

Hulland Ward Parish Council

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or visit the council website www.hullandwardparishcouncil.gov.uk

Minutes of Hulland Ward Parish Council Meeting

6 July 2026 at 7 pm at Hulland Ward Millennium Village Hall

PRESENT:

Councillors: Arthur Champion (Chair), Maureen Atkin, Charlie Ratcliffe

ALSO PRESENT:

Calvin Boam (Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator)

Martin Barrell (representing Hulland village)

16 Members of the public

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors David Balls, Julie Morgan and Shane Morgan. Cllr Adrian Hunter (DCC) and Ms Louise Redfern (representing Biggin Village).

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The Council resolved that the minutes of the previous meeting held on the 1 June 2026 were a true and correct record.

3. OUTSTANDING ITEMS FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING

All outstanding items were on the agenda.

4. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Cllr Champion declared a non-pecuniary interest as a clergyman in the Diocese of Derby. Cllr Atkin declared an interest in item 6a).

5. BRIEFINGS/COMMENTS

a) District and County Councillors

There were no District or County Councillors present at this meeting.

b) Invited comments from Hulland and Biggin Parishes

Hulland village residents were considering new village signs.

c) Invited comments from the public – members of the public will be allowed 3 minutes per person, the maximum amount of time allowed for this item will be at the discretion of the Chair but will usually be 10 minutes.

Calvin Boam the Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator reported that there were no new crimes in the parish; parents had been spoken to regarding one incident of anti-social behaviour. It was noted that there had been an increase in crime around Ashbourne and the wider area, this had included theft of a caravan and farm machinery. Lack of police officers was an issue with a large geographical area to cover. Public advised to remain vigilant and report incidents to the Police.

Member of the public reported that the Hulland village sign had disappeared from Deepdale Farm, and it has never been replaced.

Most residents present raised concerns about the new planning application (6a below) these included:

Hulland Ward Parish Council

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Concern over lack of facilities in the village to support young people; Having a children's home in the area may lead to anti-social behaviour; This type of property can be used by people who have been discharged from prison; Concern that there is no control over the people who will be placed in the home; The application does not state the ages of children; This is not an appropriate location for a children's home; The needs of existing residents should be taken into account; There is no regular bus service in Hulland Ward; These young people need to be in safe and supportive accommodation and this setting is not suitable; There is nothing within walking distance it will be difficult for young people to access services; No health centre in Hulland Ward; Special services are some distance away; Limited parking is an issue; Some children will have suffered significant amount of trauma; Older children would be alienated from family and friends if they were moved out here; No maintenance has been carried out to the house in the past it has been completely neglected; It is a small house with a small garden.

6. VILLAGE DEVELOPMENT

a) Planning Application 26/00583/FUL – Change of use of dwelling (C3) to a small-scale children's home (C2) at 2 Alport Close, Hulland Ward DE6 3FR

After discussion the Council resolved to strongly object to this proposal and make the following comments:

- The application states that Hulland Ward has easy access to services and facilities which help the children live independently, but this is not the case Hulland Ward has an infrequent bus service to the village and no Health Centre.
- It is not clear from the application about how many members of staff will be required at any one time, as the application contradicts itself: items 3.2 and 5.6 state different numbers of staff.
- Carers on a shift pattern, visiting therapists and social workers, will all need to arrive by car due to lack of a frequent bus service, this will cause noise, disruption and possible parking issues for other residents.
- There will be considerable risk of noise to adjoining neighbours.
- There is no "Telford Road" in Hulland Ward or anywhere near this property.
- The change in use may adversely impact the quality of lives of the adjoining neighbours.
- The Parish Council feel they must object very strongly to this application as they have a duty of care for existing residents, many of whom are elderly and there are also safeguarding concerns for the children living nearby and attending the primary school in the village.
- Seventeen residents attended a meeting of the Parish Council on 6th July, and they were united in strongly objecting to the change of use for this house

The Council acknowledged that vulnerable children need a fresh start but placing them in a quiet area with no supporting facilities is not the right place for them, this could result in social isolation.

b) Update on Wheeldon Way Development

Cllr Champion had visited the site, and seen the Quality Manager, who had assured him that the area around the drain cover would be satisfactorily restored. The company had spent £12,000 removing the hedge and installing the footpath and planting saplings. Cllr Champion and Cllr Ratcliffe to carry out another site visit.

