

HENBURY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 15th July 2026, 6.00 pm at St Thomas Church Hall.

Part 1 Public and Press present

Present

Councillor Mike Wood (MW)
Councillor David Nuttall (DN)
Councillor Simon Browne (SB)
Councillor Jane Beeken (JBE)
Councillor Melanie Bayley (MB)
Sue Loxham Clerk (SL)

No members of the public were present.

Public Forum

26/50 Apologies for absence Cllr Lesley Smetham (LS) (Cheshire East) was unable to attend.

26/51 Declarations of Interest

Cllr SB is a member of the Millennium Green Committee.

26/52 Minutes of last meeting

Resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on 21st May 2026 be approved and signed as a true and accurate record.

26/53 PCSO/Beat Managers Report

No PCSO reports were received since the last meeting.

26/54 Cheshire East (CE)

No report was received as Cllr LS was unable to attend. However, after much discussion, it was decided that between meetings issues related to CE would be monitored and then added to agenda as discussion points to ensure specific issues were addressed.

26/55 Status Update on Major Development.

Cllr SB comment that Bellway had nearly completed the construction phase and would therefore be moving on to the landscape as proposed in the planning application.

Cllr MW noted that work on the Jones Homes development site had started with significant drainage being installed on the A537 entrance. Work would be needed on the Pexhill Road side as there will be drains that will drain that way which might cause disruption.

The CE have announced that the local plan does not contain enough proposed housing to meet the government targets. However, CE have stated that they will not allow houses to be built without due process.

26/56 Highways & Road Safety

- Poor state of the resurfaced A537

Cllr MB was concerned about the safety issues raised by Highways, which involved applying a sandy grit to the surface. When driving on Friday morning, the cars were causing dust clouds

thick enough to partially obscure the temporary traffic lights on Birtles bends. Henbury Parish council also noted an email from resident on Chelford Rd complaining about impact of the dust on their health.

Cllr MW had already raised the poor surface condition especially around the Birtles bends citing that the issues were the same as occurred on A34 about 2 years ago. Highways admitted that they were aware of the issues and the specialist contractor would be returning in August to carry out any necessary repairs. Highways also stated that the damaged bridge parapet repair was programmed for September but was subject to change.

Cllr MW also questioned the potential waste of public money and time resulting from Cheshire East Highways commissioning substandard work, the consequences of which have affected not only the Council but also local businesses and road users.

- Damage to new roundabout and central Pedestrian Refuge outside the Cock Inn

Cllr MW will contact Jones Homes to enquire who will repair the roundabout. It was agreed that the roundabout signage is too close to the roundabout to be effective, and it was noted that yellow signs had been added to the roundabout to increase visibility. Cllr MW also reported that the lamp post on the central reservation outside the Cook Inn had been hit and removed, so reducing lighting on that stretch of road

- Speed enforcement

Prior to the meeting Cllr MW had asked Cllr LS for information regarding accidents on the A537 between Broken Cross and Monks Heath traffic lights (but not including the 2 junctions). She reported that from 1999-2024 there had been 14 deaths, 11 serious and 24 slight accidents. The council was shocked by the number of deaths. They firmly believe that the major causes of the accidents were speed related. Cllr MW will be following this up with Cllr LS and report the damage to both roundabout and refuge as they were mostly speeding incidents.

- Cllr DN meeting with John Bourne (Highways)

John Bourne (JB) had requested the meeting following a complaint regarding the pavement on Chelford Rd, between Pepper St and Church Ln. JB conclusions were that a pocket just before the Church would be deemed unsafe and he would be contacting the necessary party.. He did accept that the repair at the bottom of Anderton Ln was terrible. Cllr DN did point out the road surface in that the area was poor and on the Highways list to repair in last financial year's budget.

26/57 Footpaths

No issues since the remedial work was done. It is a well-used path.

26/58 CIL money usage

It was decided to contact the CIL team to clarify key points and circulate the regulations to the council.

26/59 Millennium Green Trust

Cllr SB reported that general maintenance was ongoing. The gate to the Green has been replaced. The tower in the play area is currently fenced off as 1 of the legs is failing. The leg will be replaced but they are waiting for a specialist in playground equipment to do the work. A group of AZ volunteers will be working on the Green in September.

26/60 Village Housekeeping

- Cllr JB confirmed that all the bins had been emptied on Saturday and hoped that Thursday would see the bins emptied as normal. She was extremely disappointed in the deterioration of service since changing contractors.
It was decided to investigate the possibility of providing residents with 30mph sticker which could be put on bins as a reminder to motorists on a Thursday of the speed limits around the village
- Highways substation work. They have replaced the grid cover, but it is higher than the surrounding area. The jetting work scheduled for w/c 6th July was not carried out.
- State of Lower Church Car Park grounds and the village, it was felt, was looking shabby. It was agreed to get quotes for the removal of the fly tipped waste before looking at ways to improve the gateway to the village.

Possible Village Improvements discussed

1. New signage at all entrances to the village
 2. Clean and clear all road signs around the Parish
 3. Planters to be reinstated and employ someone to maintain them
 4. Remove seating from Lower Church car park as they were no longer fit for purpose
- Cllr MW asked if it was legal for someone to be living in a caravan parked in a layby on Pexhill Rd near Broomfield Farm. Cllr MW would send an enquiry to Cllr LS

26/61 Accounts

Cash book and bank reconciliation have been circulated prior to the meeting.

Balance of CIL account = £19185.31

Balance of Main account = £68380.25 (Online Bank balance 10:02 on 3/7/2026)

12/05/2026	HMRC tax May	£97.76
12/05/2026	SL Payslip May	£392.48
14/05/2026	Website ThenMedia	£288.00
15/05/2026	Zurich Insurance (3yr deal)	£399.60
31/05/2026	Bank Charges	£2.80
08/06/2026	DT village greens	£220.00
12/06/2026	Internal Audit	£390.00
18/06/2026	HMRC tax June	£97.76
18/06/2026	SL Payslip June	£392.48
26/06/2026	LCS Footpath maintenance	£540.00
26/06/2026	LCS Road gullies weed treatment	£660.00
30/06/2026	Bank charges	£1.40
01/07/2026	TCS Management fees	£67.50

Resolved the above payments be approved and signed for as a true and accurate record.

26/62 Planning Applications

None

26/63 Clerk's Report / Parish Council Housekeeping.

Clerk reported that once the time frame for the exercise of rights to view had ended, which would be on Friday 17th July 2026, the next stage of the external audit would proceed.

Cllr MB asked if the times of the meeting could be earlier than 7.30pm. It was agreed the next meeting would be moved to 7pm and the clerk would check the official ruling.

The next meeting will be on Wednesday 27th September 2026 @ 7.00pm.

Meeting closed at 7:40pm