

HIGH MELTON PARISH COUNCIL

8 July 2026 – Extra Ordinary Parish Council Meeting

In attendance: Councillors: Martin Pick, Joan Herrero, David Jones and Tom Hunt.
Also present was Paul Rollinson, Clerk.

1. **Apologies:** Parish Councillor Robert Parkes.
2. **Declarations of Members' Interests:** None given.
3. **Exclusion of Press and Public**

Resolution: To exclude members of the public and press under the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960 due to the nature of the business to be transacted at items 4 to 7, to being prejudicial to the public interest.

4. **Review of Correspondence**

The Parish Council reviewed correspondence received from a resident, including the pattern of communications over an extended period, to consider any implications under the Council's Complaints Procedure and Vexatious Correspondence Policy.

These have included the ongoing pursuit of a wide range of Parish Council matters, including accountability, governance and financial issues, the Neighbourhood Plan, and criticism of Councillors, the Clerk and third parties, including the Internal Auditor. Members assessed the correspondence against the criteria set out in the Policy, including the repetition of issues previously addressed, persistence following responses, and the impact of the volume and frequency of correspondence on Council resources.

5. **Vexatious Correspondence Policy**

Consideration was given to the correspondence received, including matters relating to the Neighbourhood Plan, Parish finances and audit arrangements, meeting procedures, newsletters, website content, Freedom of Information requests, community projects, and wider transparency and governance issues.

It was noted that a number of the communications revisited matters previously raised and responded to by the Council and challenging responses already provided. It was noted that there was a recurring pattern of criticism directed towards the actions, conduct and decision-making of Parish Councillors and the Clerk including comments relating to professionalism, competence, transparency and honesty.

In reviewing the correspondence, there was acknowledgement given to the right of residents to raise concerns, ask questions and seek information from the Council. In balancing these considerations, the Council also took into account the cumulative time and resources required to respond to the correspondence, the potential for ongoing disputes to be divisive within the community, and the impact on the wellbeing of Parish Councillors and the Clerk.

6. Future Correspondence

Members considered arrangements for handling future correspondence relating to matters already determined by the Council. It was agreed that future communications be restricted to written correspondence addressed to the Parish Council, to be opened and reviewed in the presence of the Clerk and a Councillor.

Correspondence will be managed in accordance with the Council's Complaints Procedure, Freedom of Information obligations and Vexatious Correspondence Policy. These arrangements will remain in place for the remainder of the current electoral term and will be reviewed thereafter.

Resolution: For future correspondence including on matters already considered by the Council be managed in accordance with the Council's adopted policies, restricted to written communications to the Parish Council via the Cler's address and opened in the presence of the Clerk and a Councillor, and to be reviewed at the end of the current electoral term.

7. Date of Next Meeting

9 September 2026

Signed:_____

Date:_____