

PENTON MEWSEY PARISH COUNCIL

2026

Minutes of Penton Mewsey Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 19th October 2026 Penton Village Hall, 7.30pm

Present: Councillors	Clerk/RFO	Members of the public
Cllr Hugh Burden Cllr Lee Doley Cllr Victoria McNeill Cllr Donnelly	Heidi Easton	2 members of the public. Chairman Cllr Venn attended meeting via teams, understanding that she could not vote but contribute as a member of the public.
Apologies: Cllr Bennett		

Opening remarks: Vice Chairman Cllr Burden welcomed those present and confirmed that the meeting would be recorded for administrative purposes.

1026/01 Chairman's Remarks and Apologies for Absence

Cllr Burden recorded apologies and attendance as set out above and chaired the meeting throughout.

1026/02 Approval of Minutes from last Meeting

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

1026/03 Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were recorded.

1026/04 Reports from District and County Councillors

Cllr Donnelly reported

Cllr Donnelly reported that he had pursued the outstanding SO Recycle planning application with Hampshire County Council (HCC) and Test Valley Borough Council (TVBC), following his request on 17 March for county determination. Clarification remained outstanding as to how the application would be progressed. He would seek a response within the next few days and keep the Parish Council informed. The Council noted continuing concerns about heavy goods vehicles travelling through the village. Cllr Donnelly also reported an A342 group meeting planned in Winchester towards the end of October and that he had raised the condition of the main road through the village for inclusion in the resurfacing priorities. He would provide further updates.

1026/05 Planning To Consider and Comment on New Planning Applications

The Council considered a late planning application. Cllrs discussed the application and agreed the following responses:

APPLICATION NUMBER: 26/02077/FULLN

PROPOSAL: Erection of garage, boot room and extension to annexe, installation of swimming pool and patio area

SITE: Yew Trees, Newbury Hill, Penton Mewsey, Andover

The Council resolved to raise NO COMMENT Action: Clerk to submit the Council's response.

1026/06 Finance

The Council noted the following payments, previously approved by email: Elan City £36.00 (cables); Elpa Tech £103.54 (annual email provision); Bulpitt Print Ltd £74.00 (leaflets); Wel Medical £293.94; GreenBarnes Ltd £728.22 (replacement noticeboard); Lester Aldridge £1,350.00 (legal consultations); BDO £252.00 (audit fees); Clerk's expenses £59.10; and Elan City £2,807.99 (solar-powered speed indicator device).

The September financial report, bank statements and reconciliation were presented for signature. Reported balances were £23,522.92 in the business reserve account, £15,259.10 in savings and £100.00 in the current account. Receipt of the precept and a £3,235.00 grant towards the solar-powered speed indicator device and speed detection equipment was noted. Action: Clerk to purchase the recommended Bushnell speed detection equipment.

1026/07 Items for Discussion and Consideration

Noticeboard

The replacement noticeboard at Trinity Rise had been installed.

Solicitor's Second Letter

The councillors voting confirmed agreement to commission a second solicitor's letter concerning the unresolved SO Recycle planning matter.

Action: Clerk to forward the supporting document to the solicitor and progress the letter.

SO Recycle and Ongoing Enforcement Concerns

Cllr Burden noted correspondence from HCC stating that a new application specific to the recycling operation would be required for county determination, rather than transfer of the existing TVBC application. HCC was awaiting clarification from TVBC regarding the current live application. The Council expressed concern about the continuing delay and noted the intention to escalate the complaint to the Local Government Ombudsman concerning the handling of the matter, rather than the planning merits. Relevant correspondence would be shared with Cllr Donnelly. It was agreed to discuss possible publicity at an informal meeting in early November before the next Council meeting.

Parish archives

The Clerk reported that a full data review with Elpa Tech had serviced the laptop and confirmed that current Council records were stored on Microsoft OneDrive, accessible through the Council email account and held in the cloud. Historic records were held in Winchester, and Cllr Burden retained CDs.

Southern Water open community event

The event on 22 October was noted. Attendance and a report back were requested.

Action: Clerk to ensure the event information was available to councillors.

Trees

A county officer had undertaken a village walkover with Cllr Doley and provided a written report identifying tree works within HCC's responsibility and trees on private land. HCC would progress its own works and contact the relevant private owner concerning identified trees. Concerns remained about dead trees, hanging

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branches and trees affecting utility cables on private land. A future village newsletter would ask landowners to take responsibility for their trees.

