested someone from the school attend a future Parish council meeting to discuss further. Excessive speed of traffic travelling down Whittle Lane to the junction of Jacksons Lane was also highlighted – could the speed limit be reduced? It was resolved to add an agenda item to the next meeting

4. **Minutes of the previous meeting - to resolve to approve as a correct record the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 6th November 2025.** It was resolved to approve the minutes of 4th September proposed by the Chair, seconded by the Cllr Bell 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 village hall ladies' toilets and boiler inspection.** The external pipework of the toilets has been renewed and the gas boiler inspected with no issues raised.
8. **To receive an update on the additional SpID site.** The SpID is up and running; the Clerk requested assistance with retrieving the information from the SpID to the laptop which will require the use of a cable as a Wi-Fi signal cannot be obtained. An additional site was discussed, it was ratified to request LCC to look at the area near lamppost 48, at the entrance gate of Fairhurst Hall pointing it towards Parbold (The Common).
9. **To receive an update on the accessible picnic bench and the seated bench.** The accessible picnic bench is currently on order. The Clerk requested a decision on whether a twin or triple base for the bench is required. It was ratified a triple base would be the preferred option. The Clerk to contact the resident who wishes to fund the bench.
10. **To receive an update on the pruning of the hazel bush.** The Clerk confirmed she had contacted the Rangers at WLBC by phone re the hazel to establish if they can use/coppice or if they have any contacts who wish to use the stems. The Clerk followed this up via e mail with photographs of the hazel. Rangers confirmed they do not have capacity to coppice but provided details of someone who may wish to use it once it has been cut; the Clerk is awaiting a response.
11. **To receive an update on the village hall kitchen refurbishment project.** The Clerk has made some enquiries with a local café to establish who they purchased their kitchen equipment from. It was resolved that Cllr Rawlinson would obtain photos of the WI kitchen and Cllr Ward to speak to Matt Silcock for advice. The Clerk suggested a subgroup to identify what type of kitchen is required in order to obtain quotations, this will be required prior to submitting a grant application.
12. **To receive an update on the Arts Council grant funding for the May 2026 village fair.** This item to be added to the next agenda.
13. **Planning Matters – to discuss and decide a response (if applicable) to planning applications together with any received after the agenda is published.** Two applications, one for a porch on 32 Chorley Road and a conservatory on 41 Beechfield – Parish Councillors raised no issues with either application.
14. **To discuss the refurbishment of the store and possible extension into office and agree a way forward.** The moving of the stud wall approx. 3ft was discussed to create a bigger storage area and smaller office. It was ratified to keep this in obeyance as there is currently no budget provision for this project.
15. **To review a draft budget proposal for the 2026/27 financial year and agree priorities.** The budget proposals were discussed. The Clerk highlighted the need for a significant grant to allow the kitchen refurbishment project to take place. It was highlighted that provision needs to be made for playground maintenance. The Clerk requested any further comments are e

mailed to her to enable the budget and precept to be agreed at the January meeting. Based on version one of the budget proposal this would represent a 5% increase on the precept.

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

17. Financial reports – to ratify accounts and authorise payments. Approved.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 20.01.

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

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