

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Thursday 24 April 2025 in the village hall at 7.30pm.

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Graeham Slaymaker, Anthony Slater, and Alison Reed

2. To review the minutes of the last Annual Parish meeting 2024

The minutes were agreed as a true record.

3. Community Group

A PowerPoint presentation was given on various topics, all slides attached

4. Hub and coffee morning

Dudley Hewitt gave a report, copied below

The Hub

The Hub is a popular and well supported event on the first Saturday in the month when coffee and cake are followed by light lunches. The financial benefit of the Hub to the maintenance of the church building speaks for itself but the buzz of conversation, the laughter, the return each month of regular "Hubbers" and the reluctance to leave at 1pm provide benefits we cannot measure. We held The Hub 11 times in 2024 with average attendance of 48, taking a total of £3260. We have an experienced team of people who prepare for and run each session, and we were delighted to welcome a couple who grew up in the village, now returning to live here, to the team.

We have a regular supply of Jigsaws for sale every month as well, so why not pop in for coffee and have a browse. Donations of jigsaws always welcome.

Coffee Shop

Friday Coffee Shops continue to be well supported by a faithful band of expert coffee makers and regular attendees. The atmosphere is usually quite lively and very welcoming, enhanced by Little Lights who are there during term time; they join the grown-ups for their snacks just before 11 o'clock. In 2024 there were 52 Coffee Shops with an average attendance of 30, taking a total of £6060. As well as raising money for church during the year Coffee Shop supported appeals for the Brain Tumour Society, Wiltshire Air Ambulance and two consecutive weeks for Christian Aid. These special appeals are usually enhanced by a cake stall or craft items for sale.

Note:

Both the above regular events would be impossible without our dedicated team of helpers, not just coffee makers but bakers, cooks, furniture movers, cleaners etc., if anyone wishes to join us, please let me know!

Ali Reed

Coffee Shop and Hub Co-ordinator

5. Hullavington Book Group and Film Group

Debbie Lawley gave a report on the book group, and Peter Parry-Williams gave a report on the film group copied below.

Hullavington Film Group was set up when the 'new' hall opened in 2006.

Films are shown on the third and fourth Wednesdays of the month in the main hall.
Originally meeting once a month, the second Wednesday evening was added a few years ago.

Originally there was a membership fee, but when the film group returned to the hall after covid restrictions, it was decided to remove the membership fee and just take £3.00 (under 18's free), at the door. This includes refreshments.

Films normally start at 7.30, doors open at 7.00. A longer film may have an earlier start.
To enable us to show films we require an Annual Licence Fee. This is from 'Filmbankmedia' and covers the 'venue' (Village Hall).

The licence fee for the period 1st May 2025 to 30th April 2026 is **£176.00**. This fee is covered by the film group.

The audio/visual equipment is part owned by the village hall, but the film group has a contingency plan for equipment replacement.

Average film night attendance numbers: 18

We show a wide range of films, during the past year some of the films we have shown:

One Life
Poor Things
Dune Part II
Perfect Day
The Fall Guy
Ferrari
Thelma
Freud's Last Session
Paddington In Peru
Small Things Like These
Gladiator II

Films coming up during the next few weeks: The Brutalist, Conclave, A Complete Unknown.

6. Hullavington Parish Council

Andrew Maltby gave a report, copied below.

I am pleased to report what your Parish Council has been up to, some exciting things for the future and perhaps some things we need to brush up on.

First of all, I am pleased to confirm that all of your Parish Councillors have been involved across all aspects of council duties, and, as our workload has grown, individual councillors have taken the lead on certain of the more involved subjects.

Sheila has led on works to the garden behind the bus shelter and for the urgent repair works to the cemetery wall. The cemetery wall project became urgent due to the wall deteriorating last

winter and tree felling had to be undertaken once ecological investigations had been cleared. I hate to think what might have happened during storm Bert if the works were not carried out when they were. I am pleased to report that fencing is due to start in the next few weeks with new planting starting in the winter season.

Hank has dealt with other cemetery issues, ongoing maintenance and all things practical in the parish - where would be without Hank's skills!

Sharon has kept us legal and solvent, and I am pleased to report your council still has sensible reserves remaining even after the large capital spends of last year.

