



VERNHAM DEAN PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman: Cllr John Hale

Clerk: Laura Priestley-Cooper
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Website: www.vernhamdean-pc.gov.uk

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Monday 13th July 2026 at 7.30pm, held at the Millennium Hall, Vernham Dean.

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Councillors present:

Cllr John Hale (Chairman)
Cllr David Christy
Cllr Nigel Palmer

Cllr Haydn Watkins
Cllr Julie Drury
Clerk

22. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

22.1 Apologies were received from Cllrs Adrian Butt, Glynn Seymour, Glenn Tollet

23. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

23.1 Cllr Julie Drury Pippins Planning Application.

24. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

24.1 Councillors agreed and approved the minutes of the annual parish council meeting which was held on 18th May 2026, and which were signed by the Chairman.

25. ACTIONS ARISING

- 25.1 Clerk will circulate dates for annual assembly for early may and it will be held separate to the May Parish Council meeting. **Action: Clerk will circulate dates.**
- 25.2 Cllr Palmer advised that HCC advised that the Crown building is not residential so they cannot help further, Cllr Palmer has also emailed Test Valley BC and no response. It was reported that the rat problem quietened down. **Action: Cllr Hale will email Kirsty North advising we have not had a reply.**
- 25.3 Cllr Hale advised that Scofell were late cutting the path, but it has now been done. They are mowing the mound regularly, but the hemlock needs treating. Scofell treating it with chemical. The school have been contacted and made aware of the hazard.
- 25.4 The Clerk will investigate putting a PDF of the focus magazine on the website
- 25.5 Cllr Christy will put a notice in the Focus magazine about dog fouling.
- 25.6 Cllr Hale advised that the Internal Audit picked up an issue with the way the fete finances are run. It was advised that the finances are to be run through a registered charity account and will in future go through the PTA account.
- 25.7 Cllr Watkins advised that conversation with landowners (at footpath3) happened and they agreed to clear the land crossed by footpath. (top of Bulpits Hill goes down to church path). Once cows are gone, he will clear the field.

26. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

- 26.1 There was 1 member of the public at the meeting.
- 26.2 A member of the public advised that they can't find any protocol regarding flying of the flag on the Millennium Hall in the event of the death of a villager. They have tried HCC and RBL. It was agreed we make our own rules for the parish. If anyone



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dies in the village with the permission of the family the flag will be lowered to half-mast for 7 days.

27. PLANNING - to discuss any planning matters and recent applications to TVBC

27.1 26/01144/TREEN - Garden Cottage Linkenholt Road Upton- Reduce height and width of tree by approximately 2 metres – no objections.

26/01191/TREEN- Davids Cottage High Street Vernham - T1 and T2 Hornbeam - Reduce crown by 1.5 m over all (Current height 5m finished height 3.5m, Current width 3.5m finished width 2m), T3 Scots Pine (on neighbours' property) - Prune back overhang from lowest largest limb back to suitable growth point. – no objections

26/01210/FULLN - Pippins Vernham Street - Two storey extension, replace conservatory glazing with brickwork and solid roof, replace front porch, convert garage, install roof light, inverted dormer and flue, infill garage door and install window. – Cllr Hale advised that the parish councils' comments have been taken on board. One window left in. Better than it was. Many thanks to Cllr Glenn Tollet for his input on this.

28. COUNCILLORS' UPDATES

- 28.1 Cllr Hale advised that the 20mph survey results were in.
For a 20-mph speed limit through the whole village - 30 households (15% of households in Vernham). For a 20mph speed limit by the schools only - 8 households (4% of households). TOTAL for a 20mph speed limit - 38 households (which represents 19% of households in Vernham). TOTAL against a 20-mph speed limit - 16 households (8% of households). It was thought that there was insufficient support in Vernham Dean to continue to pursue a 20-mph speed limit through the village. As an alternative it was decided to investigate the installation of Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs). **Action: Cllr Hale to contact HCC for ruling on installing SIDs in both Vernham and Upton and to understand the operating requirements.**
- 28.2 Cllr Watkins noted that footpath 9 from playing field up to church, the tunnel has become overgrown, and people are diverting around it. We would like to make the fairy tunnel usable by cutting the tunnel to allow people to walk through.
Action: Clerk to investigate with Scofell the cost of cutting a safe clear route through the tunnel. Afternote: Clerk to talk to landowner as the hedge grows from their field.
A package put together and costed to get rid of the remaining 11 old style stiles. We need a contact for the countryside ranger. **Action: The Clerk will keep chasing for a new contact. P North will help on this.**
- 28.3 Cllr Palmer noted that the footpath up to Upton Manor still overgrown at both ends.
Action: Cllr Palmer will consult with the landowners to clear it.
- 28.4 Cllr Palmer advised that the house next-door (right to the pub) to the pub has installed a fence, but the pubs garden has overtaken her fence. **Action: Cllr North prepared to contact the agents of The Crown to request they maintain the property and grounds until it has been sold.**



