

Hardwicke Parish Council

Minutes of a Meeting of the Parish Council held at Hardwicke Village Hall on Tuesday May 5th 2026

Present

Cllr John Perkin (Chair)

Cllr Peter Rotherham

Cllr Denise Powell

Cllr Fran Welbourne

Cllr Andrew James

Cllr Tally Giampa

In attendance

District Councillor Gill Oxley, County Councillor Stephen Davies and Kevin Lee, Clerk

21/26 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received Parish Councillors Jill Brearley and Graham Brearley.

32/26 Declarations of Interest

None Recorded

33/26 Public Questions

There were none

34/26 Minutes of Previous Meeting

The Minutes of the meeting held on April 7th 2026 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

Resolved; to approve the Minutes of the previous meeting

35/26 Councillor Reports

35/26 (a)

Cllr Peter Rotherham presented a written report which had been prepared for the Council by the Neighbourhood Policing Inspector. The report highlighted a number of key issues and initiatives to provide a consistent service across the County led by one Superintendent. The report highlighted the continuing police work to tackle Anti-Social Behaviour across Kingsway, Quedgeley, Hunts Grove and Hardwicke. Enforcement action had been taken against four youths who were responsible for a significant number of issues.

Action was being taken in respect of ASB linked to illegal e scooters and e bikes; increased powers were being sought to seize these bikes.

Members were informed by Cllr Giampa of the dangers of keeping e bikes inside a property. The lithium batteries used in bikes could catch fire and once alight would continue to burn.

Members recorded their thanks for the report

35/26 (b)

County Councillor Stephen Davies reported that the County Council's Trading Standards Officers had visited sixty shops and had found that twenty were non-compliant. In respect of schools, 92% of primary school children had been allocated top their first choice of secondary school. The County Council had recently launched its public transport plan. It was noted that the Parish Council had supported the 20mph scheme launched by the County Council. It had been identified that the scheme would be phased in and that Hardwicke would be included for 2027/2028. The Local Highways Manager would meet with the Parish Council to discuss the proposals.

The Chair, Cllr John Perkin reported that a resident on Sellars Bridge, on behalf of several residents has raised questions about the yellow lines on the entrance road to the estate. Cllr Davies agreed to raise these questions with the Highways Manager and ask the Highway Consultants for their opinion.

District Councillor Gill Oxley reported on the incidents of anti-social behaviour affecting residents at Lloyd Baker Court; a meeting was to be held with residents, the police and the neighbourhood warden.

Stroud District Council had provided eight new affordable homes in Wotton – Under-Edge, there were currently 3000 people on the district council's housing register.

In respect of the Local Government Review it was expected that an announcement would be made on July 17th 2025.

Cllr Peter Rotherham asked if the district council could provide a dog waste bin outside the play area, rather than use the bin inside the play area.

Cllr Fran Welbourne asked for an update on the planned removal of the felled tree on Westbourne Drive. The Clerk reported that the district council had agreed to remove the tree.

Cllr Denise Powell gave a report on several issues identified by the Village Hall Committee that needed attention. There were still difficulties in opening of the height restriction barrier. The Clerk agreed to contact the contractor.

Cllr Andrew James gave an update on the changes to the administrative processes for the council's cemetery. It was agreed that enquiries be made of the county record office to check historical records of the use of the cemetery.

The Chair, Cllr John Perkin reported on discussions with Hardwicke School to hold an art competition for the design of a 'Welcome to Hardwicke Road Sign'.

The Chair asked for an update on the meeting with City Fibre for an agreement for the network co. to place their cable in the verge along The Green. (City Fibre's Contractor has not gained permission to place their cables in the Green).

Resolved; to note the report and the agreed follow up actions

36/26 Finance Report

The Clerk presented the Finance Report for the period ending April 30th 2026

37/26 Play Area Inspections

The Clerk presented the annual report from RoSPA on their inspection of the play areas and equipment.

The report did not identify any immediate actions resulting from the inspection.

It was agreed that Cllr Denise Powell and Cllr Tally Giampa would review the full RoSPA report and advise the council of any necessary actions.

The Clerk reported that since the inspection there had been damage to the Space Net. The damage had been reported to the Council's Contractors and had been repaired. The Clerk added that the numbers of repairs were increasing and that consideration should be given to replacing the equipment.

Meetings Closed at 20.40

Signed

Chair

Date