

Hulland Ward Parish Council

Contact the Council: Parish Clerk Phone 07938 808730
or visit the council website www.hullandwardparishcouncil.gov.uk

Minutes of Hulland Ward Parish Council Meeting

1 June 2026 at 7 pm at Hulland Ward Millennium Village Hall

PRESENT:

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

ALSO PRESENT:

Councillor Adrian Hunter (DCC)
Calvin Boam (Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator)
1 Member of the public

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors Julie Morgan and Shane Morgan. Councillor Dermot Murphy (DDDC), Mr Martin Barrell (representing Hulland Village) and Ms Louise Redfern (representing Biggin Village). It was also noted that Cllr Karl Dean had resigned from the Parish Council.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The Council resolved that the minutes of the previous meeting held on the 11 May 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.

5. BRIEFINGS/COMMENTS

a) District and County Councillors

Cllr Hunter brought the following road closures to the attention of the Council: Biggin Lane between Poplars Farm and Ashcroft for a BT pole replacement on the 7/8 July; closure of Dog Lane between 6 July and 20 September for 10 days for resurfacing; Barrier repairs would also be carried out on the road to Carsington. Cllr Hunter then left the meeting.

Cllr Murphy was not present at this meeting but an email from him giving an update on the Local Plan had been circulated to Councillors.

b) Invited comments from Hulland and Biggin Parishes

There were no representatives from Hulland and Biggin parishes.

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 representing the Neighbourhood Watch Group stated that the Hulland Ward Neighbourhood Watch Facebook page now had 220 subscribers. There were a few issues in the village: parishioners are still concerned about speeding and anti-social behaviour - vehicles using car park on the playing field as a test track, this matter has been raised with the police. Some surrounding parishes have had thefts of heating oil.

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Belper has issues with thefts from vehicles. PCSOs have been invited to come out to meet locals but at the moment they are focussing on Ashbourne. Good results with intelligent led policing has resulted in a local individual being given 8 and half years for the possession of class a and b drugs. Parish Council were asked to remind the public to be vigilant regarding security of their homes, particularly during the summer months when windows are left open.

6. VILLAGE DEVELOPMENT

a) Planning Application 26/00566/CLPUD – Certificate of Lawful Proposed/Development – The erection of a car port within the residential curtilage of Moss Farm

The Council resolved to have no objection to this application. Action: Clerk

b) Brailsford Solar Farm

The Parish Council resolved to make the following objections to this application:

- Even the revised plans would cover 300 acres of fertile farmland to the north-east of the village thus reducing the UK's valuable food production capacity and exacerbating food insecurity
- The current international context is worrying with ongoing wars within and between over 50 nations, most notably in Ukraine and the Middle East. The UK currently imports half the food needed as well as relying on seasonal migrant workers to pick crops. Yet another solar farm on fertile farmland will significantly reduce food security.
- Solar farms produce their maximum electricity in the summer when demand for electricity is at its lowest.
- Hardly any electricity is generated during the winter months so the average energy produced by a solar farm is only 11% of the installed capacity of the panels. This is a gross inefficiency.
- In addition, the panels only work by day whereas demand for domestic electricity goes on for 24 hours. Hence the necessity for expensive battery storage which has very limited storage duration, can make an annoying buzzing noise as well as having the risk of bursting into flames.
- Solar farms generate peaks and troughs of electrical output due to the random passing of clouds or overcast skies which restrict electricity generation from the panels.
- Solar panels are classified as "renewable" but this does not mean zero CO2. The embedded carbon footprint (ECF) of a solar panel is 50 gms of CO2 per kWh generated.
- Solar farms have no connectivity with the National Grid because they 'hook in' to the low voltage regional distribution network.
- Plans for the solar farm include the installation of security fencing but this will not only prevent unauthorised access by people but also interrupt the movement of wildlife such as deer, badgers and hedgehogs.
- The industrial structures will have an adverse impact on the landscape. Ramblers and others who have enjoyed footpaths and bridleways all down the centuries will be less inclined to bother.
- Finally, the proposals fail to make sufficient commitment to restore the land by removing buried cables, concrete foundations and similar infrastructure. We fear that long-term the proposed solar farm will effectively turn this pristine farmland around the village into a brownfield site.

