

DRAFT MINUTES OF NORTHINGTON COUNCIL ANNUAL MEETING
Northington Village Hall, Northington
7.20 pm on Tuesday, 21st May 2026

Present: Juliet Blanshard - Chairman

Andrew Bason
Gail Taylor
Rhona Hatchley
David Corney
Naomi Corney
Catherin Leonard
Matthew Pellereau
Philippa Pellereau
Rosie Warner
Frank Warner
Jonathan Blanshard
Robert Bryant
Jane Bryant
Nancy Brooke
John Mitchell
Belinda Mitchell
Simon Lavers
Sarah Lavers
Peter Lamb
Beth Lamb
Lou Walker
Peter Swithinbank
Michael Brodrick
Ben Guest
Mark Ashburton
Fred Baring
Wendy Simson - Clerk

Apologies: Margot Power (District Councillor)
Russel Gordon Smith (District Councillor)
Jackie Porter (County Councillor)
Ian Cammack
Simon Burleton

The Chairman welcomed all present.

1. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

Minutes of last year's annual meeting held on the 20th May 2025 were adopted as a true record. The minutes were proposed by Naomi Corney and seconded by Beth Lamb. The Chairman signed the minutes.

2. MATTERS ARISING

None

3. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Introduction

Welcome everyone to meeting and thank you for attending. I am Juliet Blanshard. I live in Northington and became the Chairman of the Parish Council one year ago, taking over from Simon Walker.

It has been interesting year, with our local issues often being repeated throughout the countryside as a whole. There have been both some challenges and some progress dealing with these issues. Our Councillors will elaborate further shortly.

There has been an ongoing battle with the state of the roads due to pot holes and poor maintenance, but we have had less issues with flooding than in previous years. The safety of our Parishioners is always of paramount importance to the Council and it is a great regret that we have ongoing issues with speeding and dangerous driving through the village. We had hoped to get a sign on the corner by the village hall warning of children crossing, but, and I quote the reply email from Hampshire Traffic Measurement Team'

"The County Council's policy is to support traffic management measures only where evidence clearly indicates that it will offer direct benefits in terms of road casualty reduction. I can confirm that in the current five-year study period, at this location, there has been no reported injury accident recorded. I'm afraid this means that this location is a low priority for the investigation of traffic management measures currently."

We would encourage everyone to continue to report any issues with the roads to Hampshire County Council.

Councillor Corney reports:

Overview – The Parish Council has kept a close eye on the local roads and road safety, speaking to Hampshire County Council (HCC) about issues and following things up where needed.

Key focus areas:

- Road conditions and maintenance
- Safety and speed management
- Community engagement and reporting
- Strategic engagement with HCC

Next steps

- Progress approval and installation of SID locations and review effectiveness
- Continue to monitor road conditions and challenge substandard repairs
- Maintain proactive engagement with HCC and encourage continued resident reporting.
- Cllr Corney reported that following on from the email from HCC that a Road Safety Survey can be paid for by the Parish Council to investigate the issues at the junction by the Village Hall. The cost of this survey is £850, which the Councillors will discuss at the Parish Council meeting later.

We continue to enjoy a close relationship with the Village Hall and its committee, aiming to give as much support as we can to a committee that does an excellent job of looking after our precious village hall and nurturing close relationships within our community with well supported events such as the very successful recent Safari Supper.

Councillor Rhona Hatchley report:

The Parish Council has continued to maintain regular two way contact with the Village Hall Committee, raising any particular points of interest or concern to them at our meetings. We had one very useful joint meeting in November to discuss how to approach the village hall roof restoration project with particular reference to fundraising efforts. With the help of the Clerk we were able to offer support and advice both on this and on the structuring of the project which we hope has been of use. Whilst both committees have their distinct roles in our community we have all felt the benefit of being more closely involved over the last couple of years.

Lengthsman and Grounds Maintenance

The Lengthsman continue to visit and maintain our village margins. We appreciate every request we receive from you as it helps them focus on the most important jobs that need to be done.

The dates for 2026/27 are

- Tuesday 2nd June
- Tuesday 29th September
- Tuesday 8th December
- Tuesday 9th March

Councillor Andy Basin will report on Lengthsman duties:

The Village Lengthsman visits every three months for a half day with two grounds staff and carry out tasks identified by residents and passed through the Councillors. Most of the work follows seasonal cycles. In winter, this mainly includes clearing ditches, grips and drains; in summer, it focusses on improving sightlines through strimming and cutting. Alongside this routine work, occasional specialist tasks may arise, such as larger tree clearance or repairs to village assets like the bus shelters.

