

# HALWILL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting Held on 12 March 2026 at 7.30 pm, Baptist Hall

## Present

Cllr J Lawlor (Chair), P Dixon (PD), L Bryan (LB), V Osborne (VO) and M Harding (MH).

Clerk: D Osborne

In attendance: Two representatives of Halwill primary school and a representative of the Hall Committee.

## 2025/Mar/1 – Apologies

Apologies were received and accepted from: Councillor E Down (ED), Ward Councillors P Hackett and S Gibson

## 2025/Mar/2 – Declarations of Interest & Dispensations

- Councillor J Lawlor declared an interest in Item 11.
- A dispensation was granted to Councillor Lawlor to remain in the room whilst Item 11 was discussed but not to participate in the debate or vote.

## 2025/Mar/3 – Public Question Time

### Standing Orders were suspended to allow the public to speak

Representatives from the school raised the matter of the car park licence fee. More details can be found in the meeting papers.

The points raised were:

- The school received an outstanding OFSTED inspection report.
- The school is experiencing budgetary pressure
- The Parish Council's loan has 2 payments left before it is paid off
- The money for the car park licence fee comes from the schools financial settlement
- The school accepts the parish council needs to be able to fund car park repairs
- The school requests the annual fee is reduced to £500

The Chair of the Parish Hall Committee reported that grant funding for the Hall improvements (lowered ceilings, new heating, new lighting, air conditioning) has been secured. The biggest contributor is the National Lottery.

The roof is leaking and repairs to this have to take priority and are as yet unfunded.

It is hoped the Parish Council will return to the parish hall once the improvement works are completed.

**Standing Orders were reinstated**

## **2025/Mar/4 – Clerk’s & Councillors’ Announcements**

“None.”

## **2025/Mar/5 – Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

The Minutes of the February 2026 meeting were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

## **2025/Mar/6 – Finances**

**Bills for Payment – March 2026** The schedule of payments (Appendix 1) was approved.

**RESOLVED:** To approve the March payments.

## **2025/Mar/7 – Planning**

The Council considered the following applications:

### **Planning Applications**

<b>Reference</b>	<b>Proposal</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Notes</b>
1/0115/2026/FUL	Demolition of barns and erection of dwelling & detached garage	Agricultural Building at GR 243282 100077	No Comment
1/0129/2026/AGMB	Change of use of agricultural building to dwelling (Class Q)	GR 241777 097094	No Comment
1/0093/2026/FUL	Roofing over existing slurry pit (PROW affected)	Land Adjacent to Byways	No Comment
1/0060/2026/REM	Reserved matters for 4 dwellings	Higher Stowford Farm	No Comment

## **2025/Mar/8 – Baptist Church Drainage & Boundary**

A progress update was received. Contracts have been signed.

**NOTED:** For information only.

## **2025/Mar/9 – Telephone Kiosk Repainting**

Members considered repainting the parish-owned kiosk at Halwill Town.

**RESOLVED:** • To approve repainting of the kiosk. • To authorise expenditure up to £250. • To appoint a contractor to undertake the work. The Chair to arrange the contractor.

## **2025/Mar/10 – Annual Parish Meeting (APM)**

Members discussed the date, venue and budget for the Annual Parish Meeting.

**RESOLVED:** • The APM will be held on **14 May** at **Halwill Parish Hall**. • A budget of up to £50 was approved for venue hire and associated costs.

## **2025/Mar/11 – School Car Park Licence Fee & Contract**

**DEFERRED** pending further information

## **2025/Mar/12 – Active Halwill Committee**

The list of delegated decisions was noted.

Potential extension of MUGA to meet FA youth regulations under consideration; grass pitch unchanged (previously widened).

It is proposed to acquire land to extend the MUGA either by gift or by purchasing the land.

It is proposed to acquire toilets (ideally with Torridge contribution), retain only a disabled-access toilet (minimum requirement), and build new changing rooms on the site of the existing changing rooms and part of the toilet block without encroaching further into the car park.

## **2025/Mar/13 – Action List**

The Action List was noted.

The following reports on specific items were given

Benches. Benches near the post office and opposite Stags Wood are in poor condition; responsibility lies with the District council. Despite repeated letters safety concerns and legal responsibility remain unresolved.

Play equipment. Two quotes received (cheapest ~£12,000; expected £12,000–£14,000). Available/anticipated funds: £4,500 Section 106, ~£1,500 grants, £200 from Scallywags. Independent inspection commissioned (insurance requirement); procurement decisions await the report.

Training. Councillor training agreed in principle (approx. 8 attendees; ~£250); preferred timing weekday evenings (not Mondays/Wednesdays) or weekends; trainer availability to be confirmed.

Devon hornbeam tree donation. School is likely agreeable; MH to discuss placement with the school.

Speed sign installation and power. Pole available; installation awaits agreement to take power from a street light; final placement depends on approval.

Gazebo. Ground conditions nearly suitable; plans to be circulated to interested parties

## **2025/Mar/14 – Correspondence**

- Email from the school regarding the car park – noted.

## **2025/Mar/15 – Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held on **16 April 2026**.

## **Exclusion of Public**

**RESOLVED:** “That the public be excluded from the remainder of the meeting because of the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.”

## **2025/Mar/16 – Part II (Closed Session)**

No items were discussed.

## **2025/Mar/17 – Close**

The meeting closed at **9:45 pm**