

East Harptree Parish Council

Serving our community - Caring about our future

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on

Tuesday 21st July 2026 at 7.30pm in The Theatre, East Harptree

Present: Cllrs John Vinson (Chair), John Darvill, Alan Harper, Ed King & Chris Pope

Clerk: Sarah-Jane Streatfeild-James

Ward Councillor: Simon McCombe

Minutes - 2026/07

1. Apologies for absence noted and accepted: Cllr Richard Davis

2. Declarations of interest: Cllr King declared an interest in item 5 iii

3. Public forum: 3 members of the public present

Report from Ward Councillor –

The X91 bus route has been saved. It will continue as the same route with an additional stop in Dundry. It will be run by WESTlink. There will also be the 100 and 101 routes, running from Bristol to Bath via Bishop Sutton and Midsomer Norton.

Following the fatality of a farmer on the roads on the 13th July, allegedly caused by 2 cars racing, to push for a Solution's Meeting with Sgt Rob Tuner and B&NES reps. The Public Space Protection Order application is still ongoing, it has been sent to South Glos Council for determination.

Councillor McCombe has requested a list of Highways repairs that are required (Sept). Discussed ongoing complaint about the felling of trees in a field off Western Lane, and new fencing and hedge planting. It was agreed a row of barbed wire should be removed from the stiles, but otherwise this is legitimate and responsible land management and not a cause for concern.

4. Confirmation of the minutes of the previous meetings: that the minutes of the Parish Council meetings held on 16th June 2026 are a true and accurate record.

5. Planning applications:

i) **Application Reference:** [26/02086/FUL](#)

Application Address: Springfield Farm, Smitham's Hill, East Harptree, BS40 6DA

Proposal: Conversion and extension of three barns into two separate dwellings, one barn for ancillary residential use, convert stables to garages and bat loft and construct carports.

Signed by..... Date.....

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Councillors welcomed the development of these smaller dwellings, and considered it good use of the buildings, agreed to SUPPORT this application unanimously.

ii) **Application Reference:** [26/02321/AGRN](#)

Application Address: Parcel 3277, East Harptree Road, West Harptree,

Proposal: Erection of agricultural barn and static caravan for welfare facilities and office.

Councillors unanimously agreed to OBJECT to this application on the following grounds: incorrect planning application, this is not related to agriculture, this is for a business; there is no need to erect a barn; it would negatively affect the visual amenity of the area; it would create extra traffic on a busy road; a hedge has been removed during the nesting season. (It is noted this application has since been withdrawn).

iii) **Application Reference:** [26/02326/FUL](#)

Application Address: Sycamore Farm, Smitham's Hill, East Harptree, BS40 6BZ

Proposal: Roofing over 2 No. feed areas *SUPPORT*

iv) **Application Reference:** [26/02392/FUL](#)

Application Address: Cricket Pavilion, East Harptree Playing Fields, Townsend, East Harptree

Proposal: Removal of strip window and replacement with a bi-fold window to create a serving hatch on the north west elevation of the Pavilion. *SUPPORT*

6. Formal motions requiring a decision:

- i) A Chew Valley resident attended the meeting to request help with grant funding to set a junior parkrun in the Chew Valley. £4K +VAT is required, a wide range of donors and local Parish Councils have been approached. Informed about how the parkrun would be run, agreed the benefit to East Harptree children, EHPC agreed to pledge £300.
- ii) Road safety for pedestrians in the village – a resident has prepared detailed traffic calming suggestions which have been shared with councillors. Agreed Cllr Darvill and resident to discuss ideas and get together over the summer to agree a list of options in time for the Sept meeting, there is some money available via the Ward Councillor fund that could be used for this project.
- iii) Agreed to respond individually to B&NES Climate & Sustainability Project.
- iv) Agreed to nominate Mary Cookson for this year's Chelwood Bridge Rotary Award.

7. Finance:

- i) To note standing orders:

SJ Streatfeild-James - clerks salary (July)

Paul Sperring - sweepers salary (July)

- ii) The bank reconciliation for the dates April to June 2026 was checked and signed by Cllr Harper.

- iii) Agreed the following payments -

Date	Item	Payee	Net	VAT	Total
24.07.26	Clerk expenses – HWA	SJ Streatfeild-James	£12.00		£12.00
	Printing		£2.60	£0.65	£3.25
	Canva		£3.61	£0.72	£4.33

Signed by..... Date.....

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24.07.26	Salaries + PAYE & NI Clerk & Sweeper (month 02, May-June)	HMRC & employees			£982.00
24.07.26	Salaries, PAYE & NI Clerk & Sweeper (month 03, June-July)	HMRC & employees			£982.00

8. Matters of report:

- i) EHPC has a councillor vacancy, Clerk to advertise widely.
- ii) EHPC applied for an Exemption Certificate from an external audit (income & expenditure under £25,000), our audit process is now complete. All documents can be found on the EHPC website.
- iii) EHPC have written to Wessex Water expressing concern about sewage releases into the River Chew from East Harptree treatment works at Townsend, Wessex Water have replied and offered to visit E Harptree and talk to residents. Agreed to invite them to our October PC meeting.
- iv) Bus services in the Chew Valley are to continue; full details will be circulated when available. Volunteers sought to help with leaflet distribution.
- v) The fatality of a local farmer occurred on the road nr West Harptree on 13th July, EHPC will continue to work with other parish councils in the valley, A&S Police and B&NES to seek a solution to the dangerous driving witnessed daily in the valley. A meeting with B&NES and Beat Sergeant Turner scheduled for 22nd July, Clerk and Cllr Harper to attend and feedback afterwards

9. Correspondence received:

- i) Request to consider benches in the Coombe – agreed to pursue this suggestion, agreed a location next to Norman the Knight would be suitable, to establish who the landowner is and request permission to put a bench here.
- ii) Request about keeping footpaths open and clear between Shrowle and East & West Harptree, Clerk to contact Footpath Officer to request it is kept open.
- iii) Free trees/hedging offer from Woodland Trust via the Ward Councillor. Offer forwarded to key schools and environment group.

Meeting ended 20.30pm

Next meeting **Tuesday 1st September 2026** (tbc) at 7.30pm in The Theatre, East Harptree

Signed by..... Date.....
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