Minutes of No Man's Heath & District Parish Council Meeting held at Cholmondeley Coronation Hall at 7.00 pm on Thursday 3rd September 2026

PRESENT

Vice Chairman: Cllr James Crossland
Cllr Ashley Hall Cllr Peter Guildford Cllr Tim Harrop
Cllr Sheila Whyte
Clerk - Ms Ruth Richardson
Members of the Public and Parish – Five members of the public attended part of the meeting.

1. APOLOGIES

Cllr David Lithgow Smith, Cllr Fran Lithgow Smith, Cllr David Pegram, Cllr Stephen Roberts.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made.

3. CASUAL VACANCIES

There are currently two vacancies on the Council.
No 1:- Kathryn Collings has stood down from the Council. CWaC have been advised and the Casual Vacancy notice has been posted. Subject to there being no request made for a by-election, the Clerk will advertise this vacancy and start the co-option process to fill the vacancy.
No 2:- CWaC has confirmed that the Council can now co-opt to fill the other Casual Vacancy further to M Voisey's resignation at the last meeting.
The Council considered co-opting Ashley Hall.
RESOLVED:- That the Council co-opt Ashley Hall to fill one of the casual vacancies.
Proposed by Cllr Harrop and seconded by Cllr Whyte.
The Council formally thanked Kathryn Collings for all her hard work and commitment when serving on the Council.

4. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The following matters were raised by residents:-

- Malpas Community Minibus Association:- there is a music evening taking place on 30th October to raised funds for the minibus.
- Planters Liaison:- Jeannette Woolley agreed to co-ordinate the arrangements for the planters as Tony Day is moving away. The Council formally thanked him for his help with the planters.
- Light and Sound Festival:- residents expressed concerns about the recent event including the volume of traffic and the issues caused; the litter including human waste being deposited in neighbouring fields.

5. MINUTES

RESOLVED:- that the minutes for the Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 2nd July 2026 (previously circulated) be accepted as a true and proper record.
Proposed by Cllr Guildford and seconded by Cllr Whyte,

6. ACCOUNTS AND PAYMENTS

6.1 Accounts:-

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

6.2 Online Banking:-

The online banking is now activated.

6.3 Payments:-

Method	Payee	Amount
Online	Running Costs	£ 165.42
Online	HMRC Quarter 2	£ 580.66
Online	Coronation Hall – room hire	£ 30.00
Online	PKF Littlejohn (auditors)	£ 252.00
Online	Then Media (website)	£ 63.60
	Invoices Paid:	
Online	Reimburse DLS for banners (Banner Buzz)	£ 185.72
Online	Reimburse RS for purchase of speed gun (Amazon)	£ 140.11
Online	Bennetts (repairs to noticeboard @ Edge)	£ 170.00
Online	My Village News	£ 180.00
Online	IAE Kissing Gates	£6,323.76

The Council agreed not to renew the annual maintenance contract for the defibrillator.

6.4 Receipts:-

None received.

6.5 Bank Account:-

Reconciled balance of the Current Bank Account as at 31st July 2026:- £34,324.83
Balance of the Deposit Bank Account as at 31st July 2026:- £ 7,896.14
(CIL / NHB funds available - £14,157.18; Events Working Group ringfenced funds - £1,018.52 Parish Council fund available - £27,045.27.

RESOLVED:- that the Council accept the above payments and accounts as circulated.

Proposed by Cllr Guildford and seconded by Cllr Whyte.

6.6 Budget to Date:–

The Council received and noted the budget to date as at 30th June 2026 and the forecast figures to 31st March 2027.

The Council agreed to defer the budget allocation for non-essential costs.

7. EXTERNAL AUDIT

PKF Littlejohn LLP (external auditor) have sent the Notice of Conclusion of Audit for the year ended 31st March 2026 which has been posted on the website and noticeboards.

The Council noted the External Auditor's limited assurance opinion:-

"Expect for matters reported below, on the basis of our review of Sections 1 and 2 of the AGAR in our opinion the information in Sections 1 and 2 of the agar is in accordance with Proper Practices and no matters have come to our attention giving cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements have not been met.

The AGAR was not accurately completed before submission for review. The smaller authority has confirmed that it is not a sole managing trustee and that the response in Section 2, Box 11 is incorrect and should be 'yes'.

Others matters not affecting our opinion:-

The smaller authority has confirmed that it has not complied with the governance Assertion in Section 1, Box 10, but it has provided the appointed auditor with an adequate explanation for non-compliance and details of the actions necessary to address weaknesses identified."