More non precept funds are shortly due to be paid into the parish council coffers from the community infrastructure levy generated by site 690.

Graeme and I have led on the harnessing of these funds which are likely to run well into six figures and are likely to land in three tranches over the next two years.

Guidance as to the type of projects, largely infrastructure led, your Parish Council could support will hopefully be issued by the new elected Parish Council shortly into its new term.

As well as chairing the PC, Graeme has led on liaison with Wiltshire Council and the many other statutory bodies and has also led on highways and many other projects.

I have led the PC's activities on Lime Down and we have an update report from our very good friends at Stop Lime Down on this massively invasive and harmful project for the parish later in the evening.

Planning across the parish has become quite exciting and in addition to the routine matters such as commenting on planning applications, we have been making sure the Parish Council has "maxed out" on funding opportunities. Other vitally important planning work has been progressed including options for the renewal of our excellent neighbourhood plan which is due to expire next year it is hoped the newly elected Council will pick this up early in its new term.

Our extensive inputs into the Government's National Planning Policy Framework the new Wiltshire Local Plan, have been very well received.

Dave Martin organised the D-Day beacon lighting and Richie Anderson is co-ordinating the VE Day celebration due shortly.

Hank and Dave are dealing with the new seating in the bus shelter and Graeme has been dealing with maintaining the defibrillator and grit bins (not sure how those two become linked but so be it!)

Increasingly important is dealing with flooding throughout the parish. Jon Atkey is our busy Emergency Flood coordinator, helped by Hank and Dave. We are working with Jon to produce with Graeme a “lessons learnt report” from the events following storm Bert and meetings are being scheduled with Wiltshire’s Flood and Highways experts to see what physical capital infrastructure mitigation works can be brought forward, perhaps using some CIL funding?

All in all, I am pleased with progress your Parish Council has continued to make but I am the first to admit that there is more to do.

My “to do list” for next year, if I am re-elected, should include improving “comms” generally and working closer with all of the groups across the parish.

We received a report from Wiltshire Council, prior to Prudah, I have a copy here if you would like to read it, however it will be in the minutes. Because of the election Nick Botterill will answer any questions you may have, rather than giving you the full report, which is good for time too!

7. Hullavington Parochial Church Council

Dudley Hewitt gave the report, copied below

General overview

The past year has been a good one financially. Thanks to the generosity of our wider community and especially our regular congregation through their regular giving we have managed to cover our costs this year. The hard work of our volunteers that have made the weekly Coffee Mornings and monthly Saturday Hubs such a success have also been financially important as has the annual Spring Plant Stall.

Summer Fete

Our Summer Fete is also essential to the ongoing viability of the church as well and the support from the Community this year was brilliant. The Fete and Dog Show brought in nearly £4,000 in 2024 and we are extremely grateful to everyone from the village who turned up to help set up and clear away. Thanks also go to Sgt Dipak Rai and the men of 94 Supply Squadron of 9 Regiment RLC at Buckley Barracks for their help with erecting tents and setting up the site on Friday as well as clearing away.

The Church Building

Our annual PAT testing went well but the required 5 yearly electrical inspection threw up some issues with our older electrical circuits that need addressing. This work is partly underway but will cost upwards of £10,000.

This was also the year for our regular Quinquennial Inspection by our Architect. It was very encouraging to read his comment that ... *‘The church is in excellent condition and is obviously well loved. The small but dedicated team look after the church very well’*..... There is work outlined in his report of around £40,000 which needs to be spent over the next quinquennial. Some of this work is outside in the churchyard which is the responsibility of the Parish Council. The PC has

been informed of this work, and they are setting aside a regular sum over 4 years from 2026 to cover the cost of this work.

Some things do take time, but progress is being made on the Bradfield Chapel window which has cracks in the stonework and any repairs or strengthening will be in addition to the figures above, we have already spent £2,000 and a further £20,000 has been suggested to complete a satisfactory repair, but we may manage it for less, time will tell, and it will depend on the Diocesan Architectural Committee agreeing to our proposals.

