Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held at Hopton Hall Café on Tuesday 28th July 2026 at 7.01pm

Present: Cllr N. Edmiston (Chair); Cllr M. Wilson; Cllr R.Cole-Morgan and Cllr N MacPherson
In Attendance: Frank Horsley (Parish Clerk)

FC/0726/01 Apologies for Absence

None.

FC/0726/02 Variation of the Order of Business

None.

FC/0726/03 Declaration of Members Interests

Cllr MacPherson raised an issue regarding a recent email correspondence received from the Chair expressing concern and potential conflict of interest with regard to Cllr MacPherson's role as Parish Councillor and position as Church Warden and member of the St Margarets PCC. He circulated hard copies of the correspondence and his reply to Members. Cllr MacPherson expressed his displeasure at receiving the email and its content. Cllr Edmiston responded that the email had been sent in good faith expressing his opinion and concerns and that he had only sent the letter after receiving legal advice from DALC.

Cllr Cole-Morgan stated that she was concerned about the correspondence and how it could be interpreted and expressed the view that Members should have been consulted prior to any correspondence. She also noted that the crossover of responsibilities could be positive. Cllr Cole-Morgan suggested that an apology would be in order. Cllr Edmiston noted these concerns and reiterated that he had just been expressing his opinion but stated that, in retrospect, other Members should have been consulted regarding his concerns.

Cllr Wilson noted that mistakes can be made especially regarding sensitive subjects and suggested Members note for future.

Cllr Edmiston apologised for not circulating the email to Council Members prior to sending and noted that this should have been discussed. It was noted that any potential conflict can be managed through Standing Orders administered by the Clerk.

FC/0726/04 Public Participation

No members of the public were in attendance so no matters raised.

FC/0726/05 Ward Councillor Reports

None received. Cllr MacPherson noted his disappointment in the lack of engagement from Ward Councillors.

FC/0726/06 Minutes of Previous Meeting

No amendments proposed. The Council **resolved** that the minutes of the Full Council meeting including the Annual Meeting held on Tuesday 26th May 2026 were a true and accurate record.

FC/0726/07 Resignation of Councillor Corbett and Casual Vacancy process

Frank Horsley outlined the Notice of Vacancy process following the resignation of Cllr Corbett and the deadline for petition was 11th August. If no petition received, Council will be able to proceed with seeking a casual vacancy. Cllr Edmiston noted from the Chair that Cllr Corbett would be sorely missed and thanked her for her long service to the Council and local residents. He proposed that the Council should send a bouquet of flowers to Cllr Corbett. The proposal was seconded by Cllr MacPherson and all Members agreed. Cllr Wilson offered to arrange the order. **ACTION: Cllr Wilson to arrange the order of bouquet and provide receipts to Frank Horsley for reimbursement.**

Cllr Wilson took the opportunity to announce that she would be standing down from the Council but would be happy to delay her full resignation until Christmas if required to enable the recruitment of new Members. Cllr Edmiston thanks her and Frank Horsley requested Cllr Wilson send her resignation via correspondence to enable the commencement of the Notice of Vacancy process. **ACTION: Cllr Wilson to formally resign via correspondence and Frank Horsley to commence the NoV process once received.**

FC/0726/08 Local Plan Review (Public Consultation)

Members noted the email received on 23rd July 2026 regarding the decision made by Derbyshire Dales DC and the subsequent public consultation period which will commence on 3rd August 2026 and conclude on 14th September 2026. Cllr Edmiston outlined a proposed approach to reviewing the Local Plan proposals focusing on any issues specifically impacting the parish. Members noted that the proposals amended the status of Hopton from Open Countryside to a Tier 4 settlement and discussed potential implications.

Cllr MacPherson noted the geography of Hopton boundaries and stated his concerns regarding potential development. He also noted that other proposed activity (notably the development of Ashbourne Airfield) could have a direct impact on the parish in relation to increased traffic on the B5035. Cllr MacPherson suggested holding an extra meeting specifically to consider a Council response to the Local Plan review proposals.

Frank Horsley advised that a formal Council meeting would not be required and such a meeting could be held as a working group with any subsequent Council submission to the consultation reported back at the next Full Council meeting in September.

Members agreed that a working group meeting would be held on Tuesday 11th August 2026 at 6.30pm at Hopton Hall Café subject to confirmation. **ACTION: Cllr Edmiston to seek a venue for the working group meeting and Frank Horsley to confirm the meeting in due course.**

FC/0726/09 St Margaret's Church Roof Repair

Cllr MacPherson provided an update. He stated that building work was due to commence on 3rd August 2026 following tendering process though the Diocese. He noted that he expected the works to take one week but this would be dependent on any further structural issues being identified. An issue with scaffolding had meant the architect could not inspect closely during 5 year quintennial review. Cllr MacPherson confirmed that the initial quotation was £1500 plus VAT but further costs could be incurred following pre-works inspection.

