

PENTON MEWSEY PARISH COUNCIL
2026

**Minutes of Extraordinary Meeting 6th July 2026
At the Village Hall 7.30pm**

Present: Councillors	Clerk/RFO	Members of the public
Chairman Jayne Venn Cllr Hugh Burden Cllr Victoria McNeill	Heidi Easton	members of the public 3
Apologies: Cllr Rod Bennett Cllr Donnelly		

Opening remarks; Chairman Cllr Jayne Venn opened the meeting.

0726/01 Chairman's Remarks & Requests for Absences

Apologies were received from Cllr Rodney Bennett and Cllr Donnelly. Chairman Cllr Venn advised that Cllr Bennett had returned home and was continuing his recovery. Cllr Venn had spoken with him earlier in the day and confirmed that she would be visiting him the following day to check on his welfare and discuss any matters requiring attention.

0726/02 Declarations of Interest

No Declarations of Interest documented.

0726/03 Approval of Minutes from last meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting were reviewed and approved as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

0726/04. Reports from County and Borough Cllr's

No reports were received from Hampshire County Council or Test Valley Borough Council representatives.

0726/05 New Planning Applications received

NONE

0726/06 The Clerk presented the schedule of payments for approval.

The following payments were approved by email:

- Clarke – £496.00
- Mulberry & Co – £2,020.00
- Lengthsman Services – £100.00
- L Tech – £91.80 for website, email and IT support services
- Lengthsman Services – £150.00

The Clerk confirmed that the monthly financial report and bank reconciliation had been completed and were available for inspection.

The Council received an update on recent maintenance work undertaken throughout the parish. The lower bus shelter had been strimmed and cleared of vegetation. The upper bus shelter had been jet washed and surrounding vegetation removed.

Chairman Cllr Venn formally thanked Martin for voluntarily carrying out extensive strimming work around village footpaths and public areas. Members agreed that his efforts had significantly improved the appearance of the parish.

Cllr Venn also noted work undertaken by Alistair at the village pond. Alistair had apologised for delays in carrying out maintenance due to health issues affecting his mobility. Members were pleased to note that he had now returned to maintaining the area and had completed substantial clearance work around the pond and surrounding land.

0727/07 Items for Discussion and Consideration

In the absence of Cllr McNeill, Chairman Cllr Venn attended the latest A342 Working Group meeting and provided a report.

The Working Group had reviewed the data results of the recent parish survey. The survey responses had now been analysed and a report prepared. Cllr Venn advised that the findings would be published on the Parish Council website and shared with residents. Consideration would also be given to displaying key findings on village noticeboards.

Members from the A342 Working Group had discussed the retention of paper survey forms and agreed that these should be retained for the time being as part of the project records.

Cllr Venn reported continuing frustration regarding engagement with Hampshire County Council and the wider highways network. The Working Group had received very limited responses to requests and proposals relating to road safety and transport improvements.

The Council noted that responsibility for transport matters is expected to transfer to the Hampshire and Solent Mayoral Combined County Authority in May 2028 as part of local government reorganisation. Members expressed concern that the ongoing restructuring was contributing to delays and a lack of progress on local highway matters.

The Chair advised that Thruxton Parish Council had submitted a report suggesting improvements to the local road network. The response received indicated that there were currently insufficient funding and resources available to progress the proposals.

Members discussed concerns that decision-making across local government was slowing as authorities prepared for future structural changes.

The Council noted that Cllr Steve Forster had been identified as Executive Member for Highways and Passenger Transport.

Action: Cllr Venn to prepare correspondence to Cllr Donnelly the Hampshire County Council Councillor requesting clarification regarding future highways responsibilities and unacceptable state of Weyhill Bottom Road.

Parish SID device

Cllr Venn updated members regarding attempts to download and analyse traffic data from the solar speeding device.

Assistance had been received from Appleshaw Parish Council. However, progress had been delayed because security keys and access codes required to retrieve the stored data could not be located.

The Council discussed whether the keys may have been supplied with the original equipment. Despite searches of Council records and storage locations, no keys had been found.