Further work is being done to identify a way forward for the heating, again this is in addition to the works identified in the QI Report. The problem with the heating is regarding the running costs and we are trying to establish a sustainable long-term solution; an ongoing cost of £1700 pm through the winter is unsustainable. One quote we have had is around £40,000 for heat pumps to be installed but the savings would not be sufficient to resolve the long term cost issue. We have been advised that Solar Panels would not be a suitable way forward even if we could get permission to put them on the church roof! We have also been advised that digging up the churchyard and installing ground source heat pumps would not be practical. We are following developing technology closely looking for a way forward.

We are currently looking to update some of our AV equipment as there are issues of connectivity, and we are having Broadband connected in church early in 2025. (The Broadband has now been completed).

During the year we were lucky enough to have a boy from the village who completed the Community Service part of his Bronze Duke of Edinburgh's Award. He spent 3 months on maintenance tasks in the church and churchyard.

Worship and Prayer

All are welcome to attend our services and there were 100 services during 2024. Total attendance was 3145, and there were 766 communicants.

There were 4 funeral services, 1 internment of ashes, and 1 wedding during the year. There were 2 services of Holy Communion with Baptism. The funeral service for Carolyn Samuel had the highest attendance of all our services (253)

Lent house groups in 2024 were again organised as a Gauzebrook Group Activity.

Little Lights met 28 times during the year, sharing worship and related activities in the meeting joining the Coffee Shop family for refreshments and social time. Average attendance 11.

Messy Church met regularly in the church on the first Sunday in the month. The families who attend from across the group and beyond are a varied and happy congregation and enjoy their time together with our regular helpers. Average attendance was 27. Services have been well attended through 2024 and we ended the year with a busy Christmas season with 5 significant services in 4 days. The Carol Service was particularly well attended with 95 adults and 15 children many of whom stayed for mince pies and mulled wine, so it was a sociable occasion too. Over the 5 services the attendance was 272 adults and 60 children.

Voluntary Treasurer Required

Finally we are urgently looking for a volunteer to take on the role of Church Treasurer, our current treasurer is very busy at work and with a young family feels that his 3 year stint is enough and is looking for someone to take over from him.

Finally

Our church gives to charity as part of our mission, and we supported a range of charities during 2024. These include the charities shown below:



Ali Reed and Dudley Hewitt

Churchwardens

8. Hullavington Village Hall

No report

9. Hullavington Women's Institute

Hullavington WI Annual Report

It has been a busy year for Hullavington WI, with new ventures adding to our club's interests. Membership has stayed stable, but unfortunately Penny Ralton, long term village resident and WI member, passed away a few weeks ago. She will be missed as will Mary Williams who passed away just over a week ago.

We have had some really excellent speakers enlightening us with their knowledge and enthusiasm. We all thought we knew the history of the poppy but Bill King gave us a new perspective of how other countries mark it. Fancy a trip to Antarctica as a cruise? The pictures and the scenery were stunning from the largest ice-berg in the world to the sea life and the penguins. And talking of pictures, local resident James Salkeld's hobby is taking shots of insects and wildlife, close shots with such detail it opened our eyes to what is around us. We have had talks on dentistry, podiatry, ice-cream and mountain rescue, and last month the secret war effort to build radar parts in Malmesbury. One thousand women were billeted in our local market town to work for Ekco building an early warning radar system against the Germans. Of course they did not know at the time how important their work was, but looking at old photos and listening to some of their stories brought the whole talk alive.

An anonymous donation for the members gave us the opportunity to book theatre tickets at reduced prices enabling us to visit The Barn in Cirencester for two shows. Further visits are planned.

A lunch club has been established with different restaurants visited each month helping those members, particularly ladies on their own, to socialise whilst enjoying a meal.

A visit to Highgrove was enjoyed by all who attended, delighting us in its stunning gardens and vistas, and of course we had to sample their afternoon tea, which naturally was of the highest standard.

Just like previous years we have taken part in the Federation's Skittles league. We enjoy competing against other WIs and this year although we started off badly we improved as the season progressed.

Hullavington WI is part of the John Aubrey group of WIs, that is 7 WIs in the Chippenham area who meet twice a year for social evenings which include speakers and of course fantastic refreshments.

