Minutes of No Man's Heath & District Parish Council Meeting held at Cholmondeley Coronation Hall, Bickley at 7.00 pm on Thursday 8th January 2026

PRESENT

Chairman:	Cllr David Lithgow Smith	
Cllr James Crossland	Cllr Peter Guildford	Cllr Tim Harrop
Cllr Charles Higgie	Cllr Fran Lithgow Smith	Cllr Trevor Parker
Cllr David Pegram		

Clerk - Mrs Ruth Shackleton.
Members of the Public and Parish – two members of the public attended the meeting.

1. APOLOGIES

Cllr Kathryn Collings, Cllr Stephen Roberts Cllr Michael Voisey

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made.

3. STANDING ORDERS

The proposed revision was circulated in advance of the meeting.
RESOLVED:- that the Council agree to update the Standing Orders as follows:-
Add to Standing Orders new Clause 11.d: "Councillors shall not use private email addresses which they obtain in their role as Councillors for any purpose not directly related to Council business, and shall not reveal the addresses to any third party, without the consent of the owner of the owner of the address."
Add to Standing Orders Clause 3.l: "Any person wishing to make an audio recording of all or part of a meeting shall, before doing so, inform the meeting of their intention to do so."
Proposed by Cllr Crossland and seconded by Cllr Pegram.

4. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

- Councillors requested that Cllr Higgie reconsider his attendance at meetings of the Council and take into account the wishes expressed by the Parish Meeting for him to stand back from Council duties until matters in his personal life have been resolved.
  Cllr Higgie declined the request.
- Residents spoke to the meeting about the following issues:-
  - Grant application:- received from Malpas Community Minibus Association.
  - Planters in the parish:- comment that they look fantastic and are well maintained.
  - Litter escaping when the bins are emptied by CWaC – the Clerk is to report this to CWaC.
  - First Responders:- to formally thank NMH resident Arwyn Jones, who is a first responder, for his help at a recent incident in the village. The Clerk is to write to North West Ambulance to enquire as to why they are not currently recruiting first responders in rural areas.
  - Grit Bins:- the ones in the village were refilled promptly during the recent weather; the Clerk is to enquire about the missing grit bin that was located at the junction of Back Lane and Cross o th Hill and to request a new grit bin be installed at the mini roundabout in No Mans Heath.

5. MINUTES

RESOLVED:- that the minutes for the Parish Council meeting held on 6th November 2025 (previously circulated) be accepted as a true and proper record.
Proposed by Cllr Crossland and seconded by Cllr Harrop.

6. ACCOUNTS AND PAYMENTS

6.1 Accounts:-

RESOLVED:- that the Council approve the accounts as previously circulated.
Proposed by Cllr Harrop and seconded by Cllr Guildford.

6.2 Payments:-

Chq No	Payee	Amount
674	Running Costs	£ 72.53
675	Cholmondeley Coronation Hall	£ 30.00
676	Core Highways (road closure for Christmas event)	£ 250.00
Phone	Purchase of Kissing Gates	£5,116.32

Receipts:-

None received.

RESOLVED:- that the Council approve the above payments.
Proposed by Cllr Harrop and seconded by Cllr Guildford.

6.3 Bank Account:-

Reconciled balance of the Current Bank Account as at 31st December 2025:- £29,377.45.
Balance of the Deposit Bank Account as at 31st December 2025:- £ 7,842.82.

6.4 Budget to Date:-

The Council received and noted the budget to date as at 31st December 2025.

7. PRECEPT BUDGET

Cllr D Lithgow Smith had previously informed the meeting that Malpas Joint Burial Committee may submit a request for a maintenance grant in the 2026 – 2027 financial year; this was taken into consideration when the setting the precept.

Earmarking funds for 2026 – 2027:-

RESOLVED - that the Council earmark the following funds for the 2026 – 2027 financial year:-
Essential Council Costs: £9,061.09
Non-essential costs: other projects (e.g. Neighbourhood Plan; Littlers Croft, Kissing Gates, Grants and Donations; Christmas; Contingency etc) are yet to be agreed using the remaining funds available.

Setting the Precept for 2026 – 2027:-

The Local Tax Base for NMHD Parish Council for 2026 – 2027 for Band D equivalent properties is 549.4.

RESOLVED - that the Council set the 2026 – 2027 precept at £19,500.00
In 2026 – 2027 the Band D Precept charge will increase from £26.31 to £35.49. This represents an annual increase of £9.18 (35%) and includes a £3,000.00 provision for any grant request received from Malpas Joint Burial Committee.
Proposed by Cllr D Lithgow Smith and seconded by Cllr Pegram.

8. ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Cllr D Lithgow Smith proposed the following format for the Annual Parish Meeting:-

- Make infrastructure development the main subject of the meeting;
- Invite residents to submit their views at the meeting;
- To publicise the meeting in the parish;
- To hold the meeting on a separate date to the May business meeting.

9. PLANNING

9.1 Planning Register:-

The Council noted the planning register and the observations previously circulated.

9.2 Infrastructure Development:-

Cllr Harrop circulated a report detailing the following considerations to be taken into account (see attached):-

- Highways;
- Housing;
- Facilities and Services.

The Clerk informed the meeting that Malpas Parish Council is due to meet with the Head of Planning to discuss the Local Plan and large scale planning applications for the parish. Cllrs Harrop and Pegram are to attend the meeting.

10. POLICE

The police report was circulated previously.
The Clerk is in the process of arranging the next police cluster meeting.
The Council has received an email regarding the reduction in PCSO numbers; it is uncertain at this stage as to how this will affect the local PCSO Rachael McKevitt.
Cllr Harrop updated the meeting about anti-social behaviour at Littlers Croft.

11. HIGHWAYS

Cllr Harrop informed the meeting as follows:-

- Speedwatch:- there has been no progress with the proposed Speedwatch site in Hampton;
- Potholes:- these have worsened due to the recent bad weather;
- Reporting:- residents are to be encouraged to report all highways defects, the Clerk is to post details of the process on the Facebook page.
- Building Site, Back Lane, NMH:- concerns have been raised regarding the state of the road, parking and site security.

12. PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY / KISSING GATES

Cllr F Lithgow Smith updated the meeting:-
The order for the 10 Kissing Gates has been placed with Centrewire; they are due to be delivered to Cholmondeley Estates Office who have agreed to install them.

13. LITTLERS CROFT

Cllr Collings provided the following update:-
There is not a lot to report, other than some littering and a resident using the park at night with their dogs, they also broke the 'No dogs' signs of gates. Cllr Collings has bought and replaced this sign.

14. REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

14.1 Malpas Joint Burial Committee:-
Nothing to report.

14.2 Bickerton Joint Burial Committee:-
Nothing to report.

15. EVENTS WORKING GROUP – CHRISTMAS EVENT

Cllr Collings provided the following update:-
The No Mans Heath Christmas Tree light switch on event was held on Saturday 29th November. It was a very successful evening and everything ran smoothly.
The Christmas tree looked amazing – a big thank you to Steelforce for donating the tree.
There were around 200 or more local residents and from further a field that attended and enjoyed a complimentary Mulled wine and Mince pie (kindly donated from Wise LTD). Donations received totalled £119.05.
Sixty children visited Santa and Mrs Claus and received a lovely gift from the new Grotto which was a lovely surprise for everyone.
A big thank you to Corbett's Ltd and Edge Grange Christmas trees for their sponsorship and help with the grotto.

Rev Green attended and said a few words before the light switch on; there was also had carols around the tree.
Thank you to Dave Pegram for arranging all the music for the whole event.
There were some lovely local stall holders, selling their makes and bakes, and a pizza van and bar which was a big hit with the local residents.
It really was a true Christmas community event - a lovely and successful evening enjoyed by all.
A total of £1279.05 was raised from the Christmas event in addition to the £250.00 donation received from the Co-op. This has been ringfenced in the Council's bank account.
The Council formally thanked the local companies that supported the event:- Corbett's Ltd, Wise Ltd, Steelforce, Co-op Malpas and Edge Grange Christmas.
The Council also thanked Cllr Collings and the team of volunteers for all their hard work.

16. SUMMER PLAY SCHEME

The Council discussed whether to host the summer play scheme this summer.
RESOLVED:- that the Council agreed not to host the summer play scheme this year as the previous year incurred a loss.
Proposed by Cllr Guildford and seconded by Cllr F Lithgow Smith.

17. CLERK'S REPORT

17.1 Defibrillator:- The Clerk has contacted the owners of a nearby property to enquire about relocating the defibrillator from The Wheatsheaf; they advised this was not possible. The Council discussed asking the developers of the site to keep the defibrillator there once the new houses have been built.

18. CORRESPONDENCE

The list of correspondence received was previously circulated.

PART 2

RESOLVED:- The Council agreed to exclude members of the public and press so as to discuss sensitive / confidential information relating to a complaint.
Proposed by Cllr Pegram and seconded by Cllr Crossland.

Signed …….. Dated ……..

<u>Scheduled Parish Council Meetings</u>

Dates for 2026 meetings:-
Thursday 8th January 2026
Thursday 5th March 2026
Thursday 14th May 2026
Thursday 2nd July 2026
Thursday 3rd September 2026
Thursday 12th November 2026