

HILTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the ANNUAL MEETING and COUNCIL MEETING OF HILTON PARISH COUNCIL held at Church Room, St. Mary's and St. Luke's Church, Church Road, Shareshill on Thursday 22nd May 2025 at 7pm

PRESENT: Cllr. P Dawes (Chairman), Cllr. Nigel Craddock (Vice- chairman) Cllr. Jacquie Turner, Cllr. Tim Davies.

Other: Chris Gracey (Clerk), District Cllr. J Brindle

ANNUAL MEETING

1.0 Chairman's report 2024-25

Good evening everyone and welcome to Hilton Parish Council Annual Meeting 2025.

There is still no progress with the building of the M54/M6 Link Road. We have not received any information from Highways England for some time, so the reason for the hold -up is not clear. A gas main that would have been in the path of the proposed road has been moved, at great expense I would imagine, so I can only suppose the link road will be built eventually.

We had news that the Parochial Parish Council of St. Mary's and St. Luke's Church at Shareshill had voted to start the process to close the church. The reasons being the cost of up keeping the church building and the falling numbers of the congregation. This news was very sad to many. Myself, Cllr. Bob Cope, Chair of Shareshill, and Frank Bearsdmore Chair of Featherstone Parish Council met with the Rev. Helen Duckett and Members of the PCC. It is a difficult situation to know what if anything can be done to stop the closure.

Earlier this year we learnt that inline with the Government's White Paper on Devolution it is proposed that in future the two separate councils – County and District will come together under the Southern Unitarian Council.

We have received communication from South Staffs District Council regarding the release of Section 106 monies, a sum of £12,500, this money was donated by Kilmartin Roadside during the planning permission to build a warehouse type building on the site of the Old Truck Stop at Hilton Main, the monies were donated to go towards repairs of the Portobello Tower. Unfortunately following a structural survey it was found that this sum of money would be no - where near enough. Attempts were made to secure additional funding, but were unsuccessful . The district council tried to return the money to Kilmartin Roadside but discovered that the company had gone into liquidation. Unable to return the money it was decided to give the money to Hilton Parish Council. We must now decide what to spend it on. Several ideas have been put forward but nothing has been decided upon as yet.

In January I met with Mark Keeling and Luke Bellamy from County Highways. We undertook a walk of the Parish and I pointed out various matters that needed attention, some work has been carried out such as the clearance of the footpath on Dark Lane, other issues have been passed onto the landowner.

I was very happy to see that the tree that hung over Hilton Lane, which had been reported numerous times was at last cut down following a bad storm earlier this year.

A Christmas card and a box of biscuits were delivered to every householder, they were well received.

Two donations were made on to the Anthony Nolan Trust and one to Dementia UK.

A new lawnmower was purchased and the bollards in Park Road were painted , special thanks to Tim Davies for keeping Hilton looking nice and tidy.

The council have discussed purchasing a defibrillator , a history board and some Christmas tree lights in the near future.

From 1st January 2025 the bank changed our account to a Community Plus Account.

The precept was increased by 3%.

I would like to thank Mrs Chris Gracey for her continued work and guidance. Also thanks to the District Councillors and congratulations to Mr Thomas Baker on being elected as our new County Councillor. I look forward to working with him.

Lastly, many thanks to the Parish Councillor for their continued attendance and support.

At the 30th April 2025 the bank balance was £12,606.02.

2.0 Election of Chairman – Cllr. Jacquie Turner proposed Cllr. Pam Dawes as Chairman for 2025-26 seconded by Cllr. Tim Davies and carried.

3.0 Acceptance of post – Cllr. Pam Dawes accepted the post of Chairman for 2025-26 and thanked Councillors for their continuing support.

4.0 Election of Vice-chairman – Cllr. Pam Dawes (Chairman) proposed Cllr. Nigel Craddock as Vice-chairman for the forthcoming year 2025-26 seconded by Cllr. Tim Davies and carried.