We are hopeful that we will be able to capture the attention of some of the residents buying the new builds adjacent to the school, to boost our numbers, so even more outings can be scheduled.

10. Stop Lime Down

Ann Hawker gave a report, copied below.

In March 2024 we received notification from a company called Island Green Power of a proposed Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) called Lime Down Solar. An Industrial scale solar park and battery storage project (BESS) to be built locally.

Island Green Power is a Bermuda registered company 50% owned by Australian global investment banking and venture capital group Macquarie Asset Management.

The project would involve installing approximately 1 million 4.5- & 3.5-meter-high solar panels, an on-site battery energy storage system (BESS), associated inverters, transformers, and substations on over 2,000 acres of farmland. It will also include a 20km underground cable connection to the national grid at Melksham Substation.

Power generated will not benefit locals, it will be fed directly into the National Grid. No discounts on electricity bills for those impacted.

Stop Lime Down (SLD) was formed by a group of like-minded local people determined to protect our local community from the long-term impacts from this proposal.

Members of the SLD steering committee are volunteering their time and expertise.

The planning process is different with an NSIP, which refers to projects larger than 50MW (Lime Down like most solar NSIPs, is 500MW – not determined by the Local Planning Authority. Rather than being assessed by local authorities, the ultimate decision on whether NSIPs go ahead rests with the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero, Ed Miliband. In theory, his decision should be based on the recommendation of the independent Planning Inspectorate.

Pre-Application

Acceptance

Pre-Examination

Examination

Recommendation & Decision

Post Decision

Where are we now? We have reached the Pre-Application stage.

IGP is now considering feedback from the recent consultations on Lime Down and adjustments will be made ahead of the submission of the Development Consent Order (DCO) Application to the Planning Inspectorate. IGP have stated they will be applying in Q4 of 2025. With examination during 2026.

Meanwhile SLD is making good progress on 19 different workstreams, each producing evidence against Lime Down. These workstreams relate directly to topics SLD flagged up at the public meetings we held during January.

Cotswold National Landscape Board (formerly Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty - AONB) have demanded further reductions in the size of Lime Down and changes to the routing of lorries.

SLD are preparing a report on IGP's consultation and (along with Wiltshire Council) calling for a second period of Public Consultation.

Wiltshire Council stated in March that "the application is....lacking many details - particularly in terms of the cabling, plus ecological and biodiversity impacts - and so it is very difficult for us to establish the full impact of the proposals...It's for this reason that we're requesting a further consultation once this additional detail is known.

..."One of the main planning reasons for opposition is that the site contains 30% of best and most versatile agricultural land, which we would lose if it were to go ahead. This goes against Core Policy 42 of Wiltshire Core Strategy and Core Policy 86 of the new Wiltshire Local Plan, and it is important that we do not lose vital land for food production.

"Another key reason for opposition is the cumulative impact. The proposals go far beyond a reasonable test for cumulative impact because of the loss of farmland, along with the fact that the site is next to the Cotswolds National Landscape and views out from the landscape would be impacted, affecting both local residents and the protected landscape.

"We have several other concerns about this application around noise and the effect on the community, biodiversity, flooding and highways, along with other significant planning reasons to

oppose the application, and we will submit these as part of our robust response to the consultation.

"In its current form, this development is **deeply flawed**, which is why we have agreed to comprehensively oppose it in our official consultation response."

Due to the concerns raised by consultees the original timescale proposed by IGP has slipped by a number of months.

At point of submission from IGP. The Planning Inspectorate has 28 days to consider the application. There are 3 possible outcomes:

1. Application is accepted for Examination
2. The Application is not accepted
3. The Applicant withdraws the application.

If accepted the scheme goes to pre-examination and the Planning Inspectorate will appoint an 'Examining Authority'

At this stage the Public can register as an Interested Party by making a 'Relevant Representation' This is a summary of the persons view on the application made in writing.

All Interested parties are invited to attend a 'Preliminary Meeting' which is run and chaired by the Examining Authority

The process normally runs for approximately 3 months but the examination may well take longer.

The more we can delay the planning process the better. So we need as many people as possible to object etc

SLD 1,000 club.

11. Question Time

Nick Botterill answered the only question, about the Government's central merger of authorities.