

Minutes of Parish Council meeting held on Monday 11th May 2026

Councillors Present: Cllrs Wuczke, Hardy, Mel Richards & Mike Richards

Clerk: C Underhay

18: To receive apologies for absence:

Cllr Dillingham apologised for her absence.

19: Declarations of Interest:

Cllr Wuczke declared an interest as she is a current Trustee of the Village Hall Charity.

20: CBC Cllr Mark Versallion Report:

Cllr Versallion advised that he has met with the Police & Crime Commissioner. More funds have been made available to him, so more police resource can be made to Leighton Buzzard and surrounding villages. CBC have also released they underspent by £8M last year. Cllr Versallion is to attend a meeting regarding this.

21: Public Forum:

No residents were present.

22: Approval of Minutes of the meetings held on 13th April 2026:

Cllr Wuczke proposed that the minutes of the meetings held on 13th April 2026 were approved, this was seconded by the Cllr Mel Richards and resolved by all Councillors present.

23: Matters arising from the Minutes not dealt with elsewhere on the agenda:

The Clerk advised that he had contacted Highways re the lorry parked at nighttime. The Clerk also advised that he had given Cllr Hardy's name to Highways re safety on the A5.

24: School traffic calming measures:

The Clerk advised that he had been in touch with the Head to agree specifics of what she wanted (previously agreed 3 safety signs and 2 banners) – and this information has been given. Total cost £1212 – proposed by Cllr Wuczke, seconded by Cllr Mel Richards and resolved by all Councillors present.

Cllr Mike Richards has seen investigation flashing speed signs. He will contact the new Head as soon as they have started in the role to discuss.

25: Village Hall:

The Chair led a discussion. The Hockliffe village Hall Charity has a lack of Trustees and no one to fulfil the Offices of the Charity moving forward. The Village Hall, if built, would be for the benefit of the residents of Hockliffe. The reporting has been completed for year end June 2025 and has been available for public inspection on the Charity Commission Website for over a month. Councillors were asked last month to scrutinize the return so any questions can be addressed (there were none). Cllr Mike Richards proposed that the Parish Council (as an entity) become a Trustee of the Hockliffe Village Hall Charity – and that Father Noel McSweeney be retained as an independent Trustee. Noel has agreed to this. All other Trustees would resign (as is their wish). This would allow the Charity to move forward. This proposal was seconded by Cllr Mel Richards and then resolved by all Councillors present.

The Clerk advised that he will advise the Charity Commission of the changes to the Trustees. He will arrange a Trustee Meeting before the summer break. It was noted that this meeting is not a Parish Council Meeting – it is only for the Trustees – and is not a public meeting.

Minutes, however, will be published on the Parish Council Website. A formal subcommittee of the Parish Council will be set up to consider the Village Hall moving forward. Meetings of the Sub Committee can be attended by anyone – and any resident can ask or be approached to attend this. Minutes will be published on the Parish Council website. Trustee Meetings need to be held at least twice a year. Sub Committee Meetings can be held whenever necessary as determined by the Chair of the Committee – and formally report at each Parish Council Meeting. It would be desirable if the Chair of this Committee is a Parish Councillor.

Signatories of the Bank Account will be formally determined at the next Trustee Meeting.

26: Finance:

The Chair asked the Clerk to speak.

1. To authorise accounts for payment:

It was resolved that the following amounts could be paid:

Cheque	Amount (£)	To	For
2261	116	SLCC	Annual subscription
2262	2948.80	TDP	Park Benches*
2263	665	Lee Harris	May Maintenance
2264	322.15	C Underhay	Salary
2265	214.40	HMRC	Clerk Tax
2266	1212.00	Brightwayz	School safety signs*

*These items are outside of budget (using reserve funds agreed). Both will be added to the asset register when received. Both have separate resolutions (April & May Meetings)

Payment of the above was proposed by Cllr Wuczke, seconded by Cllr Mike Richards, and resolved by all Councillors.

2. Account Balances & Budget. To review summary of spend against budget:

The bank statements have not been received – so unable to report

27: Planning – Applications received:

The Chair advised that no applications have been received.

28: Cemetery Matters:

None.

29: Summer Event:

The Chair led a discussion. Summer Event not to go ahead this year due to a lack of volunteers – and preparation is late. Cllr Hardy said that he had spoken to some people – and whilst they thought it was a good idea, they were hesitant to help. The suggestion was that the event should be postponed to 2027 – and held in term time so we could involve the school. We could also ask the martial arts club to do a demonstration. A possible date we could use is 10th July 2027. The conversation then led to Christmas event – suggested date 29th November. Cllr Mel Richards said she would talk to the school to see if the choir could come and sing (but wait to new Head starts). Item to be included in next agenda – but just as “Village Events”.

30: The Park:

The Clerk advised that the benches had been ordered.

31: Correspondence Received (for information only):

None.

32: Items for inclusion in the next agenda:

None

The meeting closed at 8.05pm

Colin Underhay, Clerk – 11th May 2026

Signed as a true copy..... (Chair) 8th June 2026