



VERNHAM DEAN PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman: Cllr Julie Drury

Clerk: Laura Priestley-Cooper
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MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Monday 21st September 2026 at 7.30pm, held at the Millennium Hall, Vernham Dean.

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Councillors present:

Cllr Julie Drury (Vice Chairman)
Cllr David Christy
Cllr Glynn Seymour

Cllr Haydn Watkins
Cllr Glenn Tollet
Clerk

32. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

32.1 Apologies were received from Cllr John Hale (Chairman), Nigel Palmer, Adrian Butt.

33. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

33.1 There were no declarations of interests relating to items on the agenda, or requests for dispensations, in accordance with the Council's code of conduct.

34. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

34.1 Councillors agreed and approved the minutes of the parish council meeting which was held on 13th July 2026, and which were signed by the Chairman.

35. ACTIONS ARISING

35.1 Clerk will circulate dates for annual assembly for early May and it will be held separate to the May Parish Council meeting. **Action: Clerk has spoken to HBT Clerk to see if the meetings will run in succession again for 2027 so refreshments can be shared, a suggested date between 1st March to 1st June will be circulated.**

35.2 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. It was reported that there has been no reply to date. Action: Clerk will email Cllr North and follow up.**

35.4 The Clerk will investigate putting a PDF of the focus magazine on the website. The Clerk advised that the Focus is a church publication and they are worried about the likely loss of revenue by publishing it online. They are happy to allow the What's On events table and the service detail to appear "as is" on the website if useful. **Action: Clerk will follow up with Cllr Hale.**

35.5 Cllr Hale to contact HCC for ruling on installing SIDs in both Vernham and Upton and to understand the operating requirements. Cllr Drury reported that Cllr Hale started the process to get SIDs installed in Upton and Vernham Dean. Contact with Hants CC Highways who have responded with some detail about the requirements to install SIDs. The parish council will need to pay Hants CC £450 to cover the cost of their approval process. Cllr Hale will investigate the overall costs of SIDs and the minimum requirements the council must meet in return. In between times it was asked if the PC agree the £450 spend to get Hants CC to start the approval process. Cllr Drury



VERNHAM DEAN PARISH COUNCIL

confirmed that all councillors approve the spend. **Action: Cllr Hale will pick this up on his return.**

- 35.6 Clerk to investigate cutting a safe clear route through the tunnel. Clerk to talk to landowner as the hedge grows from their field. Clerk advised that the landowner WJ Millers could try and cut some of the branches to make it passable, but a supporting post may need to be installed as the whole hedge is growing over. They will have a look at this and try and improve the situation. **Action: Clerk will report back at the next meeting.**
- 35.7 The Clerk will keep chasing for a new ranger contact for the Footpaths. Cllr Phil North will help on this. **Action: Clerk will chase again for an update.**
- 35.8 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. Still needs to be chased up. Cllr Christy advised that there is a tree down at the moment. Action: **Clerk will follow up with Cllr Palmer.**
- 35.9 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. **Still no update on the Crown. Action: Clerk will follow up again with P North.**
- 36.0 Cllr Hale advised that a dog bin could be installed in Upton to rectify the reported problems of dog fouling. Cllr Hale will talk to Hurstbourne Tarrant Parish Council regarding the installation of a new dog bin in this area. Clerk advised that a new bin is being installed.
- 36.1 Cllr Drury will forward the correspondence about Flowers Farm to Cllr North to further investigate. Cllr Drury advised that Phil North has reported that the council have closed their case on it but wanted to know of any updates on it. **Action: Cllr Drury will send more photos so the investigation will be re-opened.**
- 36.2 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. Cllr Drury reported that Cllr Hale has advised that the repairs to the road edge on Hen Barn is at best superficial. He has raised an incident on Hants CC Highways website - the enquiry reference number is 21909482 - and informed Kirsty North. Cllr Hale advised approx. 100 yards of road edge has been damaged by the Conholt Estate lorries and needs repair. Kirsty will chase with Hants CC Highways for an update. **Action: Clerk and Cllr Hale will follow up.**

37. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

- 37.1 There were 0 members of the public at the meeting.

38. PLANNING

- 38.1 26/01617/LBWN - Church Cottage Vernham Street. Replacement of existing ground floor windows with purpose-made painted softwood timber windows finished externally in cream (Low White) with black window key furniture comprising box sash,



VERNHAM DEAN PARISH COUNCIL

stormproof casement and flush sash windows with traditional putty-faced glazing. Cllr Drury reported that there were no objections.

- 38.2 26/02012/VARN- Vary condition 2 of 25/02071/FULLN Longmeadow, High (Single storey front extension, alterations to fenestration and addition of timber cladding to the first floor of two elevations and alterations to steps from front terrace to lawn area) to allow for alterations to fenestration to garage to make a playroom, alterations to fenestration to dining room and addition of flue for a woodburning stove. Cllr Drury advised that there are no objections.