In essence, there is no justifiable reason for constructing solar farms on prime fertile farm land. Food security is paramount.

c) Update on Wheeldon Way Development

The new resident on the Wheeldon Way development has a temporary electricity supply. Other people are waiting to move in, but a secure electricity supply is required first. Affordable houses have not yet been started. The development joins the playing field and developers have taken out some hedges and built a pathway, but this needs to have a gate and be made useable. Cllrs Champion and Ratcliffe to raise this matter with the site manager. Action: Cllrs Champion & Ratcliffe

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7. VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE UPDATE

A meeting between the Parish Council and the Village Hall Committee had taken place the previous week. Parish Council audit had been done; audit of the Village Hall accounts will be done shortly. The Village Hall Treasurer had stated her intention to retire soon. There was concern over the locking of the fire door at the top of the ramp, the Parish Council had instructed the Village Hall Committee to ask a locksmith to look at the problem. Clerk to ask if a recent fire risk assessment had been done on the Hall, if it had not, then the Parish Council would request that one be done in the next month.

8. CLERK RECRUITMENT – SHORTLISTING/INTERVIEWS

Interviews planned for Thursday 11 June. Cllr Balls would be available, if Councillor Morgan was unable to attend.

9. VILLAGE IMAGE & ENVIRONMENT

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

Reports had been received of cars driving on to the car park late at night and allowing dogs to foul the playing field. Cllr Champion to ask the school if any parents could help with locking/unlocking the playing field gate. If no one was available then it may be necessary for the gates to be kept locked. The rubber matting around the roundabout needed to be repaired, handyman to be asked to do this. Clerk to chase up missing legal document from Derbyshire Dales District Council and check public liability insurance for the handyman. Order to be placed for annual play area inspection. Action: Cllr Champion & Clerk

b) Update from the Play Area Sub-Committee

Several play equipment companies are coming to visit Hulland Ward in the next couple of weeks. The next Play Area Sub Committee meeting is planned for the 2 July. Councillors were concerned about the level of maintenance that would be required, how will regular risk assessments be done and how will it be possible to ensure that only the relevant age group uses the equipment. Action: Cllrs Champion, Atkin & Clerk

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

No Community Speed Watch sessions had been held for various reasons. Clerk to chase up progress on the white village entrance gates application. Action: Clerk,

d) Neighbourhood Watch Update

Update given under item 5 b) above.

e) Raised Drain cover round the memorial tree

This matter had still not been rectified and was in fact worse now with deep ruts in the ground. Action: Clerk

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

This matter to be carried forward to the next meeting when Cllr Morgan would be present to clarify the matter. Parish Council may need to purchase a new grit bin.

10. FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION

a) Website/Facebook Page Update

The website and Facebook page were up to date.

b) Update on Councillor Vacancies

The Council currently has 3 vacancies.

c) Co-option of Parish Councillor

There had been no applications from anyone wishing to be co-opted on to the Parish Council at this evening's meeting.

d) Update on Finances

The balance in the Parish Council accounts totalled £53,182.31 including reserved funds

e) Invoices and Expenses for approval at this meeting:

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Item for Payment	Amount
Cartwright Landscaping	120.00
Cartwright Landscaping	1,113.60
Clerk's Salary	347.93
Clerk's Expenses	27.00

10. REVIEW & UPDATE ON CAPITAL PROJECTS

Nothing further to report on this matter.

11. COUNCILLORS REPORTS & OBSERVATIONS

- Councillors expressed continued concern about speeding. Councillor had also contacted Cllr Murphy regarding a resident trying to obtain direct access on to the main road near Les Ardennes
- No further information had been received regarding the Black Horse planning. There was a query regarding the necessity of a car park at the Black Horse may provide the opportunity for improvements at that road junction.
- The Doctor's surgery sign needed to be taken down.
- Replacement defibrillator pads had still not arrived despite the order being placed and payment made.
- Cllr Champion to pass on the new grit bin notices to the handyman.
- A sunken drain on Moss Lane was a real hazard. Action: Clerk
- Clerk to inform Council of the current cost of gritting on the Estate
- Handyman had mown a wavy path through the new saplings which had been planted.

12. CLERK'S REPORT & CORRESPONDENCE

The audit had now submitted to external auditor, details were on the website along with the public rights notice which is also on the notice board. Clerk explained that minutes may look slightly different in future this was to conform to accessibility requirements.

13. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting would be held on Monday 6 July 2026 at 7pm.

14. Meeting Closed: 21:00hrs