

HORTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on 12th March 2026 at Broadway Methodist Church, Horton.
Present: Cllr B Mosley, Chair, A Johnson, vice Chair, Cllrs M Schmidt, A Winter, H Massey.

- 4431 Public Forum.** No members of the public were present.
- 4432 Somerset Councillor Report** – no report had been received. Noted that due to proposed reduction in War Cllrs at the May 2027 election, representation may reduce to one ward Councillor
- 4433 Apologies for absence:** Cllrs P Babbington & J Martin – accepted.
- 4434 Approval of minutes February 2026 – approved and signed.**
- 4435 Approval of historic minutes, unsigned due to death of previous Chairman:**
Clerk advised that minutes cannot be retrospectively signed, however all the unsigned minutes had been approved at the subsequent meetings. It was resolved to accept the unsigned minutes as true and accurate records and enter them into the minute book. Proposed Cllr Johnson, seconded Cllr Mosley. Approved unanimously.
- 4436 Finance:**
- a. **To approve and sign the Bank statements** – February 2026 to date. Approved and signed
 - b. **To approve and minute payment requests.** See Appendix A – approved and signed
 - c. **To approve and sign bank reconciliations** February 2026 to date. Approved and signed. Clerk noted that the next PC meeting will include signing end of year accounts and relevant AGAR form.
- 4437 Planning: -**
- Proposal:** Outline application with all matters reserved for a new custom/self-build.
Dwelling Location: Puddlebridge Cottage Puddlebridge Horton Ilminster Somerset TA19 9RL.
The PC considered that this application was unacceptable due to various material objections:
- Plot is very small for proposed dwelling.
 - Plot appears to be an “infill”.
 - Dwelling is very close to existing public footpath
 - Parking provision appears inadequate.
 - Dwelling is not in keeping with location.

- Plot location appears very close to water course, with serious potential for flooding.

Clerk requested an extension to 16th March 2026, a response noting the PCs concern will be sent to SC planning department with requests to include rain water harvesting and the use of photovoltaic panels.

- 4438 Parish matters: To consider upgrading and/or replacing play equipment.**
The Pc agreed to consider this matter.
- 4439 Parish matters: To consider a report from Cllr Johnson regarding upgrades to the playing field & play area.** The suggestion is to install a zip wire and replace or repair old equipment, including installing hardstanding for a tennis court or football paddock. Cllr Mosley noted that the Broadway Hill developers had indicated that funding to improve the sports facilities would be available. Noted that this could be several years in the future. Noted that the recreation area is considered to be underfunded in comparison to other nearby facilities, e.g Ashill & Broadway.
Clerk noted that according to current financial regulations for contracts above £3,000 a minimum of three fixed price quotes must be obtained.
For repairs to existing equipment, quotes are not normally required, however for replacement equipment the replacement cost must be included in the total quote.
- 4440 Parish matters: Village sign update from June 2025.** Deferred to future meeting for input from Cllr Martin
- 4441 Parish Council matters: To consider & adopt a “WhatsApp” policy for council communications.** Clerk tabled a “Whatsapp” policy which was agreed and adopted unanimously. Cllr Johnson has set up the group Horton Parish Council. Noted that council documents will be sent by email.
- 4442 Parish Council Matters: Update register of interest declarations and Civility & Respect pledge.** Cllrs were reminded to read the Civility & Respect pledge and for those Cllrs who had joined the council in the last 12 months, to read the standing orders and financial regulations. Clerk will resend documents to Cllrs. Cllrs were also reminded that their register of interests is a living document and should be updated if any relevant information changes.

4443 Standing items.

a. Monthly updates:

- i. Highways/Village maintenance: Ongoing
- ii. Consider annual schedule of grounds maintenance. Ongoing.
- iii. Playing Field. Check Biffa invoices. One collection has been completed - clerk will continue to monitor **contract Cllr Johnson will contact Biffa to try and establish why collections are not always successful aNd report back t the next PC meeting**
- iv. Speed Indicator Devices –update re placement of pole/installation of device. Cllrs Mosley & Babbington are dealing with this matter.
- v. Bus shelter refurbishment/decoration. The bench has been re-varnished by Cllr Schmidt, further decoration may be carried out through the School. Defib electric supply. Clerk has received an invoice from SSE, which has yet again been referred to a debt collection agency without prior notification. Complaint has been raised with SSE, awaiting response. **Cllrs agreed to pay the outstanding balance with the credit removed. Clerk to contact SSE.**

The Council is recommended to resolve that under section 1, paragraph 2 of The Public Bodies(admission to meetings) Act 1960, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business because publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

4444 Clerk – Confirm satisfactory completion of probationary period. Confirmed that the probationary period had been satisfactorily completed.

Meeting closed at 19.45hrs

Date and time of next meeting: April 09th 2026, Broadway Methodist Church @ 6.30pm

Appendix A

Payments for authorisation:

HMRC	PAYE & NI Month 11	139.71
Blubook	Payroll services to 31/3/26	144.00
Clerk	Consumables/printer cartridges	217.68
Defib Store(paid)	Replacement defib pads	369.59
SLCC/Clerk	Assertion 10 webinar	8.34
Milage as per contract	Attend meetings	87.40
CiLCA travel/parking	Wells	12.73