

Hartington Upper Quarter Parish Council

Annual Council Meeting

Meeting held Wednesday 6th May 2026 at 7.30pm
at Brandside Parish Hall

Minutes

Present:

Cllrs Oliver, Temperley, Jackson, Melland, Staden

Clerk - Jocelyn Granger

3 members of the public

Apologies:

Cllr Watson

		Actions
1	Meeting opened at 7.05pm.	
2	Chair - Nomination for Cllr Oliver accepted unanimously.	
3	Vice Chair – Nomination for Cllr Temperley accepted unanimously.	
4	Acceptance of Office forms signed by all Cllrs present. Cllr Watson to sign at next meeting.	
	Cllr Melland joined the meeting at 7.15pm.	
5	Register of Interest forms signed by all Cllrs present. Cllr Watson's form dated 11.09.25 still current.	
6	<u>Chair's Report</u> See report appended to these minutes.	
7	<u>Financial Review</u> Bank balance carried forward to the new financial year 2026/27 is £14,847, after estimated regular income and expenditure should be c. £20,000 at 31.03.2027: this figure includes £5,000 contribution towards the Sterndale Moor playground project and a recommended contingency of £10,500. The remaining amount, c. £4,500 is expected to be spent on other already pre-agreed projects – accessible WC (top up after grant/s) and moving gas bottles storage at Brandside Hall, new defibrillator case and repairs to notice board at Sterndale Moor. It is essential that any capital expenditure is covered by Grants or other funding and the Clerk will focus on sourcing this wherever possible.	
8	Clerk to ensure Cllrs Melland and Watson have access to the Councillors@ email address. Password for this email address needs to be updated and consider using 2 Factor Authentication.	Clerk Clerk
9	Clerk to make enquiries if Agendas can be put up at Sunnyfields Rugby Club and Brierlow Bar bookshop going forward to encourage more residents to attend.	Clerk
10	<u>Schedule of Meetings for 2026/27</u> All Wednesdays and at 7.30pm unless otherwise agreed. Sterndale Moor: 3 rd June, 5 th August, 7 th October, 2 nd December, 3 rd February, 7 th April. Brandside: 8 th July, 2 nd September, 4 th November, 6 th January, 3 rd March, 5 th May (also ACM)	
11	Meeting closed at 7.30pm	

Signed by Cllr Suzanne Oliver:

Date:

Chair's Statement for HUQ PC AGM – May 6th 2026

Hi All,

This year has been a tough one for the parish certainly, however I feel we have made great strides in improving things for our community all round, some of those improvements I will now list:

1. General – A changeover of Clerks

Unfortunately, we've had few changes of Clerks over the past year, with Steve Otty stepping down (thanks for all your hard work Steve), Peter coming in and now with the most wonderful Jocelyn. Whilst Pete's reign has meant the budget for 2025/26 was blown (see below), he has helped to put a bit more rigour into our practices and bring all our policies up to date, including our Code of Conduct, Financial Regulations, new Camping policy (see below) and Standing Orders. With Jocelyn, I hope we can move past this 'foundational phase' and move towards a new 'community outreach' phase (see below) as we move through the next year. Perhaps start to heal as a 'divided' parish also.

2. Sterndale Moor (SM) Matters

We have started to hold meetings at both SM and Brandside Halls on alternate months. This is to help improve comms with the people living in SM. We have also recruited a SM representative, in Jan Melland, and she has already been great, helping us with many SM matters, including the playground project, the defibrillator and the noticeboard. We need to still improve in this area, but hopefully through better engagement and forward planning, we can do this throughout the rest of 2026 and beyond.

3. Brandside hall – camping

Whilst the full camping application was turned down, we have still made improvements for our visiting campers, our beautiful natural surroundings, and our neighbours, such as:

- a new agreed clear and transparent camping policy
- a new layout map showing areas of allowable camping and areas not to be camped on
- a status quo way of working with Peak Park where we communicate camping dates in as far in advance as we possibly can
- improved communications with our visiting campers about expected noise levels, parking and litter etc
- repeat bookings, good feedback and a steady income stream

4. Brandside Hall – Disability access and fire safety

We now have two official reports recorded and turned into action plans for the above, with a chosen lead for the toilet works and an assigned budget. Due to budgeting concerns (see below), we will try to pay for all works for the hall via grants or via the camping income. Grants are being investigated for the toilet. The hall is also being tidied up and a list of minor repairs collated.

5. Areas for improvement

Despite all of the above, there are two remaining areas of concern for me as Chair (and hopefully as I continue to be Chair over the next year), these are:

a. The Budget

I am painfully aware of the impact of the increase of the precept, but for all the reasons laid out above, this was completely unavoidable. Hopefully via a tight focus on budget control and the application of grants, we can make the monies last and at a minimum, not have to increase the precept again next year. Hopefully, we can even reduce it a little bit. We are now in a good place

at the start of the year financially and with Jocelyn's excellent financial background and with enough focus, this should be possible.

b. The Community

For more recent, as well as historical reasons, the Brandside and SM communities have been fractured/divided. I'd now like to focus on running and promoting events and activities for the community that support the community, across all of our smaller community areas also. Via:

- Better communication across all community areas of Parish Council activities.
- Better communication across the Parish of events & activities at both halls, as well as nearby Flash Parish Hall.
- Better support for the elderly in the community, via drop in tea and coffee mornings (for example), especially in the winter months.
- Better support for families in the area.
- Clear and decisive actions taken, such fixing broken equipment, signs and local amenities under our control.
- Completion of larger programs such as the SM playground.
- Increased use of the Brandside hall by the local community.

6. Areas of Great Opportunity

The new government plans for Derbyshire bring a great opportunity to the Parish and Parish Council to engage locally and ensure we don't miss out on funding opportunities, plans for Buxton and more importantly, be at the wrong end of plans that could disrupt the beautiful place in which we all live.