FC/0726/10 Council Action Plan

Cllr Edmiston stated that he had been approached by a member of the public regarding over hanging trees and potential risks along the Dene from the Hopton Triangle. Members discussed land ownership adjacent to the highway. **ACTION: Frank Horsley to raise a case via Highways to seek inspection.**

Projects

- County Flag – Frank Horsley confirmed he had circulated a draft letter for comment. Cllr Cole-Morgan suggested additional wording offering to present and install the flag for the school. **ACTION: Frank Horsley to amend draft and recirculate.**

New Projects

The following new projects were proposed:

- Bus shelter in Hopton – proposed by Cllr MacPherson. **ACTION: Frank Horsley to contact DCC Highways for information on process and requirements to progress.**
- Replacement interpretation boards on Village Green – proposed by Cllr Wilson. It was noted that the existing display was tired and worn. Members agreed that new boards could tie in with the 300th anniversary of the school. **ACTIONS: Cllr Cole-Morgan to approach the school to discuss involvement. Frank Horsley to contact DCC regarding potential heritage interpretation board.**
- Churchyard grounds maintenance – proposed by Cllr Edmiston. It was proposed that the strimming and upkeep of the churchyard could be included in the next grounds maintenance contract in 2027. Cllr MacPherson provided details of current arrangements. Cllrs Cole-Morgan and Wilson stated concerns regarding the proposals and potential sensitivities regarding the cemetery and perceived use of council funds to subsidise a private asset. Following discussion, Members agreed to not progress the proposal.

Village Green

- Ground erosion adjacent to slide – **ACTION: Cllr Wilson to follow up with the contractor and seek a quotation for the work.**

Neighbourhood Plan

Cllr Edmiston suggested retitling the action as "Review of Local Plan. Agreed.

Highways

- Main Street planters – Members noted the Highways decision to reject issuing an OITH licence based on curtilage issues. Cllr MacPherson stated that, following the decision, he had measured the verge to ascertain dimensions based on the advice provided. Members agreed that Highways were incorrect in their assumptions and an appeal should be lodged. **ACTION: Frank Horsley to contact Highways Hub and appeal the OITH licence decision.**

- Double Bend sign (Hopton) – Cllr MacPherson summarized correspondence with DCC Highways regarding the sign and his request for a list of highways assets in the parish. **ACTION: Cllr MacPherson to circulate details of the correspondence dates for the records.**
- Parking on School Lane – Frank Horsley confirmed that a case had been raised on the Highways Hub and Cllr Hunter copied in. Cllr Cole-Morgan confirmed that she had also raised the matter wit Highways.

FC/0726/11 Village Matters Arising (not on Action Plan)

a) CPWF Application – Stepping Logs

Frank Horsley presented the application to Members outlining discussions with the approved supplier and subsequent quote received. Cllr Edmiston stated that he had followed up on the warranty issue and confirmed that a 10 year warranty was provided by Peak Playgrounds. He also confirmed that a further discount of up to £200 had been offered on the quoted cost. Cllr MacPherson asked the likely lead in time for installation and Cllr Edmiston confirmed a likely 2-3 weeks. **Members resolved to approve the CPWF application and grant of £952.50 for the supply and installation of the new stepping logs by Peak Playgrounds Ltd.**

b) New Projects

Members noted that this had previously been discussed at item 10.

FC/0726/12 Financial Matters

a) Members noted accounts for payment for May-June 2026. Signed.
b) Members noted income received for May-June 2026. Signed.
c) Members reviewed the bank reconciliation for May-June 2026. Signed.

FC/0726/13 Planning

Members noted the latest planning log and no objections raised 26/00754/LBALT.

FC/0726/14 Correspondence

Members noted the correspondence on MS OneDrive file circulated prior to meeting.

FC/0726/15 Any Other Items

Subject to the recent resignations and notice of vacancy process, Members discussed potential candidates for casual vacancies.

Cllr Cole-Morgan noted the recent comments submitted with regards to planning application 26/00714/FUL. She stated that due to holiday, she was unable to respond and requested whether Members could be reminded to respond. She also stated her concerns regarding the handling of the application within the Planning Protocol but acknowledged she had received Cllr Edmiston's response and reminder of the due date had already left for holiday so didn't have access to the email (sent on the 3rd). Frank Horsley confirmed he would amend the process to include a response reminder 3 days in advance by SMS message/email including an internal comments deadline in advance of any formal DDDC planning deadline. **ACTION: Frank Horsley to implement change to the planning log process.**

FC/0726/16 Date & Time of Next Full Council Meeting

Monday 28th September 2026 at 7pm.

The meeting ended at 8.50 pm.