



Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held at St Margaret's Church on Monday 6th October 2025 at 7pm

Present: Cllr N. Edmiston (Chair); Cllr H.L Corbett; Cllr M. Wilson; Cllr R.Cole-Morgan and Cllr N MacPherson
In Attendance: Frank Horsley (Parish Clerk)
6 members of the public (part)
Cllr A. Hunter (Derbyshire County Council) (part)

FC/1025/01 Apologies for Absence

None.

FC/1025/02 Variation of the Order of Business

The Chair proposed moving item 4 to first item to receive a presentation from The Carsington & Hopton Gardening Club. Variation approved.

FC/1025/03 Public Participation

Councillor Adrian Hunter introduced himself to the meeting as recently elected County Ward Councillor. He offered to help and assist the Parish Council and residents on any matter relevant to the County Council. The Chair thanked Cllr Hunter for attending and his support. Cllr Hunter mentioned press rumours circulating around raising the level of Carsington Water. Cllr Corbett had attended the recent Severn Trent roadshow session and confirmed that, although it was needed to be considered as a statutory option it was highly unlikely to become reality. Dronfield and Derwent Water are considered far more viable.

On behalf of the Carsington & Hopton Gardening Club, Heather Tooms-Moore provided a very informative presentation on the proposed "Rose Project". The project proposes to erect new arched pergolas adjacent to the existing village green benches with rose varieties rooted in the history of the villages and commemorating the anniversary of the school and in memory of those from families in the village who have given their lives during WW1 and other conflicts. The Chair welcomed the presentation and proposal and Members asked a number of questions and held a wider discussion regarding materials to be used, other potential projects asset ownership and insurance. County Cllr Hunter offered support for funding if required. Members agreed to consider an application under the Carsington Pastures Windfarm Fund Grant Scheme.

ACTION: Frank Horsley to liaise with Heather Tooms-Moore and provide applications forms and guidance. Frank Horsley to check any insurance obligations prior to considering a grant application at the next Council meeting.

Local resident Alice Munro outlined her ideas for a memorial bench at the Hopton bus stop in memory of her late mother. She confirmed that, if possible, the family will purchase the bench and asked the Council for support in taking the proposal through the necessary stages with regards to licensing etc. Cllr McPherson stated the possibility of also introducing a shelter and it was agreed that the feasibility would be considered at a future point once the bench was in place. **ACTION: Frank Horsley to liaise further with the family and then approach County Council regarding licensing and legal aspects.**

FC/1025/04 Declaration of Members Interests

None. The Chair welcomed Cllr Neil MacPherson to the Parish Council following the recent uncontested election.

FC/1025/05 Ward Councillor Reports

None received. The Chair noted and welcomed County Cllr Hunter's presence and earlier comments.

FC/1025/06 Minutes of Previous Meeting

No amendments proposed. The Council **resolved** that the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on Tuesday 28th July 2025 were a true and accurate record.

FC/1025/07 Wider Strategic Matters

- a) Local Government Reorganisation – Frank Horsley provided feedback on presentation at recent Derbyshire Town & Parish Councils Liaison Forum held at County Hall on 15th September 2025 (Powerpoint circulated with the agenda). Councillors noted the current options under consideration and timescales for the process.
- b) Severn Trent Community Roadshow – Cllr Corbett provided feedback on the event she had attended on 23rd September 2025. She stated that she had managed to discuss a number of issues with Severn Trent CEO Liv Garfield including car park charging and boundary fence maintenance and repair. The session had outlined Severn Trent approach to community engagement and proposed plans.

FC/1025/08 Council Action Plan

Members considered the Council Action Plan and noted progress against each section. The key points resolved for updating included:

Defibrillators

- Cllr Cole-Morgan confirmed the old equipment had now been donated to Andrew Kemp Memorial Fund in Leeds. Completed and remove from Action Plan.

Projects

- Noticeboards – Cllr Edmiston had discussed with Darren Cartwright and suggested the company be used when needed for any maintenance work required. Members agreed.
- First aid station – **ACTION: Cllr Cole-Morgan to provide details of signage equipment to Frank Horsley to purchase.**
- Parish emblem/logo – further discussion required at next meeting.

Village Green

Play area refurbishment on the agenda at item 9a.

