

Kilmeston Parish Council

Minutes of the Annual Assembly held 19th May 2026

Venue Kilmeston Village Hall

Present: - Cllr. Edward Pitts – Chairman (EP)
Cllr. Charlie Parry (CP)
Cllr. Nick Gerrard (NG)
Cllr. Jason Bridgen (JB)
Cllr. Jerry Pett – WCC
Cllr. David Ablitt – WCC
Cllr. Jonathan Williams - HCC
14 residents.
Mr Kenrick Fell – Clerk

The Clerk welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

There were apologies for absence from Cllr. Hannah Beckett-Pratt (HB).

2. MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL ASSEMBLY MEETING 27th MAY 2025.

The Minutes had been agreed.

3. UPDATE ON HINTON AMPNER – LEE HULIN NT.

The Chairman welcomed Lee Hulin to the meeting.

Lee apologised for the problem with his computer but stated that he would try and explain.

Lee mentioned the woodland creation scheme and explained the size of the various areas. There were 40 acres of pastureland for the cattle to use all year round. He mentioned regenerative farming with crops such as barley and oats. There would be wildflower margins, and the wildlife would be monitored. There are 60 acres of woodland, and the aim is 41,000 trees in 2 years. The trees would be native or European sweet chestnuts.

He mentioned 100,000 trees which were planted in 74 days, by 77 community groups of 1600 people.

With regard to the river they had been liaising with the Wessex River Trust and the stream had been tied up by the Upper Itchen Conservation Group. The NT had also been liaising with HCC Highways to stabilise the verge area and they were waiting for HCC re further work.

They were not happy with receiving water from Kilmeston Road/ A272 as there were toxins in the water.

Phase 2 Bramdean Village Hall meeting.

NT successfully obtained a grant from SDNP to deal with the flooding at the bends. Mention was made of a pipe under the road to the layby. The Poplar trees to be removed, the pipe removed and returned to open channel, a culvert to source the pond and better engineered.

Phase 3 Improve access and a path made through the wood near the source pond.

He also mentioned that black poplars would replace the original poplars.

Q. How are HCC Highways contacted. Lee said through the website.

Q. Is there a newsletter on the NT action. Website and Hinton Ampner Spring Newsletter.

Mike Curtis asked about the footpaths and in particular one at the rear of St Andrews House. Lee stated that there was a great deal of other work which required funds for them to complete the work.

Chris Robinson asked about rewilding. Lee said that it was not possible to rewild at Hinton Ampner due to the drought last year, and the condition of the soil which had affected the trees.

The Chairman thanked Lee Hulin for his very interesting update on National Trust activities in our area.

High Speed Broadband

Cllr. Jason Broadband gave a summary of all the work of the team that introduced High Speed Broadband to the village. Members of the team were presented with a gift from the Parish Council for all their hard work over a long period of time.

4. WCC OFFICER – UPDATE ON RECYCLING, LUPITA GONZALEZ.

The Chairman introduced Lupita Gonzalez from Winchester City Council. Lupita gave details of the materials that WCC collected at present, and this was split into paper, plastic bottles, cardboard, aerosols and tins & cans. In addition bottles and jars were collected with glass recycling. A new separate service had been introduced to collect food waste, and residents had been issued with a separate small bin. The items mentioned under this service were fruit & vegetables, meat, fish & seafood (incl. the Bones, tea bags % coffee grounds, rice, pasta & beans, dairy, eggs 7 eggshells, bread, cakes & pastries, and pet food. All with no plastic packaging.

With regard to glass, broken glass had to be wrapped and put in the black bin and no lightbulbs were permitted.

Lupita explained the difference between the various types of plastic and explained how difficult it was to recycle some types.

She also mentioned the new recycling plant that was being built near Eastleigh and that when this came into service the present recycling would change. She advised residents to look at the newsletters etc. to keep up to date with the recycling service.

The Chairman thanked Lupita for her presentation.

5. CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT.

Edward Pitts presented his report for the last year.

6. COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT.

Cllr. Williams gave details of the new Waste Recycling plant that will go ahead at Eastleigh. Dry and wet recyclables will be collected by 2027.

He also gave an update on Local Gov't Reform. September was still the planned date; there was more flexibility in the numbers and funding was problematic due to increasing children's services and social care.

Parish Councils will lie with WCC.

7. CITY COUNCIL REPORT.

Cllr. Pett/Cllr. Bolton had submitted a report which the Clerk had circulated.

Cllr. Pett introduced Cllr. David Ablitt who had replaced Cllr. Bolton. He wanted to mention all the work that Neil Bolton had done during his term of office, and he thanked him for his assistance. This was reciprocated by the Parish Council.

Cllr. Pett referred to the planning decision to give the Boomtown Organisers permission to run the event for 5 years. The Community Bus was also mentioned.

8. PRESENTATION OF ACCOUNTS - CLERK.

A budget for 2026/27 had been prepared and the Parish Council had increased the Precept requirement to £7,000.00. With the WCC Base Rate of £139.10 a band d property was £50.32. The Parish Council had applied for an HCC Grant from County Councillor Jonathan Williams, and this was used to purchase a new oak notice board to replace the present poor-quality aluminium one. The accounts had been balanced and the Certificate of Exemption 2025/26 sent to the External Auditors.

9. QUESTIONS FROM PARISHIONERS.

Simon Young asked about the Minutes on the website as they were out of date. Clerk to send documents to Graham Cresswell.

10. CLOSURE OF MEETING.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.07pm and opened the Annual Parish Council Meeting.