Action: Cllrs Champion & Ratcliffe

7. VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE UPDATE

The Council resolved to move the items below to the closed section of the meeting.

Hulland Ward Parish Council

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- a) **Memos of Understanding about Finances and Fire Precautions**
- b) **HSE Guidance for Health & Safety in Village Halls**
- c) **Fire Risk Assessment**

8. **RENEWAL OF SPEED SIGN INDICATOR MAINTENANCE CONTRACT AT A COST OF £1,244.44 FOR 3 YEARS FOR BOTH SIGNS**

The Council resolved to go ahead and renew the contract. **Action: Clerk**

9. **VILLAGE IMAGE & ENVIRONMENT**

a) **Playing Field issues/anti-social behaviour/Ownership of the Playing Field/Playing Field Inspections**

The Play area inspection had been booked. The District Council were chasing Severn Trent to confirm completion of works before the final ownership document could be issued to the Parish Council. Anti-social behaviour on the Playing Field has been noted previously.

b) **Update from the Play Area Sub-Committee**

Clerk to circulate minutes of the latest Play Area Sub-Committee meeting. **Action: Clerk**

c) **Speeding issues – community speed watch/speed watch signs**

Cllr Balls was hoping to run 2 community speed watch sessions on the 15 July as part of a national initiative. It was hoped that Cllr Balls would shortly receive guidance on the downloading of data from the village speed signs.

d) **Neighbourhood Watch Update**

Update given under item 5 c) above.

e) **Raised Drain cover round the memorial tree**

This matter was dealt with under item 6 b) above.

f) **Grit Bin on Smithall Lane and mowing at the Smithall Lane junction**

The mowing has now been done. This matter to be referred to Cllr Morgan at the next meeting.

g) **Hedge Cutting along the A517.**

The first hedge cutting of the season had been done, some hedges needed to be cut back harder in future. The Council agreed that the hedges of properties along the slangs would have the pavement side of the hedge cut only and not the height.

h) **Mowing around the village**

There was some concern about the quality of the mowing around the village. Some mowing was done by Derbyshire Dales and the rest done by Cartwrights. There were reports of hearing protectors not being worn by workmen.

10. **FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION**

a) **Website/Facebook Page Update**

The website and Facebook page were up to date.

b) **Update on Councillor Vacancies**

Two applications had been received, unfortunately both candidates were on holiday for this meeting.

c) **Co-option of Parish Councillor**

There was no one present at this meeting to be co-opted.

d) **Update on Finances**

The balance in the Parish Council accounts totalled £51,622.09 including reserved funds.

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e) Invoices and Expenses for approval at this meeting:

Item for Payment	Amount
ICO (Paid by DD)	47.00
Derbyshire ALC Ltd	270.00
G Burley Ltd (Plantscape)	3,567.60
Expenses AC - Tree Plate from Timpsons	59.99
Ashbourne Secretarial & Printing	310.50
Clerk's Salary	347.93
HMRC	252.39
Clerk's Expenses	152.48

11. REVIEW & UPDATE ON CAPITAL PROJECTS

Nothing further to report on this matter.

12. COUNCILLORS REPORTS & OBSERVATIONS

- Cllr Ratcliffe to investigate issues with the footbridge on Moss Lane

13. CLERK'S REPORT & CORRESPONDENCE

Clerk had received a call from the owner of a property on Grange Avenue who had requested that grass along the edge of the property bordering the playing field be strimmed. **Action: Cllr Ratcliffe**

14. RESOLUTION TO CLOSE THE MEETING TO MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO DISCUSS PERSONNEL ISSUES AND VILLAGE HALL HEALTH & SAFETY MATTERS

15. VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE UPDATE

The Council resolved to move the items below to the closed section of the meeting.

a) Fire Risk Assessment

The Council discussed the Fire Risk Assessment, the assessment had been carried out, and the report should be received very soon, clerk to circulate in due course. **Action: Clerk**

16. CLERK RECRUITMENT/INTERVIEWS AND APPOINTMENT

The Council resolved to re-advertise the vacancy. The current clerk agreed to continue as responsible financial officer and the Council resolved to appoint a locum clerk, this change would take place from the 1 August. **Action: Clerk**

17. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting would be held on Monday 7 September 2026 at 7pm.

Meeting Closed: 21:05 hrs