

HANKELow PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 5TH MAY 2026 AT HANKELow METHODIST CHAPEL

Presiding: Councillor C Cope (Chair of the Parish Council)

Parish Councillors Present: Councillors I Jones, T Muxlow, G Foster and A Bellinger.

Registered Electors: There were no members of the public in attendance.

In attendance: Abbi Miller (Parish Clerk & RFO)

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Parish Councillors were invited to make any declarations of interest. No declarations were made.

2. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

RESOLVED: The minutes from 6th May 2025 had previously been agreed and approved as a true and correct record and signed by the Chair.

3. ACCOUNTS 2025-26

The Clerk presented a Receipts and Payment Summary and Balance Sheet for the financial year ended 31st March 2026. The end of financial year bank balance was £12,869.96.

4. CHAIR'S REPORT

The Chair, Councillor Chris Cope, presented his annual statement outlining the Council's activities during the last year, as follows:

The Chairman reported that Cllr Ian Parker had recently resigned from the Council due to work commitments. Ian brought both an intellectual approach and good humour to meetings, and the Council recorded its thanks for his contribution and commitment.

The Chairman noted that the Council would welcome additional Councillor(s). Although interest has been expressed, no formal applications have yet been received.

The Chairman thanked Abbi Miller, who has now been Clerk for just over two years, for her hard work and continued contribution to the Council. Abbi continues to work with the new website provider to implement the required updates and improvements.

The Council also wished to acknowledge and thank the many residents who help to maintain the village, including work on the Green, the planters, litter-picking, and wider efforts that support community spirit.

It was noted that while the Council hopes residents will continue to support each other and the village, it is unfortunate that the Hankelow Fete will not take place in 2026 due to a lack of volunteer capacity.

Thanks were expressed to Ian Jones for maintaining and siting the existing speed camera, which helps raise awareness of the 30mph speed limit within the village.

The Chairman also acknowledged the achievements of Chris Whalley, who raised concerns about speeding traffic and subsequently established the Hankelow Community Speed Watch Group, with training provided by PCSO Jarvis. Recent data has confirmed the concerns raised by residents regarding vehicle speeds.

The Council further recognised the importance of The White Lion to residents of Hankelow and the surrounding area. Opening hours have been significantly reduced in response to the challenging economic climate for local pubs.

The Chairman reported that the upgrade of the drainage system from the Green to the River Weaver has now been completed. Thanks were recorded to Derek Smith, who successfully brought together the relevant landowners to progress the project.

The Council was pleased to provide financial support. However, the drainage issues affecting Hankelow View and Sunnyside remain unresolved, and the project appears to have stalled.

A special thank you was given to the 'Pavements Team', who have met most weeks to reinstate pavements encroached upon by vegetation and to clean road signs. Their efforts have made a visible improvement to the village environment.

The Chairman noted that the next planned community project is the reinforcement of the pond edges using wooden stakes.

Finally, the Chairman thanked all existing Councillors for their continued support to Hankelow Parish Council.

ACTION: Parish Clerk to advertise for new Councillors on the Parish website.

5. MATTERS TO BE RAISED BY REGISTERED ELECTORS

There were no registered electors in attendance.

The meeting commenced at 7.30pm and concluded at 7.55pm

..... Chair