- Agility Tunnel – Cllr Edmiston had received a quote for proposed stepping stones but considered expensive. Further consideration required in line with any further refurbishment of the play area.
- Slide – **ACTION: Cllr Wilson to arrange quote with Cartwrights for shoring up eroded section and reseeding.**

Finance

- Church renovation – Members discussed the current situation and agreed to remove from the Action Plan but monitor any future developments.

Neighbourhood Plan

- Cllr Corbett stated that she had discussed further with DDDC policy planners who advised the most effective approach would be for the Council to respond to the imminent Local Plan consultation exercise due to open in early 2026. It was noted that Parish Councillors would no longer be invited to site visits which Members agreed was disappointing and required challenging if possible. **ACTION: Frank Horsley to contact DDDC Planning Policy to ascertain timescales and detail.**

Parking on Main Street

- Frank Horsley reported that an Objects in the Highway (OITH) license application had been made to Derbyshire County Council with no response as yet. **ACTION: Frank Horsley to chase the application and, if successful, report back to Members.**

Items for Further Consideration

- Members agreed to add the Roses project to the Action Plan.

ACTION: Frank Horsley to update Action Plan with agreed changes.

FC/1025/09 Village Matters Arising (not on Action Plan)

- a) Play area refurbishment – Frank Horsley outlined initial discussions with Peak Playgrounds Ltd and the potential for a design and consultation service. Cllr Corbett reiterated previous consultation with residents that had indicated that the green should remain a community space with any play equipment sympathetic to this preference and stated she would be opposed to any substantial playground installation beyond the existing equipment in place. Following discussion, Members agreed that a like for like replacement or refurbishment remained the only options. Cllr Edmiston reported on the quotes received for the activity barrel and stepping stones which Members agreed were expensive. **ACTIONS: Cllr Edmiston to seek further quotes from local suppliers. Frank Horsley to consult Peak Playgrounds in respect of a like-for-like replacement of barrel and other equipment.**
- b) Village Grounds Maintenance Contract (replacement service) – Frank Horsley outlined the background actions taken to transfer the contract urgently due to termination of previous supplier. Frank Horsley noted that the replacement supplier had been appointed in line with Financial Regulations and notified with Members via email. The Council **resolved** to note and approve retrospectively the actions taken to contract with the replacement supplier.

- c) Notice of Election – item withdrawn due to the uncontested election and appointment of Cllr MacPherson.
- d) New projects – Cllr MacPherson presented his proposals for projects to enhance “community resilience” Projects proposed focused tackling financial hardship, supporting health and self sufficiency and an equipment/tool library for local residents. Members also discussed the potential for improving pedestrian access between Hopton and Godfreyhole. **ACTION: Cllr MacPherson to further develop his ideas as part of a community resilience programme and forward to Frank Horsley for review and support.**

FC/1025/10 Financial Matters

- a) Members noted accounts for payment for July-September 2025. Signed.
- b) Members noted income received for July-September 2025. Signed.
- c) Members reviewed the bank reconciliation for July-September 2025. Signed.
- d) Frank Horsley presented the Quarterly Budget Management Report for Quarter 2 (July-September 2025). Members noted the report.
- e) Frank Horsley briefly outlined the budget timetable 2026/27 with a draft budget to be tabled at the next Council meeting in November if possible or circulated via email. Approval of the final budget will be scheduled for the January Council meeting.

FC/1025/11 Planning

- a) Members noted the updated planning log.
- b) Frank Horsley presented a draft Planning Protocol for consideration. Following a discussion Members agreed to defer further consideration of the protocol until the November meeting to allow consultation and input from all Members. **ACTION: Frank Horsley to circulate the draft protocol as a Word document for consultation and review.**

FC/01025/12 Correspondence

Members noted the correspondence on MS OneDrive file circulated prior to meeting. The Longcliffe LoCAL newsletter was commended and Frank Horsley noted that he had attended the most recent stakeholder liaison meeting.

FC/1025/13 Any Other Items

Communication with local residents was discussed. The website and Facebook page was noted and potential enhancements briefly discussed. Members also noted informal communications channels such as the village WhatsApp group. Cllr Cole-Morgan suggested potential for a newsletter. Cllr MacPherson suggested better access to planning applications via the website. Frank Horsley stated that he would review and consider any suggestions to enhance the website and other channels.

FC/1025/14 Date & Time of Next Full Council Meeting

Monday 24th November 2025 at 7pm.

The meeting ended at 9.17pm.