

HANDLEY AND DISTRICT PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING
HELD AT 7.00 PM ON TUESDAY 19TH MAY 2026
AT THE BARBOUR INSTITUTE, TATTENHALL

PRESENT

Cllrs Nigel Johnson (Chairman), Wendy Lawton, Jon Moseley, Stuart Rigby, Rosemary Thomas.

Ward Cllr Mike Jones attended the meeting.

The Clerk. No members of the public.

1. APOLOGIES

Cllrs David Mamwell, Margaret Powell, Karen Worthington.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no interests declared.

3. OPEN FORUM

Members of the public have the opportunity to comment and raise questions on matters affecting the parish. In the absence of any members of the public there was no consideration of this item.

4. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN FOR 2026 – 2027

Resolved:- The Council agreed to elect Cllr Johnson as Chairman for 2026 – 2027
Proposed by Cllr Moseley and seconded by Cllr Lawton.

5. ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRMAN FOR 2026 – 2027

Resolved:- The Council agreed to elect Cllr Worthington as Vice Chairman for 2026 – 2027
Proposed by Cllr Moseley and seconded by Cllr Johnson.

6. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chairmans Annual Report is to be presented at the July meeting.

7. MINUTES

Resolved:- The Council agreed to approve and sign the minutes of the meetings held on 17th March 2026.
Proposed by Cllr Lawton and seconded by Cllr Rigby.

8. INTERNAL CONTROLS

Resolved:- The Council agreed to confirm the adoption of the following (as circulated):-

- Code of Conduct
- Standing Orders
- Financial Regulations
- Risk Assessment
- Information Technology (IT) Policy
- Publication Scheme

Proposed by Cllr Lawton and seconded by Cllr Rigby.

9. RESPONSIBLE FINANCIAL OFFICER

Resolved:- The Council confirmed the appointment of Ruth Shackleton as Responsible Financial Officer.

Proposed by Cllr Johnson and seconded by Cllr Thomas.

10. POLICE

The Council has been advised that the PCSO is to remain in her post for the time being

11. MATTERS ARISING

- Milton Green:- The Council agreed to contact CWaC regarding concerns about a property where significant damage to fencing has left the garden exposed and may present a potential risk of debris entering the highway.
- State of Pavements:- The Council discussed concerns regarding overgrown vegetation encroaching onto pavements, in some cases making them difficult to use. The Ward Councillor advised that the work required to address the issue is often delayed due to associated costs, including traffic management requirements. It was noted that CWaC is expected to obtain additional equipment, and a request has been made for pavements within the Parish to be cleared in order to prevent further deterioration.

12. FINANCE

12.1 To approve accounts and bank reconciliation:-

Receipts:- Precept - £3,752.00; VAT Refund - £ 378.58

Reconciled balance at current bank account at 30th April 2026:- £16,996.62

Reconciled balance at business reserve bank account at 30th April 2026:- £5,744.15

12.2 Insurance:-

The Council confirmed insurance arrangements with Zurich insurance.

12.3 CHALC:-

The Council confirmed the renewal of CHALC membership.

12.4 To accept and approve the following payments:-

Chq No	Payee	Stat Power	Amount
675	Backdated pay / Running Costs		£ 21.43
676	HMRC	s.111	£ 109.60
677	Barbour Institute (room hire)	s.111	tbc
678	CHALC (annual subs / training)	s.111	£ 92.00
679	Zurich Insurance	s.111	£ 432.20
680	All Saints Church Handley (grant)		£3,000.00
681	Morren Accountancy	s.111	£ 150.00

Resolved:- The Council agreed to approve the above payments.

Proposed by Cllr Johnson and seconded by Cllr Lawton.

13. ANNUAL AUDIT

13.1 To agree to sign the Certificate of Exemption as neither the gross income nor incurred gross expenditure exceeds £25,000.00:-

Resolved:- That the Council agreed to sign the AGAR Part 2 Certificate of Exemption as neither the gross income nor incurred gross expenditure exceeds £25,000.00. The Council are to certify themselves as exempt from a limited assurance review and are to submit a Certificate of Exemption to the External Auditor.

Proposed by Cllr Moseley and seconded by Cllr Johnson.

13.2 To accept and approve the Annual Governance Statement:-

Resolved:- That the Council agreed to approve the Annual Governance Statement for the year ended 31st March 2026.

Proposed by Cllr Moseley and seconded by Cllr Johnson.

13.3 To accept and approve the Annual Return for Audit purposes:-

Resolved:- That the Council agreed to approve the Annual Return Statement of Accounts for the year ended 31st March 2026.

Proposed by Cllr Moseley and seconded by Cllr Johnson.

13.4 To receive the Annual Internal Audit Report:-

The Council received the Internal Auditors report which stated that the Internal Auditor, Morren Accountancy, was satisfied and there were no matters arising for concern.

14. HIGHWAYS

Update on highways issues:-

- Handley Village proposed reduction in speed limit:-

Ward Cllr Jones is to follow this up with Highways.

- Cars speeding through village during events:-

The Council discussed ongoing concerns regarding speeding vehicles and associated noise pollution, with reports that some motorists are using the village roads as a "race track".

Members noted that this is particularly unsuitable given the residential nature of the area, the narrow roads, and the presence of pedestrians, dog walkers and young children.

It was further noted that the issue appears to increase at certain times, including during events at Bolesworth, race events at Oulton Park, sunny summer evenings, and incidents of racing along the A41.

It was agreed that the Council will write to the Chief Constable requesting action be taken, including increased monitoring by the traffic team during known event periods and at the times identified.

- Street light general maintenance and repair:-

The Council raised concerns regarding the lack of maintenance to the street lighting in Handley, which forms part of the Conservation Area. Members noted that, without appropriate maintenance, the lights are likely to fall into further disrepair and may ultimately be removed.

It was agreed that the Council will write to both the Conservation and Highways departments at CWaC requesting that action be taken.

15. ASSERTION 10

The Clerk has placed an order with Then Media for the new gov.uk website and informed the current provider of the switch.

16. FORMER CCP DEPOT

Some Councillors and the Ward Councillor have met with the prospective purchaser of the site to discuss requests to be considered as part of any future planning application submitted to CWaC. These include the provision of a footbridge, street lighting on Chapel Lane and other measures aimed at ensuring the development is sustainable.

17. PLANNING

17.1 Planning Applications Received:-

The Planning Register was circulated.

17.2 Planning Updates:-

There were no updates.

17.3 Meeting with Bolesworth Estate:-

The next meeting is on 4th June 2026.

18. DEFIBRILLATOR

The Clerk is to write to Milton Green Garage to request permission for the installation of a defibrillator and cabinet at the site.

The Council also discussed the possibility of installing a defibrillator at Handley Church, this is to be considered further at a future meeting.

19. PARISH APPEARANCE

The Clerk informed the meeting that the noticeboards now appear to be opening correctly, following previous issues caused by wet weather conditions. The Council agreed to consider alternative options for the noticeboards in the future.

20. CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence:- The list of correspondence received has been distributed to councillors.

Date of next meeting:- Tuesday 21st July 2026

The Annual Parish Meeting followed the meeting
In the absence of any parishioners the meeting closed.