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- 28.5 Cllr Palmer reported that residents are having to clear up dog mess on the track going up to footpath in Upton leading to Linkenholt. This footpath falls into Hurstbourne Tarrant's parish. **Action: Cllr Hale advised that a dog bin could be installed. Cllr Hale will talk to Hurstbourne Tarrant Parish Council regarding the installation of a new dog bin in this area.**
- 28.6 Cllr Drury no further updates. **Action: Cllr Drury will forward the correspondence about Flowers Farm to Cllr North to further investigate.**
- 28.7 Cllr Christy, footpath needs cutting up from the bottom field up to Vernham Manor. **Action: The Clerk will contact the landowner.**
- 28.8 Cllr Hale noted that the henbarn road shoulder needs repair- **Action: Cllr Hale will remind Kirsty North about the repair of the verges and whether this is work to be undertaken by Conholt Estate.**
- 28.9 Cllr Christy advised that coming from Upton there is dead ash tree, Cllr J Hale has already reported it.
- 29.0 Cllr Hale advised that the water heater is broken in the pavilion and that will need to be repaired. We need to purchase and instal a new tennis net. Two of the freezers in the pavilion do not work. Cllr Hale advised that the profit from this year's fete should be used to buy one big freezer and one portable one.
- 29.1 Cllr Hale advised that there is 6k profit estimated from the fete this year.
- 29.2 Cllr Hale advised that the cleaner for the pavilion has resigned but there might be a suitable replacement. Cllr Christy noted that the school have just taken on a new cleaner and they might be able to be approached.
- 29.3 Cllr Hale reported that Cllr Tollet sprayed foam onto the ceilings of the containers made a huge difference to the condensation. Thank you to his brilliant effort.
- 29.4 Cllr Christy advised that there is damage on the football pitch and some flints on the surface to be aware of if there are any football bookings. **Action: Clerk to add to the hire t&cs that the hirer is responsible for inspecting the pitch before use.**

30.0 CLERK'S REPORT & CORRESPONDENCE

- 29.1 Nothing further to report.

30. FINANCE

- 30.1 On the day of the meeting, the bank balances stood at £50,160.58 including reserves of £44,110.
- 30.2 The clerk presented the Q1 financial reports.
RESOLVED: Councillors agreed there were no concerns to date.
Cllr Hale advised that he would monitor the growth of the playing field mound to determine the number of cuts required each year. We will then be able to add the cost of those cuts into our future budget.
- 30.3 The clerk had circulated the payments made since the last meeting. Cllr Hale agreed them as an accurate record.

TYPE	DATE	PAYEE	AMOUNT	REMARKS
BACS	14/05/26	Conholt Nominees	£6,000	INCOME Fete Sponsorship



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BACS	17/05/26	Mrs Miriam Edwards	£121.39	Annual Assembly Refreshments
BACS	18/05/26	Laura Morgan	£32.60	Annual Assembly Food
BACS	21/05/26	Business Stream	£46.51	Pavillion Water
BACS	21/05/26	Do the numbers	£275.00	Internal Audit
BACS	21/05/26	SSE	£45.32	Pavillion Electric
BACS	01/06/26	Fairman	£40.00	INCOME wayleave
BACS	18/06/26	Friends of Vernham	£3,000	Fete Sponsorship
BACS	11/06/26	Robert Horsman	£455.00	Circus Allstars Fete
BACS	11/06/26	TVBC	£116.00	Fete Bin Hire
BACS	11/06/26	HALC	£310.00	Membership Fee
BACS	11/06/26	HMRC	£320.76	HMRC
BACS	15/06/26	Little Fingers	£35.00	INCOME Pavillion Hire
BACS	15/06/26	Little Fingers	£35.00	INCOME Pavillion Hire
BACS	16/06/26	Laura Morgan	£449.54	Clerk Salary
BACS	18/06/26	Mr J Hale	£294.94	
BACS	23/06/26	Friends of Vernham	£2428.60	Fete Sponsorship
BACS	23/06/26	Mr J Hale	£300.00	
BACS	23/06/26	Mr J Hale	£89.99	Gazebo
BACS	29/06/26	Scofell Commercial	£697.39	Grass Cutting
BACS	29/06/26	SSE	£45.41	Pavillion Electric
BACS	01/07/26	Mrs K Lowth	£34.00	Pavillion Cleaning
BACS	01/07/26	Laura Morgan	£40.80	Sum up machines
BACS	01/07/26	Friends of HBT	£75.00	INCOME Marquee Hire
BACS	13/07/26	Declan Daly	£379.00	Sound system
BACS	13/07/26	AJGIBL GBP Client	£1898.35	Hiscox Insurance

31. NEXT MEETING

Vernham Dean Parish Council Minutes - May 2026 to April 2027
Copies of Parish Council Minutes may be accessed at www.vernhamdean-pc.gov.uk

Signed Date



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31.1 The next ordinary meeting of the Parish Council was due to be held on Monday 14th September 2026.

The meeting concluded at 20:29

Signed Chairman