My main contact with residents is usually by email or WhatsApp, often at short notice before a Lengthsman visit. I apologies for this and will aim to give more notice where possible.

The Lengthsman’s visits help keep the village tidy and make it safer for everyone travelling through it. Please feel free to contact me at any time to highlight any issues that you believe need attention.

I would also like to mention this year’s litter pick. In early March, around 25 volunteers took to the village roads to collect litter before the grass grew too long and made the job more difficult. Together, they collected 42 bags of rubbish, several road signs, and a couple of tyres. Thank you to the Village Hall Committee for providing coffee and cake to the volunteers.

The list of activities that the Lengthsman can complete is:

HAMPSHIRE C.C.	DISTRICT COUNCILS	PARISH COUNCILS
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Examples of work areas covered by the Parish Lengthsman. (Mostly related to maintenance, but new work can be undertaken as appropriate).		
<p>Drainage:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Grips ▪ Localised ditching ▪ Cleaning channels ▪ Rodding of pipes (off highway) <p>Signs excluding street name plates (including reflector posts):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Cleaning ▪ Minor repairs ▪ Speed Limit Reduction sign relocation <p>Highway Minor Works:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Removal of soil/detritus ▪ Cutting back vegetation overhanging the road or footway ▪ Clearing footways of weeds/moss ▪ Removing vegetation from parapets or fences. ▪ Highway grass strimming around posts ▪ Reporting defects 	<p>Environmental:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Sweeping ▪ Litter clearance ▪ Removal of fly-posting ▪ Land drainage (not highway) ▪ Graffiti/unauthorised sign removal ▪ Street name plates cleaning and repair ▪ Repair of street furniture including litter bins, benches, bus stops ▪ Reporting 	<p>Community:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Maintain public open spaces ▪ Maintain public rights of way ▪ Maintain play areas ▪ Maintain playing fields ▪ Maintain associated fences, styles etc. ▪ Acting as eyes and ears for the community having regard to vulnerable parishioners and anti social behaviour such as noise, car crime etc. ▪ Reporting

Due to the health and safety implications the Parish Lengthsman shall not undertake cleaning, repair or any work on:

- Street Lighting
- Illuminated signs and bollards (i.e. any street furniture with an electrical connection)
- The live road, and,
- Patching and structural repairs (no excavation due to possibility of underground apparatus)
- Emergency callouts to highway incident

The dates for the Lengthsman visits in 2026/27 are:

- Tuesday 2nd June
- Tuesday 29th September
- Tuesday 8th December
- Tuesday 9th March

There has been tremendous local support when the electricity supplies to the village are affected by trees or weather, thank you. We continue to be vigilant in this area.

We have had, thankfully, not many fly tipping events since the beginning of the winter. Hopefully this luck will continue.

Planning applications frequently are an item on our agendas. Whilst the Parish Council does not have any power to approve or reject applications we are able to pass on any comments received from the local community and to submit support, objection or no objection. Most of the responses are neutral or no objection. This would be the case unless the Council feels the application conflicts with the Community Plan.

As a Parish Council we have been looking at replacing the Millenium bench outside the church. We were delighted to get some ideas and views from our community on what should replace the ailing wooden bench. Our conclusion is to try and keep the character of the present bench while trying to make its replacement last as long as possible. We are presently getting quotes and looking at options.

We also wanted to reinstate the view from the bench. There is a small patch of land that has become overgrown and has dead trees within it. We are hoping to facilitate clearing it so that it complements the beautifully maintained site of the old church. Many thanks to Councillor David for the magnificent progress he has already made towards this.

With regard to the re-organisation of local government abolishing 15 county, district and unitary councils - replacing them with 5 new unitary councils, we will be included in the largest - Mid Hampshire. Fortunately, The Parish Council won't be affected at this time.

Our clerk Wendy Simson will now present an overview on our finances.

Northington Parish Council received a precept of £5,508 in 2025/26 and no other income. In addition to the day to day running costs including insurance, staffing, meeting room hire, etc. The Parish Council gave grants to the Village Hall, and St John's Church.

The Parish Council hold £3,565.57 in CIL (Community Infrastructure Levy). The Village Plan feedback showed very real concerns with the speed of traffic through the parish and the Council are looking to invest part of the CIL funding in the purchase of a speed indicator, as previously mentioned by my colleagues.

We would like to thank all the District and county councillors who offer us much appreciated support in the work we do, their presence in our meetings is always valued.

