

HOLLINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Ordinary Meeting

Held on: Monday 7th July 2025 at 7:30 pm

At: The Red Lion Public House, Hollington DE6 3HA

Present: Cllr Paul Merkens, Cllr Fiona Jordan, Cllr Malcolm Feltwell
Peter Bambury (Clerk)

District Cllr Geoff Bond, County Cllr Steve Bull

There were no public attendees

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies received from Cllr Ward.

In the absence of Cllr Ward, Cllr Merkens chaired the meeting

2. Declaration of Interests

None

3. Public Speaking

District Cllr Geoff Bond reminded the meeting of the current consultation on the proposed Local Government reorganisation.

County Cllr Steve Bull advised of the current transient nature of proceedings at the County Council as the new structures become established following the recent election.

4. Approval of previous minutes

The minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council held on 12th May 2025 were approved. Clerk to update website. Action: Clerk

5. Exclusion of the public

No matters on the agenda were identified that would necessitate exclusion of any member of the public that were to join during the course of the meeting.

6. Matters arising from previous meetings

- (a) The condition of the trees on The Green, which had previously been a cause for concern, had now stabilised following the regular watering that was now taking place.
- (b) An issue had developed with the SID at the southern end of the village. Cllr Ward had emailed a report to Swarco and had copied to the Clerk. However the Clerk had not received this and had advised Cllr Ward accordingly.

7. Parish Councillor vacancy

An application for the vacant position of Parish Councillor had been received from Mr Mike Critchley.

It was proposed by Cllr Merkens, seconded by Cllr Jordan and agreed unanimously that Mr Critchley be so appointed with immediate effect.

Clerk to write to confirm the appointment and send forms for Acceptance of Office and Declarations of Pecuniary Interests. Action: Clerk

8. Biodiversity and Nature Action Planning

A meeting of the Working Group had recently taken place and Cllr Jordan presented the following update.

Barn owl and swallow boxes had been installed at various locations in the village. The engagement of the these by the birds however had been limited so far due to several short term factors that had been identified.

The planting of the two fruit trees on The Green had been successful although the trees had suffered distress due to the dry weather. The situation has now improved and the trees are doing well.

Consideration had been given to future areas of focus for the group and it had been decided that the planting of wild flowers on The Green and other areas would be the priority. A planting plan had been developed and costings had been obtained. Funding would be required for this and it was suggested that this could be provided if the Parish Council were to apply for one of the available grants from the District or County Council.

A meeting with Derbyshire Dales District Council's Biodiversity Officer, Molly Gorman, was planned for later in the year to discuss environmental impacts and further funding opportunities. Meetings with other partners, such as the Hedgehog Preservation Society, were also to be arranged.

It was agreed that the Clerk would make an application to Derbyshire Dales District Council for a grant under the Local Projects Fund. Cllr Merkens to email to the Clerk details of the basis for the application. Action: Cllr Merkens & Clerk

9. Neighbourhood Watch Scheme

The group continued to run well, with a membership now totalling 27, and there were good levels of communication through the Whatsapp group.

Cllr Jordan announced her intention to stand down from her role with the group in order to divert more of her time to biodiversity matters. She will continue in the role until a replacement is found.

10. Village Noticeboard

There was a need to introduce a policy for the posting of items on the noticeboard due to the limited space available on the board. Cllr Merkins had prepared a draft policy and this had been circulated to councillors prior to the meeting.

Adoption of the draft policy, as presented, was proposed by Cllr Jordan, seconded by Cllr Feltwell and agreed unopposed. Clerk to prepare a formatted version of the policy and post on the Parish Council's website. Action: Clerk

11. Condition of highways

There were still pothole problems at Back Lane and Shirley Lane. Both of these issues had previously been reported to Derbyshire County Council.

County Cllr Steve Bull asked for photos of the Shirley Lane potholes and Cllr Feltwell agreed to send these to the Clerk for forwarding to County Cllr Bull.
Actions: Cllr Feltwell & Clerk

County Cllr Bull advised that increased funds had now been allocated for highways maintenance and this was expected to have a significantly positive impact on the maintenance programme.

12. Proposed Local Government reorganisation

A consultation document had previously been circulated.

There were currently three options that had been proposed for the future structure of district and county councils in Derbyshire. Each of these featured the parish of Hollington as being in the northern region of the future administration.

There is currently a period of consultation in progress to which councillors are able to make their own individual responses.

13. Finance

- (a) The current Finance Management Report and account balance were noted.
- (b) Payments that had been made since the last meeting and which were itemised on the meeting agenda were noted.

14. Other business

Cllr Jordan asked, following the recent review of the Clerk's terms of employment, whether there were any further issues or difficulties that needed to be addressed.

The Clerk thanked Cllr Jordan for her concern and added that he felt the new contractual hours and remuneration were now more appropriate and were a better reflection of the work that is undertaken.

Cllr Jordan proposed a vote of thanks, supported unanimously, for the Clerk's performance in the role.

15. Date of next meeting

To be held at 7:30pm Monday 8th September 2025 at The Red Lion PH, Main Street, Hollington. Clerk to post notice on website. Action: Clerk

The meeting closed at 8.15pm