

Over Haddon Parish Council
Minutes of the Meeting held 10 November 2025 at Over Haddon Village Hall

Present: Councillors Z Hawley (Chair), S Mosley, J Oldfield, R Truscott and T Walton
District councillors Gee and Butcher and one member of the public

Minute taking: It was agreed, in the absence of the Clerk, that councillor R Truscott would take the minutes

Apologies: None

Variations to the Order of Business: None

Declaration of member's interests: None

Public Speaking: Councillor Gee reported that the main issue dominating district council business currently is local government reorganisation. Whilst the county council would prefer there to be a single lower tier authority (the whole of Derbyshire county) the district would prefer there to be two districts, based on north and south Derbyshire with existing districts remaining intact except for the division of Amber Valley into north and south. However, some other things have been achieved, notably the completion of refurbished tennis courts in Bakewell Park (funded by the Lawn Tennis Association) and available free for two hours a day. Discussions with local schools for their use of them are currently ongoing. Both councillors said that they still had some funds available for any projects which the parish council might wish to use them for. ZH asked about the £10k fund which the district council had promised the parish council when the house formerly belonging to Janet Wadsworth (for social housing) was sold, now that the house had been sold to a local resident. The district councillors promised to look into this.

Minutes of the Meeting held on the 15 September 2025: These were agreed and signed

Matters Arising: ZH reported that we had heard nothing from the county council about their failure to inform us of road closures and similarly nothing from Peak Park about the status of the village tip. She also said that the lock on the gate in the Dale had been repaired, and that Natural England (who owned it) had the code. There was nothing new to report about the public toilets. The yew tree in the Community Garden, and its possible interference with telephone lines, was discussed, and it was agreed that this was not currently a problem, but that we should keep an eye on it.

Determination of items from which the public are excluded: Item 14

Planning Applications: None

Reports and Decisions:

Allotments and Village Assets: SM reported discussions amongst allotment tenants, who were reconciled to the decision of Seven Trent Water not to provide grant for a water supply scheme and that individuals could make their own choices. She also wondered about the existence of documents confirming parish council ownership. ZH reassured the meeting that former clerk Mathew had established this, but that we should perhaps spend some time looking for them in the loft...she also suggested that the council could donate some money towards an allotment project, given that it would enhance village assets. SM said she would discuss with tenants and come back about it.

The question of an allotment survey was raised, which TW said he would do. Two plots are currently not in use – Anna's plot, which someone needs to speak to her about and half of Bob Foreman's plot, which he said he no longer needs. Maybe Kim and Roger's plot is also likely to be given up. Allotment

renewal letters should be sent out before the end of December, to be returned before the end of January. It was agreed that this year we should keep rents as they are. SM suggested that we could send a letter around the village email system encouraging the use of allotments. It was also discussed whether or not we should revise/re-write the council's allotment policy and TW agreed to do this, and it would go on the agenda for our January meeting. SM also mentioned the issue of moles on the allotments, and the controversy over whether or not they should be killed...

War memorial: TW outlined his ideas for improvements, and it was acknowledged that they were looking somewhat "tired." It was agreed that new and more even steps would be safer and a good idea and that the hedging, and perhaps the paving, needs replacement. SM thought that the site would be better closer to ground level, for more accessibility and user-friendliness. This could be a major task, depending on how close to natural rock the site is. JO said he would prepare a plan for the site. ZH suggested that we might get help from the War Memorials Trust and also that we would need planning permission, but that it could be a project for 2026.

Policies: TW suggested that we need a new long-term sickness policy to deal with problems over employees and offered to draft one out for consideration.. This was agreed, and that it should be adopted as from the date of this meeting (ie: 10 November 2025).

Grit bins: SM reported that the Bakewell Road one was empty and that we should report this to the council so that they could refill it. The others are still full.

Christmas Tree: ZH said that one is ordered and that Karen and Mark will erect it but the council will pay for it.

Meetings for 2026: These are as listed in the agenda.

PPPB Local Plan: ZH said that this involves all of us and will circulate details from our previous comments which we will need to complete by the 6 December for returning to PP by the 21 December (via the Chair).

Risk Assessments of PC properties: it was agreed that this needed to be done. SM agreed to do it and ZH would provide copies of previous assessments.

Financial Report: This seemed okay at present, with outgoings reduced due to less frequent toilet cleaning in the winter months.

Budget: ZH had provided a draft budget, based on the pattern of previous ones and was congratulated by council members for the effort she had put in to understanding and producing it. There may be a defibrillator donation from the DDDC councillors to add in. There was some discussion about a precept for the next financial year and it was agreed that this could be kept low – at £4 per dwelling on average to produce a total of £8,000. SM proposed that ZH should be given expenses from the council for her work on the budget, which was agreed.

Updates: Nothing further to say

Correspondence: None

Going Forward: The situation over the clerk's sickness absence was discussed and it was agreed to arrange a meeting with Chris Moses.

Date of Next Meeting: 12 January 2026