39. COUNCILLORS' UPDATES

- 39.1 Cllr Tollet reported that the Pavillion and playing fields are in good order. Play Equipment is fine. The main room looks tired but not sure there is much to be done on that. It is too early to tell if the foam insulation has worked in the containers.
- 39.2 Cllr Christy advised that he reported 3 potholes last week and they have been marked already. Cllr Christy wanted to note that it would be a good idea to think about planning for a wet winter as he is aware of how quickly the table goes up. **Action: It was agreed to keep an active eye on the table and Cllr Hale and Cllr Christy monitor it on a regular basis.**
- 39.3 Cllr Seymour advised that there is no reason why the focus cannot be put on the parish website from a tech point of view. **Action: Clerk will follow up with Cllr Hale and the Church.**
- 39.4 Cllr Watkins advised that he had reported that Footpath 3 was overgrown in the last meeting and since then the field has been cleared and made accessible again and thanks to be noted to Box Farm for this. However, the footpath is not clearly marked. Signage needs to be replaced on this route. **Action: Clerk to investigate this.**
- 39.5 Cllr Drury notified highways about the gravel on the corner S bend towards the village as two accidents have been witnessed there. Cllr Drury advised that the road sweeper did respond quickly and did come and remove the gravel. Cllr Christy reported that the 30mph signs are hidden by the hedges and that needs looking into. **Action: Clerk will find out who is responsible for maintaining this.**
- 39.6 Cllr Christy advised that there is a low take up of the focus magazine and asked the council if there is anything the council could consider getting the focus out in the village to all houses for a certain amount of time. Cllr Christy suggested the Parish Council could think about fund this but need to find out how many houses there are in the village. **Action: Clerk to ask Focus distributor how many are printed currently.**
- 39.7 Cllr Drury advised that Cllr Phil North advised there isn't any further change since the LGR statement which notified councils that the central government has formally withdrawn the Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) decision for Hampshire and the Solent, meaning no LGR decision is currently in place. The review could result in the same outcome or a completely different one. This presents a critical autumn/winter window to advocate for keeping Test Valley together and trying to avoid the risk of being absorbed into an urban-centric authority. The government confirmed that the May 2027 elections will go ahead as normal based on existing council boundaries (voting for TVBC rather than new unitaries).



VERNHAM DEAN PARISH COUNCIL

- 39.8 Cllr Drury reported on Cllr Hale behalf that the Water heater in the pavilion has been repaired in the pavilion and now works fine. It was tested it for 24 hours. Cllr Hale asked the clerk to monitor growth on the Mound whilst away and Scofell will be instructed to cut it again, once the grass / plants start growing again. That will be the third cut this year. The Hemlock has been treated once, and the Clerk will arrange for it to be treated again should any reappear. The Clerk reported that the mound has now been cut.

40. CLERK'S REPORT & CORRESPONDENCE

- 40.1 The external audit of the AGAR was complete, no matters arising from the external auditor.

41. FINANCE

- 41.1 On the day of the meeting, the bank balances stood at £57,594.25 with reserves of £47,869.85.
- 42.2 The clerk had circulated the payments made since the last meeting. Cllr Drury agreed them as an accurate record.

TYPE	DATE	PAYEE	AMOUNT	REMARKS
BACS	13/7/26	Kevin Balley	25.00	Table Hire
BACS	15/7/26	SSE	48.75	Pavilion electricity
BACS	20/7/26	Mrs Laura Morgan	449.54	Clerk Salary
BACS	20/7/26	Red 76 Tax LTD	144.00	Payroll
BACS	20/7/26	Mrs Kelly Lowth	34.00	Pavillion Cleaning
BACS	20/7/26	Mrs Miriam Edwards	105.00	Assembly Drinks
BACS	24/7/26	Mr John Hale	176.36	Pavillion Tables
BACS	24/7/26	Scofell	697.39	Grass Cutting
BACS	27/7/26	Friends of Vernham Dean School	35.00	Pavillion Hire
BACS	27/7/26	Mrs Kelly Lowth	34.00	Pavillion Cleaning
BACS	29/7/26	DJ Harris	575.70	Pavillion Repairs
BACS	06/8/26	Friends of Verham Dean School	2421.80	Fete profit share
BACS	06/8/26	Tangley Parish Council	165.60	Quarterly Share SID
BACS	06/8/26	Scofell	90.00	Hemlock Removal
BACS	07/8/26	Pretty Little Party Company	135.00	Pavilion Hire
BACS	14/8/26	Mrs Laura Morgan	449.54	Clerk Salary August
BACS	14/8/26	HMRC	4.88	PAYE August
BACS	14/8/26	Abby Ward	100.00	Pavilion security bond return
BACS	14/8/26	SSE	87.92	Pavillion Electricity
BACS	17/8/26	Business Stream	11.65	Pavillion Water
BACS	28/8/26	Scofell	697.39	Grass cutting
BACS	28/8/26	Sovereign Design	537.79	Maintenance
BACS	28/8/26	Kelly Lowth	34.00	Pavilion Cleaning
BACS	15/9/26	BDO LLP	252.00	External AGAR audit



VERNHAM DEAN PARISH COUNCIL

BACS	15/9/26	Mrs Laura Morgan	449.54	Clerk salary September
BACS	15/9/26	HMRC	4.88	PAYE September
BACS	21/9/26	Test Valley Council	10,000	TEST Valley Precept

43. NEXT MEETING

- 43.1 The next ordinary meeting of the Parish Council was due to be held on Monday 9th November 2026.

The meeting concluded at 20.07pm hrs.

Signed Chairman