5.0 Acceptance of post of Vice-chairman – Cllr. Nigel Craddock accepted the post of Vice-chairman for the forthcoming year 2025-26 and thanked councillors for their continuing support.

Meeting closed at 7.20pm

COUNCIL MEETING

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - none

1.0 APOLOGIES

1.1 Cllrs. Ann Rushton and Bob Cope submitted apologies for this evening's meeting.

2.0 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

2.1 The minutes from the last meeting held on 10th April 2025 were proposed as an accurate records proposed by Cllr. Nigel Craddock seconded by Cllr. Tim Davies and carried.

3.0 MATTERS ARISING

3.1 The hedgerow at Nr.42 Dark Lane has been cut.

4.0 CORRESPONDENCE

4.1 None

5.0 COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORTS

5.1 None

6.0 DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

6.1 Cllr. John Brindle reported on the following:

Devolution – no more information at this present time.

SSC councillors are attending a zoom meeting on security.

7.0 MAINTENANCE MATTERS

7.1 The area behind the garages has been tidied.

8.0 PLANNING

8.1 No applications to consider.

9.0 **FINANCE**

9.1 Payments to approve as follows:

HMRC (Clerk's PAYE May)	£ 50.00	Approved
C E Gracey (Clerk's salary May)	£ 200.00	Approved
Shareshill Church Room (Hall hire 22 nd May 2025)	£ 30.00	Approved
Bank charges(Community account fee)	£ 4.25	Approved
SPCA (2025-26 subscription)	£ 87.01	Approved
Total	<u>£ 371.26</u>	

Proposed by Cllr. Pam Dawes (Chairman) seconded by Cllr. Jacquie Turner and carried

9.2 Financial statement – Receipts & Payments 1st April to 30th April 2025 – proposed by Cllr. Pam Dawes (Chairman) seconded Cllr. Nigel Craddock (Vice-chairman) and carried.

9.3 The bank account balance at the 1st May 2025 was £12,606.12.

9.4 Approve AGAR 2024-25 and associated documents including the Internal Auditors report,

Members discussed all the points raised by the Auditor and agreed to receive a proper invoice for the grounds maintenance work, to set the salary scale for the clerk and at each meeting 2 councillors both bank signatures to check and initial the appropriate paperwork. It was agreed to put the Vice-chairman onto the bank account as a signatory as we only have 2 serving councillors at the moment, proposed by Cllr. Pam Dawes(Chairman) seconded by Cllr. Jacquie Turner and carried.

The AGAR 2024-25 was proposed by Cllr. Pam Dawes(Chairman) seconded by Cllr. Nigel Craddock (Vice-chairman) and carried.

9.5 Consider purchase of a defibrillator. Members discussed the purchase of an AED, proposed by the Chairman seconded by Cllr. Nigel Craddock (Vice-chairman) and carried, that the device would be housed in an electric cabinet on Park Road, the clerk will contact the Electricity company and arrange the installation of a supply to serve the device cabinet and also to use for the proposed Christmas Tree lights in December/January.

9.6 The purchase of a history board was discussed, covering the main points of history in the Hilton Area and to be located in the area of the notice board on the corner of Dark Lane, the clerk will obtain a quote for the next meeting.

10.0 **SECTION 106 MONIES**

10.1 Further discussion is required to agree how the money will be spent.

11.0 **POLICIES TO REVIEW AND APPROVE for 2025-26**

11.1 Financial Regulations

Standing Orders

Risk Assessment and policy

Asset Register

All policies proposed by Cllr. Nigel Craddock (Vice-chairman) seconded by Cllr. Tim Davies and carried, the clerk will upload the amended documents to the website.

12.0 **ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION** - at the next meeting.

12.1 At this present time it was agreed to seek an update on the present position of the Shareshill Church and members agreed that during this time no donations will be made to the church

13.0 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Thursday 3rd July 2025 at the

Church Room, St. Mary's's and St. Luke's Church, Church Road, Shareshill at 7pm

14.0 The meeting closed at 8.45pm

SIGNED.....DATE.....