**HORTON PARISH COUNCIL**  
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**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 13TH FEBRUARY 2025 AT BROADWAY HILL METHODIST CHURCH, HORTON.**

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**PUBLIC FORUM** No members of the public were in attendance at the meeting.

**4294** **ATTENDANCE** Councillors Barry Mosley – Chair, Andy Johnson – Vice-Chair, Ann Winter, Mike Schmidt, Peter Babbington, Andy Johnson.

1. **APPROVAL OF APOLOGIES** Cllrs Julie Layzell, Jack Martin and Robert Hutchinson
2. **DECLARATION OF INTEREST** None.
3. **PARISH COUNCIL VACANCY - CO-OPTION** The Council informed Somerset Council of the vacancy. The required notification period expired and Somerset Council did not contact Horton PC saying an election was called therefore, the normal co-option process can continue. A resident of the village expressed an interest in the position, and it was unanimously agreed to co-opt Hannah Massey to the Council.

*Action: Clerk to provide Cllr Hannah Massey with declaration of office and register of interest forms to complete.*

1. **TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING (JANUARY)** The minutes of the meeting held in January having previously been circulated were approved, seconded, and unanimously agreed upon.
2. **PLANNING APPLICATION(S)/APPEAL(S)**

5.1 25/00159/HOU - 4 Broadoak Horton Ilminster - Single-storey front and rear extensions and 2-storey front extension to existing dwelling house, to include internal reconfiguration of floor plans, alteration to garden wall and installation of sliding driveway gate.

The application was discussed and unanimously supported.

*Action: Clerk to notify Somerset Council of the decision.*

1. **PLANNING APPLICATION(S) – POST-DETERMINATION**

6.1 Ref. APP/E3335/W/23/3324775 (20/03277/FUL) Land north of Broadway Hill, Horton, Appeal Decision – Appeal Allowed.

It has been noticed that a small section of hedgerow has been removed for drainage purposes. It is unclear if the appropriate ecological consent has been obtained for this work.

*Action: Clerk to check conditions and see if any pre-commencement conditions have been breached. Send an email to Somerset Council regarding drainage and hedge.*

6.2 20/01985/FUL - Shave Lane development – Remediation works following development.

Heavy construction machinery has damaged verges adjoining the site/along the road frontage.

Action: Cllr Peter Babbington to visit the site to obtain contractor detaisl. Clerk to send contractor an email. The clerk to look at the application plans to see if the extension of the footpath was approved.

1. **HIGHWAYS**

7.1 Village Gateway Sign – Update - The clerk has confirmed the location to Somerset Council, no response to date yet. When confirmation has been received, the clerk to order a sign.

7.2 Footpath Between Goose Lane and Paulls Lane/Trotts Lane – Update - The footpath has been cleared of all debris. The contractor has issued an invoice for the works carried out totalling £60. Clerk to pay from personal funds and reclaim on expenses. The contractor will not accept cheques.

*Action: Clerk to issue payment.*

7.3 Suggs Lane – Cllr Andy Johnson confirmed the location where a dropped kerb is to be requested.

*Action: Clerk to contact Somerset Council.*

**4302 PLAYING FIELD – UPDATE**

8.1 General Update – The playing field and equipment are in good condition, with no issues with the equipment.

8.2 Bin Collection – Somerset Council have confirmed they no longer empty the bin.

Action: Clerk and Cllr Mike Schmidt to obtain quotes from private contractors to empty the bin. Cllrs Marry Mosely, Peter Babbington and Andy Johnson to empty the bin in the meantime.

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1. **SPEED INDICATOR DEVICE – UPDATE**

9.1 Pottery Road – New Device – Update – The sleeve for the pole will be ready for delivery within the next two weeks.

*Action: Cllr Andy Johnson to organise delivery. Cllr Hannah Massey to speak with Highway regarding reducing the speed limit to 20mph within the village.*

9.2 Warranty Extension – Update – Form signed and returned.

9.3 Hanning Road Devices – Data has been extracted. Data shows that the fastest outgoing speed was 116mph and the fastest incoming speed was 76mph. The data shows that on average 1000 vehicles movements daily on Hanning Road.

Action: Cllr Peter Babbington to speak with the police regarding SID data.

1. **DEFIBRILLATOR – UPDATE**

10.1 SSE Energy Solutions – Update – No further updates.

10.2 Utility Aid – Energy Broker – Update – Utility Aid has been unable to find an appropriate quote but has suggested SSE will provide a continued supply.

*Action: Clerk to confirm a quote from SSE is required.*

10.3 Shelter – Update – Monthly checks carried out. No issues to report.

10.4 Village Hall – Update – Monthly cleaning carried out. No issues to report.

**4304 MAINTENANCE AROUND THE VILLAGE – UPDATE**

11.1 General Village Maintenance – No updates were provided as Cllr Robert Hutchinson was not in attendance at the meeting.

11.2 Hanning Road – To be discussed in the March meeting.

1. **HORTON PROJECTS 2024/25**

12.1 Bus Shelter - Remedial works have been carried out, and dangerous roof tiles have been removed.

*Action: Clerk to email Woodram to confirm the appointment to complete the work.*

12.2 Grant Funding Request – Horton and Broadway Youth Group – A request has been submitted for funding to support the youth group, but an amount has not been specified.

*Action: Clerk to request the youth group's attendance at the next meeting.*

12.3 Memorial Bench – Cllr Barry Mosely has spoken with the family of former Cllr Ray Buckler, they are supportive of putting a bench on the playing field in remembrance of Ray Buckler.

*Action: Bllr Barry Mosely to look at bench options.*

12.4 Requests/Ideas – The following options were discussed:

* A path around the playing field
* Dog pen at the playing field
* Community mud kitchen
* Replacement gate at playing field.
* Village Fete – PTA to attend to request the parish council's support. A fete is being organised and will be held at the School.

Action: Cllr Hannah Massey to invite PTA to attend the next meeting.

1. **WEBSITE** – A discussion was had around the need for the parish council to have and maintain a website. The clerk advised it was required to publish financial records, agendas minutes etc. It was further discussed closing the website and using social media instead. Clerk advised parish councils are not advised to have social media for GDPR reasons.

*Action: Clerk to look into legislative requirements for having a website.*

**4306 FINANCE**

14.1 Proposal – To approve the following:

14.1.1 2024/25 Financial Statement – The banking administration issues have now been resolved, however, the delays have resulted in several bank statements not being received.

*Action: Clerk to request copies of missing statements.*

14.2 Proposal – To approve the following cheques - None.

**4307 CLERK’S REPORT AND CORRESPONDENCE**

15.1Approved contractors – Update – Ilminster TC advised they also struggle to appoint contractors and as a result, they do not have a list they can provide.

1. **ANY OTHER URGENT MATTERS RAISED WITH THE PERMISSION OF THE CHAIRMAN**
   1. Prepare tender for village and playing field maintenance.

**4309 DATE OF NEXT MEETING:** Thursday 13th March 2025 commencing at 6.30pm. *Meeting Closed: 19.55*