

HARTLEY WESPALL PARISH COUNCIL

ANNUAL UPDATE: APRIL 2026

Parish Clerk

With effect from 1st May 2026, Paul Newberry will retire as Parish Clerk. The Council wishes to thank Paul for his considerable contribution to the Parish over the last 13 years, initially as Councillor, then as Councillor and Clerk, and latterly as Clerk.

A new Clerk has been appointed; details will appear on the Parish Website.

Roads

Since the last update Church Lane has had some work done to improve it, and the odd pot-hole has been repaired but the roads are generally in poor condition. The County Council has publicly declared that the budget for roads throughout the county is just 10% of what is needed to keep all roads up to standard. With this in mind, it is clear that rural lanes are not a priority. The damage to the culvert near Elliots Corner (which occurred in March 2024!) is still waiting to be repaired. When prompted for an update, Hampshire County Council said *"A funding submission was made to the County Council's planned maintenance team in 2025 in the expectation that repairs to the culvert will be carried out as part of a future program. Drainage sites are reviewed annually and assessed against similar sites across the County. The limited funding is prioritised where there is internal flooding to dwelling spaces or where flood risk exists in the high-speed road network. Consequently I am not able to advise you when the culvert might be repaired."*

One positive development is the improvement to regular flooding at the bottom of Rotherwick Hill. Whilst not perfect, drainage is considerably better.

Bramley Meadows

Representatives of the PC have been invited to consultation meetings with the Wellington Estate in preparation for a planning application by the Estate to build up to 650 houses in Bramley. The main impact for Hartley Wespall will be additional traffic on the A33 and through the village. Details of the proposal are available at www.bramley-meadows.co.uk. Members of the public will have the opportunity to comment on the plans once a formal planning permission application has been made: www.basingstoke.gov.uk/view-planning-applications.

Finance

The PC is conscious not to place additional financial burden on parishioners by unnecessarily increasing the precept. This is the amount of money requested by the PC from the Borough Council and in turn re-charged via the Council Tax to all houses in the parish. For 2025/26 the annual amount payable for a band D household was £42.76 and for 2026/27 will be £45.02, an increase of about £0.19 per month. We continue to endeavour to seek grants for major expenditure. Income exceeded expenditure for the last financial year by about £430, with the surplus added to reserves to cover unexpected costs.

Speed monitoring and Community Speedwatch

On average approximately 1000 cars a day travel through the village along Hartley Lane. Of those 1000 cars, according to the Speed Indicator Device which records the date, time and speed of every vehicle that passes it, about 70% coming from the direction of the A33 exceed the speed limit. Consequently we re-started Community Speedwatch, using a speedgun bought by the PC with a grant from the County Council. All speeding vehicles are reported to the Police from whom the registered keeper receives a letter. As a result of our Speedwatch initiative Hampshire Police Safer Roads Unit have offered to do a formal 'roadside enforcement' in the village, which we have accepted. This, they say, *"may lead to fines and*

penalty points". In addition, we have received a grant from the Police and Crime Commissioner to fund additional licences to allow us to site the SID in different parts of the village. Any suggestion as to sites in addition to Hartley Lane would be welcome.

Various

In last year's update we reported that the parish boundary stone was to be renovated. This has now been done (before and after pictures below).

Repairs have been made to a stile on path 15 and new suitably rustic footpath signs have been installed.

Please report to the Clerk any issues on footpaths that you come across that need attention.

We also received a free tree supplied and planted opposite No. 3 Mill Lane by Hampshire Highways. The tree was initially to be donated under the Borough Council TreeMendous initiative, but delays in approval of the site meant that the tree supply was exhausted. Highways generously donated one from their allocation.



Website and communication: change of address

The Parish Council has been obliged to change its website address which is now: www.hartleywespall-pc.gov.uk. News, meeting dates, agendas and minutes are regularly posted. In addition there are detailed maps of footpaths and useful links to other resources such as the Basingstoke & Deane REPORT IT! Website.

All councillors' email addresses have changed as well.

The Clerk holds a database of parishioners' email addresses which we use for distribution of news; if you are not on the list, and would like to be, you can 'opt in' by sending a request to be added to: clerk@hartleywespall-pc.gov.uk.

There is also a Hartley Wespall WhatsApp group which can be accessed either via the link below or by scanning the QR code:

<https://chat.whatsapp.com/D1zOs68tz49H1rPeDZK4Fx>



AGM

The Annual General Meeting of the Parish Council will be held at **St Mary's Church Hartley Wespall** at **1900 hrs on Monday 18th May**. All parishioners are warmly invited to attend and raise ideas or concerns for the PC to consider.