

HARTLEY WESPALL PARISH COUNCIL (PC)

Minutes of a meeting held at 19.00 on 23/2/2026 at Longwood

Councillors: Philip van Grutten – Chair – (PvG), Alex Robins (AR), Rupert Fisher, and Clerk, Paul Newberry(PN) Also in attendance Henrietta Wilkins (HW)

Chair opened the meeting and welcomed everyone. He also expressed thanks to the retiring clerk for his service over the last 13 years as a councillor and later as Clerk

- 1. Apologies**
Ian Brown, Chris Taylor
- 2. Approval of Minutes**
Approved without amendment
- 3. Matters Arising**

Speedwatch

Chair reported that a grant had been applied for to enable the expansion of the Speedwatch program. A response should be received before the end of February.

The November speed recording camera session showed 7605 vehicles recorded, 4300 exceeded 30mph, 1140 exceeded 40mph, 32 exceeded 50mph. One vehicle had a previous history in another area so will receive a warning. A third will result in a police visit.

Christmas 2025

AR reported that his request to the school for a tree received no reply, so he took no further action.

Domian Name

Clerk reported that this had now been completed, the website and all emails changed.

Stile

Chair reported that the stile had been expertly repaired on behalf of the landowner by Chair himself. HW from the floor asked about the legal position if an injury was caused to a user. Clerk suggested it was the landowner's prime responsibility.

3a Bramley Meeting

Clerk had received an invitation for Councillors to attend a meeting arranged by Meeting Place where we were to receive an update on the plans for a new housing estate on the estate's land. Clerk had confirmed that Chair and he would attend. No other councillors were available.

Unknown to the clerk, a councillor had contacted Meeting Place and asked whether a villager could attend as a council representative, because councillors were not available. A reluctant and qualified acceptance was received. That invitation has now been withdrawn.

Council was reminded that if any form of third-party representation was ever required it would need the full council's approval.

4. Future Bank Alterations

The current clerk is retiring, and Henrietta Wilkins was confirmed as the new Clerk as from April 1st. It was agreed that PN would start the process of obtaining bank authorisation for HW. PN to stay authorised until that had been completed.

5. Historical Council Minutes

Currently we have paper copies of Minutes dating back to 7th July 1981. PN suggested that these could if possible be recorded online. PN agreed that he would spend time over the next few months putting as many on as he could. They may be a hardware problem which would need to be overcome.

6. Litter Pick

Congratulations and thanks recorded to Ian Brown and his merry men for a highly successful and enjoyable litter pick on Saturday 21st February. It was agreed that this should become a very regular event. The purchase of bag loops was discussed, and it was agreed that this should be investigated before the next meeting. Clerk reminded the need for Hi-Viz jackets. Not everyone was wearing them on Saturday.

7. Insurance Renewal

Agreed to renew the existing policy

9. Financial Statement

Very little movement since November. No questions or comments raised.

9. Computer Upgrade

The current Laptop is eight years old, the battery no longer holds charge and the software needs upgrading. It was agreed that a new machine would be purchased and HW was tasked with obtaining quotations for a replacement to suit her needs.

10. Renewal of Domain Name

This was in respect of the old “.org” Google domain name – and it was agreed we would retain for another year.

11. Additional Signs

A proposal to consider “no litter” signs being erected around the village was put forward. Opinion was they would achieve nothing, would cost too much and would further blight the village with unnecessary road signs. No further action.

12. Next Meeting Dates

Agreed to follow last years practise of holding the AGM only, in the church on 19th May after the Friends hold theirs. A short PC meeting preceding would be held on 27th April 2026. PN will investigate whether this later date still complies with the rules.