

HORTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 08th May 2026, 6.30pm at Broadway Methodist Church.

Present: Cllr B Mosley, Chairman, Cllrs P Babbington, M Schmidt, H Massey & J Martin.

26/1a TO SIGN THE MINUTES OF THE LAST ANNUAL PARISH MEETING (MAY 2025).
Minutes were approved and signed.

26/2a TO RECEIVE THE CHAIRMAN'S REPORT. The Chairman presented his report

26/3a COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS ON THE CHAIRMAN'S REPORT. To be updated to reflect Councillor resignations during the year.

26 4a ANY PARISH ITEMS YOU MAY WISH TO DISCUSS, BY LAW AND PASS RESOLUTIONS ON THEM. No matters were raised

Meeting closed at 6.50pm.

HORTON PARISH COUNCIL – CHAIRMAN’S ANNUAL REPORT 2025 2026

During the past twelve months we have welcomed Hannah Masey as a Councillor, her links to Neroche School will be of great benefit to the council and community.

We said a sad farewell to Ann Winter who served for more than twelve years, we will miss her positive contribution and input. We also said farewell to Councillors Julie Lazell & Robert Hutchinson, who served for six and five years respectively, they both provided practical and valuable contributions.

It should be noted that we have three vacancies for Councillors all of which can be filled by co-option. Despite several adverts and a few promising leads no one has come forward. We would encourage any Horton residents who live in the Village or within three miles to check the website, contact Councillors or the clerk for further information.

We said farewell to Charlotte Duff after 10 years as clerk and RFO.

After a recruitment campaign and interviews Zannette Bougourd was appointed as clerk & RFO. Zannette has worked tirelessly to ensure that we as a council comply with all the relevant regulations. We look forward to working with her in the future.

In accordance with Government guidelines the Parish council changed their email addresses to gov.uk as per the website.

The Parish council has two main assets, the playing field and the play equipment and the bus shelter.

The bus shelter has had a complete refurbishment including a new roof, the council will be working with Neroche school staff and pupils to arrange for a mural to be painted. There is now a book exchange cabinet installed and managed by Cllr Peter Babbington. The council continues to manage the playing field and equipment with regular grass cutting, hedge cutting and regular inspections and repairs as necessary to the equipment.

Cllr Andy Johnson is investigating improving play equipment upgrades.

An issue with overflowing bins at the playing fields is in the process of being resolved with a contract to a waste disposal company.

New and in some cases larger dog waste bins have been located in the Village – thanks to Cllr Peter Babbington.

Footpaths are inspected and any clearance required managed by Cllr Mike Schmidt.

Residents have been contacted through various channels as to suggestions to improvements and additional facilities in the village on several occasions, unfortunately the council received no responses.

The council continues to monitor and make representations of planning applications, reviewing several throughout the year.

Following the submission for 150 houses at Broadway Hill a robust response was formulated. The council insisted on a public consultation by the applicant; this was held in the Village Hall and well attended by Parishioners.

A Parish council meeting was held with the main agenda item being the application, this was once again well attended.

Following this meeting the council debated the feedback, and a decision was made to engage a planning consultant to put forward objections. We are still awaiting the decision.

Cllr Jack Martin has overseen this process and will co-ordinate and report back to the council.

Grants were issued to Neroche PTA £1,000

Beehives £247.50

Countryside Protection £120.00

We will consider grants as appropriate for 2026/27.

The councils' finances and reserves are in good order and well managed, however Somerset Council continue to present challenges, the impact of which are currently unknown.

An annual audit of the finance takes place.

We look forward to another year of serving and representing the Parish of Horton to our best ability.

Cllr Barry Mosley

Chairman.

08th May 2026