8. WEBSITE AND EMAIL ADDRESSES

Then Media have sent proofs for the Parish Council's new website. This is to be circulated to Cllrs and amendments submitted and agreed via email.

9. PLANNING

9.1 Planning Register / Updates:-

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

9.2 Planning Parish Meeting:-

The Council is holding a Parish Meeting with Rob Charnley, CWaC Head of Planning, on 22nd September 2026 to discuss Planning Infrastructure matters.

10. POLICE CLUSTER MEETING

The notes of the June meeting were previously circulated.

Cllr Harrop circulated the following report:-

- Speedwatch and Police Liaison:- The new Bushnell speed gun has arrived and an initial Speedwatch session is being planned for Cross O' Th' Hill Road.

  Following a meeting with the Police, a new Speedwatch location at Hampton, on the corner of Post Office Lane, has now been approved. This follows several previous attempts and complaints from local residents regarding speeding. There remains a need for additional volunteers. One new volunteer has been confirmed, and residents who have raised concerns at Hampton have indicated that they are willing to become involved.

  Cllr Harrop met with PCSO Rachael McKevitt on 14th August to discuss the following matters:

  - Speedwatch location – Chester Road, Hampton: PCSO McKevitt agreed to follow up the proposed location and provide an update.
  - Speed Indicator Device (SID): It was advised that the Parish Council's existing older units are no longer considered fit for purpose. PCSO McKevitt provided details of Tattenhall Parish Council's recently purchased SID and a contact for further information. Two options are currently being considered: a portable device, which could be relocated between sites, with an estimated cost of £2,928; or a fixed device on Cross O' Th' Hill Road. Further information is required before a decision can be made.
  - Police Cluster meetings: A request was made for the new Police Sergeant to attend future Police Cluster meetings. PCSO McKevitt will pass this request on once the date of the next meeting is confirmed.
  - Dog fouling incident: The issue of a resident throwing dog excrement over a fence onto the public footpath leading from Cholmondeley Rise remains under investigation.

11. HIGHWAYS

11.1 SID:-

The Council is obtain further information before considering which type of model to purchase.

Other speeding issues

11.2 Railings:-

Cllr Harrop is to send photos of the roadside railings on footpaths from Cholmondeley Rise / Littlers Croft to Village as the railings prevent passage of motorised wheelchairs, these are to be sent to CWaC for advice as to what action can be taken.

11.3 A41:-

The Council is to follow up the previous request for signage on the A41 to make drivers aware of footpaths crossing the road.

11.4 A49:-

Concerns were raised by a resident regarding speed on A49 through Bickley Moss; this has been referred to CWaC Highways for a response.

11.5 Culverts:-

Cllr Roberts is investigating the culverts under the Cross o the Hill Road.

11.6 "Dragons Teeth" Road Markings:-

Cllr Harrop has sent another request to CWaC for "Dragons Teeth" road markings to be painted. CWaC have replied to advise that mean speed data recorded on Cross O' Th' Hill Road in April 2023 showed an eastbound mean speed of 26.2 mph, with an overall mean speed of 27.7 mph. As these speeds are below the intervention threshold, the location does not currently meet the criteria for an improvement scheme therefore no action is proposed.

12. COMMUNICATIONS

12.1 Edge Noticeboard:-

C Bennett has carried out repairs to the Edge noticeboard.

12.2 Parish Council surgery:-

Cllr Pegram sent a report suggesting that Parish Surgeries be held on the first Sunday of each month, commencing in October 2026. The surgeries are to be held outside the village shop in No Man's Heath, weather permitting, with the use of a gazebo. Two Councillors will be required for each surgery.

Cllrs discussed the report. It was suggested that the Surgeries be held on alternate months on the last Saturday morning.

13. **INDIVIDUAL CLLR RESPONSIBILITIES**

To appoint Cllrs for the following:-

- Littlers Croft
- NMH Village Events
- NMH Village appearance

This item was deferred due to low attendance.

14. EVENTS WORKING GROUP – SUMMER EVENT

Kathryn Collings provided the following update regarding the summer event:-

The Littler's Croft Summer Fete and Party in the Park were both considered a great success and provided well-supported community events for local residents.

The Summer Fete was held in good weather and included a range of local stallholders, food vendors, a bar and various activities and entertainment. The children's activities, including the mega slide and football shootout, were particularly well received, as was the animal stall.

Following the afternoon event, the site was prepared for the evening's Party in the Park. Approximately 170 people attended, with the event creating a relaxed and enjoyable atmosphere. The band was well received and residents enjoyed the opportunity to attend a live music event within the community.

The site was cleared and fully tidied by approximately 12.30am. A number of positive comments and messages were received from residents regarding both events.