Cllr Venn advised that the equipment provider would be contacted to establish whether replacement keys or access credentials could be obtained.

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Action: Clerk to enquire with the supplier to enable the data download process to proceed.

Items for Discussion and Consideration

SO Recycle and Ongoing Enforcement Concerns

Cllr Venn provided a detailed update regarding ongoing concerns relating to SO Recycle. The Council was advised that contact had been made with the solicitors instructed to provide .The solicitor responsible for the matter was currently on annual leave but had indicated that he would make contact later in the week.

Cllr Burden reported that formal complaints had also been submitted through Hampshire County Council and Test Valley Borough Council procedures requesting review of planning and enforcement issues associated with the site. Acknowledgements had been received and the Council was awaiting further responses.

Members discussed concerns regarding delays in obtaining decisions from public authorities and the potential impact of local government reorganisation on planning enforcement and accountability.

Cllr Venn advised that a draft leaflet had been prepared for circulation within the parish. The purpose of the leaflet was to provide residents with an update on the current position, explain the Council's concerns and outline the actions being taken on behalf of the community.

Cllr Venn also discussed the environmental term "greenwashing", referring to situations where activities are promoted as environmentally beneficial while potentially causing environmental harm. Members considered whether this concept accurately reflected concerns surrounding the operation and agreed that it may form part of future communications.

The Council also discussed plans for wider community engagement, including distribution of information to residents and collection of supporting evidence ahead of further action anticipated later in the year.

Action: Draft resident leaflet to be circulated to Cllr's for review and comment prior to publication.

Village Notice Board

The Council considered the deteriorating condition of the village notice board.

Members noted that attempts to repair the damaged hinge and door had been ongoing since 2024 without success. Concerns were raised that the notice board was no longer fully weatherproof and could not adequately protect notices displayed within it.

Options for repair and replacement were discussed, including seeking assistance from local tradespeople, community groups and voluntary organisations.

The Clerk agreed to investigate repair costs and replacement options and report back to Council.

0726/08 Correspondence Received

The Council considered correspondence received since the previous meeting.

A request was received from a parishioner regarding a petition connected with planning decisions made by Test Valley Borough Council. Members agreed that information regarding the petition could be made available through the Parish Council website.

The Council also received correspondence concerning a deed of covenant associated with Beach House.

Members discussed the matter and considered that any restrictions or obligations affecting the property would ordinarily be addressed through the conveyancing process during a property sale.

Questions were raised regarding the historical involvement of the Parish Council in the covenant arrangement.

Cllr Burden agreed to make further enquiries into the background of the matter and report back at a future meeting

0726/09 Reports/Actions Open/Updates

Parish Forum and Southern Water

Although unable to attend the most recent Parish Forum meeting, Cllr Venn provided an update from recent Southern Water briefings.

Members noted that Southern Water anticipated introducing a hosepipe ban due to significantly reduced river levels. It was reported that the River Test had fallen by approximately one-third within a two-week period.

The Council noted that Southern Water's sewer lining programme was progressing and approaching completion.

Future discussions at Parish Forum level would focus on flooding, groundwater levels and watercourse management. Members discussed the value of obtaining updated flood-risk assessments and environmental surveys, noting that existing mapping information may no longer accurately reflect current conditions.

Particular concern was expressed regarding areas vulnerable to flooding, erosion and surface water issues.

The Council supported proposals to engage with the Environment Agency regarding updated flood mapping and environmental assessments across the wider catchment area.

0726/10 Councillor Reports

No additional reports were received.

0726/11 Clerk Report

Complaints Policy

The Clerk presented the revised Complaints Policy.

Members noted that the amendments were administrative in nature and included updated contact details.

Resolved: That the revised Complaints Policy be adopted with immediate effect.

The Clerk confirmed that the previous version had been removed from the Parish Council website and replaced with the updated document.

The Clerk also noted that publication dates would need to be manually added to website documents, as this functionality was not automated within the website software.

Points from the Floor

None

0726/07 Matters Raised by Councillors for inclusion of next meeting.

None

Meeting closed at 8.02pm

Next Meeting Dates 2026:

17th August 2026

19th October 2026

16th November 2026