Budget 2027 and precept

Action: Clerk to send the year-to-date income and expenditure accounts electronically to Cllr Burden. Budget and precept proposals would be discussed at the informal meeting in early November before consideration by the Council. No precept was agreed at this meeting.

1026/08 Correspondence Received

A noise complaint concerning the new Saddlestone farm units was noted. The matter had been referred to TVBC, and Cllr Venn had informed the relevant contact. No further correspondence had been received. The matter was left with TVBC to address.

1026/09 Reports, Actions and Updates

- **The SO Recycle update was taken under items 1026/04 and 1026/07 above.**
- **Parish Flood Forum and Southern Water Update**

Cllr Venn reported that sewer relining was progressing, with delays of a few weeks associated with contractor issues. It was reported that the main sewer lining had finished and village roads were open. No tankers were reported. Concerns had been raised about odours from manholes following the works. These would be reported to Southern Water, and affected residents were also encouraged to report directly. A further Flood Forum meeting was anticipated.

- **A342 Working Group**

The working group had submitted a substantial report to TVBC and HCC at the beginning of October. The group's chair was awaiting a meeting with TVBC, and a meeting with HCC's cabinet member for highways was scheduled for the following Monday. The timing of the submission reflected an emerging planning application for approximately 400 homes referred to during the discussion.

A further update was expected at the next Parish Council meeting.

- **Community SpeedWatch**

The Clerk had circulated the online registration form to prospective volunteers. Further volunteers would be invited, including through a future newsletter, and training would be required before deployment. The group's role in reporting speeding vehicles to the police was discussed, alongside concerns about police capacity to act on submitted data. Speed data and possible future speed-limit measures were discussed; no change to a speed limit was agreed.

- **Speed Indicator Device**

The grant had been received and the new solar-powered SID purchased. It was agreed to install it to monitor traffic entering from Weyhill. Action: The existing device monitoring traffic from Charlton would remain in place. Possible locations for the older battery-powered device, would be considered before the next meeting, including near the 30-mph entry point on Newbury Hill from the sawmill direction. Any new post requirements and associated costs or permissions remained to be established.

- **Litter bins at bus stops**

Cllr McNeill proposed for litter bins at the two bus stops near the car boot sale site on Weyhill Road was discussed. Action: Clerk to establish the purchase and ongoing emptying costs for one or two bins and confirm the proposed locations near the parish boundary for future consideration.

1026/10 Councillor Reports

- **No additional reports were received.**

1026/11 Clerk Report

Mulberry's internal audit was booked for Thursday 22 October, in the second year of its contract, and the Clerk was preparing the supporting records. BDO's external audit of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return had concluded. The report stated that assertion 2 should have been answered "No" in light of internal-control weaknesses identified by the internal auditor. The Clerk reported that her employment status had been regularised and payments now operated through PAYE. BDO also noted that prior-year comparatives had not been reviewed because the Council had been exempt in that year and raised the level of general reserves. Councillors noted that reserves included receipts other than precept income. Earmarked reserves would require formal consideration and approval by the Council; no approval was recorded at this meeting. The Clerk confirmed that the publication notice had been placed on the website within the required dates. The reserve information had been circulated, and the current asset register was presented for signature. Data protection training information had been sent to Cllr's via email.

Meeting schedule 2027

Approval of the proposed 2027 meeting dates was deferred until the next Council meeting, following consultation in early November. The annual meeting was expected to remain on Monday 17 May 2027. The full schedule was not approved at this meeting.

1026/12 Points from the Floor

A member of the public asked whether signs advising that village roads were unsuitable for HGVs could be installed. Members discussed the implications for agricultural vehicles, horseboxes, deliveries and refuse collection. Possible routing conditions linked to any future planning consent were discussed, but no immediate restriction or signage scheme was agreed.

1026/13 Matters Raised by Councillors for Inclusion on the Next Agenda

Matters for further consideration included the 2027 budget and precept, earmarked and general reserves, the 2027 meeting schedule, SO Recycle and possible publicity, deployment of the older SID, and costs for litter bins and emptying at the Weyhill Road bus stops. Cllr Burden would circulate a proposed date for an informal preparatory meeting in the first week of November.

The meeting closed at 8.38pm.

Next Meeting Dates 2026:

16th November 2026