The Council expressed its thanks to everyone who attended and, in particular, to all the volunteers who gave their time and assistance throughout the day and evening. It was acknowledged that the events would not have been possible without their support.

A special vote of thanks was given to Corbetts Ltd, Malpas, for its assistance throughout the day and evening, including the provision of seating bales and the stage for the band.

Thanks were also extended to The Co-op, Malpas, and Blueloo's, Hampton, for their sponsorship and support.

The events raised a significant amount for the community. Full details of the event income and expenditure have been provided separately.

It was reported that, including funds previously raised at Christmas and after deduction of expenses, the total funds raised were £2,707.70.
As previously discussed, it was proposed that the £2,707.70 raised from the events, including the remaining Christmas funds, be allocated towards the purchase of a Speed Indicator Device (SID) for No Man's Heath.
The proposal was noted in light of ongoing concerns regarding increased speeding on Cross O' Th' Hill Road.

15. EVENTS WORKING GROUP – CHRISTMAS EVENT

The Council discussed holding a Christmas Event and agreed in principle to do something in the village; this is to be discussed further at a meeting before the Parish meeting later this month.

16. KISSING GATES

Cllr F Lithgow Smith provided the following update:-
It was reported that there had been limited progress with the installation of new kissing gates over the past two months. Hellmers had been unable to undertake the work due to the exceptionally dry conditions and hardness of the ground. Following recent rainfall, the Clerk will contact Mr Hellmers in early September to seek an update on the installation programme.
The Cholmondeley Estate had also been approached regarding the installation of seven new kissing gates between the Sandstone Trail and Hetherson Green, with a requested completion date of 3 October. The intention had been to organise a Parish guided walk of approximately 2.5 miles each way from No Man's Heath to Bickley Church and return, with refreshments and transport available for the return journey if required.
As the Cholmondeley Estate was unable to guarantee that the gates would be installed by 3 October, the proposed guided walk has been postponed until spring 2027.
Cllr F Lithgow Smith and Cllr D Lithgow Smith inspected a stile belonging to a resident on the Old Coach Road. Significant concerns were raised regarding its condition and safety. The step is considerably higher than the recommended specification, the stile is very narrow and there is no grab handle, presenting a potential risk of a user falling backwards into the road. The stile was also found to be particularly difficult to negotiate. In addition, a fence has been erected immediately behind the stile, rendering it effectively unusable.
The resident has previously declined requests to repair or replace the stile with a metal kissing gate, stating that a gate would not be in keeping with the surroundings and could result in his horses becoming entangled.
The matter has been reported to CWaC Footpaths Officer, who is currently liaising with the resident regarding the issue.

17. LITTLERS CROFT

There were no updates.

18. MALPAS JOINT BURIAL COMMITTEE (MJBC)

Cllr Whyte updated the meeting about the Open Day at Malpas Cemetery that was held on 19th August.
RESOLVED:- that the Council formally appoint Cllr Whyte as the Council's representative on MJBC.
Proposed by Cllr Guildford and seconded by Cllr Crossland.

19. LIGHT AND SOUND EVENT AT HAMPTON

Cllr D Lithgow Smith suggested that the Council establish a small working party, potentially consisting of one Councillor, to develop a strategy for the site and encourage appropriate use and events, while balancing the requirements of the site owner with the interests of the local community.
The working party would consider, in particular:

- Maximising use of the site while minimising disturbance to local residents;

- Event licensing requirements;
- Traffic management and control;
- Advance notification of planned events; and
- Any other relevant matters arising.

20. REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

The Council considered the suggestions made by Cllr D Lithgow Smith regarding arrangements for Remembrance Sunday in the parish.
The Clerk is to contact Tony Day and Cllr Roberts to see if further lamppost poppies are required this year, if so, an order will be placed.
RESOLVED:- that the Council agree to purchase one wreath and to donate £100.00.
Proposed by Cllr Crossland and seconded by Cllr Guildford.

21. STORAGE RENTAL AT CORONATION HALL

Cllrs considered a suitable charge to pay Coronation Hall for storage of Council items.
RESOLVED:- that the Council agree to pay £75.00 towards to storage costs.
Proposed by Cllr Hall and seconded by Cllr Whyte.

22. VENUE

The Council considered alternative venues in the parish for future meetings and agreed to hold the November meeting at Edge Village Hall.

23. CLERK'S REPORT

There was no consideration of this item.

24. CORRESPONDENCE

A list of correspondence received was previously circulated.

Signed …….. Dated ……..

<u>Scheduled Parish Council Meetings</u>

Dates for 2026 meetings:-
Thursday 12th November 2026