

Minutes

Aighton, Bailey and Chaigley Parish Council

Parish Council Meeting 18 May 2026 - 7:30 pm

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING	
1	<p>Present: Cllr David Bland, Cllr Des Harwood (Vice Chair), Cllr Lynn Hepworth, Cllr Christine Holden, Cllr Lynn Hepth, Cllr Isaac Nutter. Frances Ahearne (Clerk), one member of the public attended. Also attending were Cllr Jan Alcock and Niall Macfarlane Chair of HGMH Committee.</p> <p>Apologies – Cllr Margaret Carrington (Chair), Cllr Vinnie Joseph and Cllr John Wilkinson</p>
2	<p>Declarations of Interest – none.</p>
3	<p>Minutes from the last meeting for approval – accepted as correct. Proposed by Cllr Lynn Hepworth and seconded by Cllr Isaac Nutter.</p>
4	<p>Matters Arising from minutes. None not covered under other sections.</p>
5	<p>Mr Slater, attending as a member of the public queried why the March meeting minutes were not displayed on the parish noticeboard. The Clerk apologised for any omission on her part.</p>
6	<p>Correspondence – covered under other sections.</p>
7	<p>Finance –</p> <p>Actual balance: bank balance at 30 April 2026 £27686.75.</p> <p>Cheques issued 1) Prime Garden Services (823) 20.4.26 £456, 2) DD website 1.4.26 £36.96. Predicted balance at 30.4.26 £27,230.75.</p> <p>2) Annual Audit update.</p> <p>Annual Audit is now being undertaken by the newly appointed auditor. Mrs Sutcliffe did query whether the council had carried out a financial risk assessment. She will send information about this this should be done as part of her audit report when completed.</p>
8	<p>Risk assessment check lists – handed out to all councillors present at the meeting.</p>
9	<p>Planning Applications</p> <p>1) Planning Application No: 3/2026/0260 Grid Ref: 368573 438134 Proposal: Permission in principle for a minimum of 1 and a maximum of 3 dwellings. Location: Land at The Warren, Warren Fold Hurst Green BB7 9QH. Due to the deadline the councillors corresponded by email and it was agreed that the Parish Council should write to the Planning Department voicing concerns about the access and any impact this might have on The Tolkien Trail walkers. This was then done prior to the meeting.</p> <p>2) Planning Application No: 3/2026/0263 Grid Ref: 368573 438134 Proposal: Proposed conversion of habitable accommodation to a garage with first floor extension above. Location: The Warren, Warren Fold Hurst Green BB7 9QH. No objections raised by Council.</p>
8	<p>Forward Plan:</p> <p>This wording was queried by Cllr Lynn Hepworth and it was agreed to re-name it as Future Projects.</p> <p>Nothing currently to report.</p>
9	<p>Any other business –</p> <p>1) Parking issues in the village. The Clerk reported that there has been no response from Cllr Atkinson, Leader of LCC. It was agreed that clerk would re-send the email and attachments. Maya Ellis, MP has responded and wishes to be kept up to date on all action/information received from other parties.</p>

	<p>2) Tolkien Trail – No response has been received from The Manager of the Tourism Department at RVBC. The clerk will re-send the email etc. Discussion then followed on the signage issues and the clerk was instructed to contact Highways at LCC as footpaths come under their jurisdiction.</p> <p>3) The clerk will post all future meeting dates on the noticeboard for public information.</p> <p>4) The Chair had asked that the council record their appreciation to Niall Macfarlane for the work he has carried out on the footpath at the end of Smithy Row. This was very much welcomed by all.</p> <p>5) Microsoft business account. Further advice has been given, and it was agreed not to pursue this option as the clerk does not use a parish owned laptop. Council agreed to pay costs of the current Microsoft 365 account in the sum of £84.99.</p> <p>6) Following on from conversations with the company who manage our website and email account it was decided to increase the capacity of emails due to recent problems with the mailbox. This was agreed at a monthly uplift of £5 and this will greatly increase capacity for the Clerk to manage parish business properly.</p> <p>7) Retrospective planning applications. A response has been received from the Director of Planning at RVBC outlining how decisions are made. These were noted by the councillors.</p> <p>8) The council discussed the recent directive from RVBC notifying parish councils that with effect from the 29th June the council would not be required to publish addresses of councillors as listed on their notification of members’ interests paperwork. This is being done to help protect privacy. The clerk was asked to write to the RVBC to enquire whether this means that addresses relating to existing councillors will be removed after that date.</p> <p>The meeting closed at 8.05 pm.</p>
11	<p>Future Meeting dates 2026 - 15 June, 20 July, 17 August, 21 September, 19 October, 16 November, no meeting in December.</p> <p>2027 – 18 January, 15 February, 15 March (up to financial year end 26-27).</p>