I would also like to say a huge thank you to Rhona, Dave, Gail and Andy, for their hard work, commitment and enormous contribution to our community. Also, my thanks to our Clerk Wendy Simson for her support and much needed expert help with the smooth running of the Parish Council. We couldn't manage without you.

4. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Peter Lamb asked if the Parish Council could give the CIL funding to the Village Hall for the roof repairs.

The Clerk confirmed that as an Infrastructure Project that the Village Hall roof would be eligible. The Clerk also explained that there were a number of funding opportunities available for the Village Hall roof fund including applying the Winchester City Council for an allocation from the CIL funding held for public projects. The Clerk enquired on behalf of the Village Hall

Committee following the discussion at the Parish Council meeting, Corinne Phillips the CIL Implementation Officer responded:

“Winchester City Council has a community bidding scheme , which allows Parish Councils and other community organisations to apply for CIL funding for a range of infrastructure including the improvement of community buildings. Bids for funding are invited each year between 1st September and 30th November (so the deadline is looming). However, if the work is required in the next 2-3 years as stated in your e-mail, then it may be more appropriate to make a bid in 2026. Bids for funding of between £10k and £200k can be made, although there is only a certain amount of money set aside each year for community bids and the value of the bids received is always much more than the funding available. Therefore, even if a project meets the criteria for CIL funding, because it is a competitive process, not all projects can be allocated funding.

The link to the CIL application process is copied below (all the different council grants are accessed through this so the application for the ‘Community Infrastructure Levy 2025’ is the relevant form)”

[Portal homepage - Council Grants](#)

The Clerk explained that there are other funding opportunities open to the Village Hall Committee particularly if they plan to install solar panels.

Peter Lamb asked if the Parish precept could be increased to cover the cost of the roof work. The Clerk explained that the Parish Council are one of the few organisations which have the ability to increase the precept by however much they decide, this is part of the budgeting process which takes place in November for the following financial year. The Clerk explained that the Parish Council’s precept is the last line of residents Council Tax statement and the value requested would be collected from the approximately 200 homes in the Parish.

Mark Ashburton introduced a project which falls into the Itchen Stoke & Ovington Parish but is on the boundary of Northington. The estate is in the process of applying to create a Natural Burial Ground which will provide an alternative to the churchyards which are filling up. The area identified as access to the carpark at Abbotstone but vehicles would also be able to drive into the field using an existing track.

The field is approximately 2 acres and there is capacity to bury about 800 per acres and initially it is predicted that there will be one burial per month.

Fred Baring gave an update on the Planning Application for Home Farm. The changes are taking longer than predicted but the old corrugated iron building has been removed and a new roof has been installed at the Auditorium, this is a little shiny at the moment but was completed with English Heritage who confirmed that it will dull down over time. Progress with the plans to create a hospitality facility will continue and Fred confirmed that he was happy to update the community when significant part of the project start.

Peter Lamb asked if the Clerk could contact Micheldever Parish Council to ensure the grips are cleared by Micheldever Woods as there is often surface water on the road in this area.

The Clerk received an email from Simon Burleton just prior to the meeting asked about the following items:

“Speed signs on Northington hill

I understand that these are being progressed but is there a time line of what is happening and who is doing what by when so this is clear as this seems to be taking a long time to progress especially when many of the surrounding villages have these installed.

Equally once the speed warning signs are installed what is the message they will convey i.e. if above 30 miles per hour it should flash the speed of the car in red with a warning message to slow down too fast .. as an example

Also at the top of the hill is a sign that says Northington only . But this is difficult to see so could this be repositioned so it is very clear to cars it is only for access to Northington only .

It may be worth requesting a similar sign at the village hall entrance ?

The speed on the hill is so dangerous and is getting worse so please can this take priority to avoid any tragic accidents from happening.

Mobile reception

This seems to be an age old issue but what could be done to get mobile reception improved / in place for those houses where there is no signal ?

Broadband

Again an ongoing issue but are there any plans for improved fibre broadband to be made accessible otherwise Starlink will be the ongoing solution for this?"

The update on the Speed Indicator signs was given earlier in the evening, the Parish Council have applied for four locations to place the sign and are waiting for feedback from HCC. Once approval is given then some of the posts may need to be extended to accommodate the device before the Speed Indicator is purchased.

The Councillors discussed the other points as part of the Parish Council meeting following the Annual Parish Meeting.

The meeting ended at 8:05pm.

WS - 23/5/26

