

Henbury Parish Council

**Annual Village Meeting
Wednesday 20th May 2026
St Thomas' Church Hall, Henbury at 7.00pm**

Clerk: Sue Loxham
Email: henbury.clerk@gmail.com

Minutes

Present: Cllrs Mike Wood (MW), David Nuttall (DN), Jane Beeken (JBE),
Melanie Bayley (MB), Lesley Smetham (LS) (Cheshire East)

2 members of the public were present: Mr M Wigley & Mr C Rowe

1. Cllr MW welcomed everybody to the 2026 Annual Parish meeting.
2. Apologies for absence: Simon Browne (SB) vacation
3. Cllr Mike Wood was duly elected Chair (proposed by Cllr DN & seconded by Cllr JBE)
Cllr David Nuttall was elected as Vice-Chair (proposed by Cllr MW & seconded by Cllr MB).
4. Annual Village Meeting Minutes 2025 were not presented as had been previously agreed at the July 2025 meeting.
5. Cllr MW presented his annual report. The report will be published at Henbury.org
6. The clerk presented the AGAR financial report for the previous year. Cllr MW signed the AGAR document as a true reflection of the accounts. The report which includes the internal audit will be published at Henbury.org by 27/5/26. The council noted that it will also be externally audited, requiring the accounts to be open to the public for scrutiny.
7. Environmental Projects Report was not presented.
8. Open Session: Answers to the questions asked by the public present are summarized:
 - Flora development. Council has been given assurances by the developer that no Phase II is being planned. The mound of earth that was created at the beginning of the development will start to disappear as it is used for in fill, gardens and landscaping around the development. Cllr MW highlighted the situation/status on developments around the Henbury area. Cheshire East (CE) call for potential development sites is now closed. The potential site of the field along Whirley Road i.e. the field where the footpath from Hightree Drive to Whirley has been cited. The council will continue to monitor all planning applications.

- A537 road closures. Cllr MW has sent various emails to Highways complaining about; the total disregard for applications for permits, the lack of clarity as to when and for how long the road would be closed, and the lack of any diversion planning which applies to both cars and HGVs. Cllr Judy Snowball (CE) and Head of Highways have been onsite, observing the situation. Cllr DN praised the remedial work that was done to improve some of the issues with the road surface. However, the wooden fencing hasn't been replaced with a proper crash barrier near the culvert and the subsidence in the same area has not been addressed.
- Dark Lane had seen an increase in traffic due to the closures but in the council's experience it would be very difficult to get speed restrictions applied.
- A537 roundabout. Cllr MW has been assured that all damaged kerb stones will be replaced before the roundabout has been signed off. Concerns were expressed that more kerb stones would be damaged once the roundabout was in use, especially as HGVs negotiated tight turns. Cllr MB mentioned the very noticeable camber
- CO₂ Pipeline was discussed. There is a lot of opposition to the pipeline from many sectors and council will be closing monitoring the situation. Ultimately the Secretary of State will have the final say.
- Hedging on Dark Ln from Church Ln is overgrown and causing a problem. Cllrs MW and DN agreed to look at it

As there were no further questions the meeting concluded at 8.00pm.