

WHITSBURY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF ANNUAL ASSEMBLY AT 7.00PM ON MONDAY 9TH JUNE 2025 IN WHITSBURY VILLAGE HALL

DRAFT

1. Attendance Register, Apologies and Declarations of Interest.

Present: Cllr G Thompson (Chair), Cllr H Sutton, Cllr G Dominey, Cllr S Husher

Apologies: Cllr C Harper

In Attendance: Cllr J Richards (NFDC), 6 Members of the Public and Mrs M Hildreth (Clerk)

No Declarations of Interest

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the Annual Assembly

2. Previous Minutes

The Chairman asked for approval of the Minutes from 15th May 2024. Minutes were approved and signed by the Chairman.

3. Annual Report by Chairman

Annual Report by the Chairman to the Whitsbury Annual Parish Assembly:

1. In deciding what should be included in an Annual Report to this Assembly I find myself repeating much of what was said last year. I make no apology for that as I feel it's important to recognise the efforts of the many people who help to make Whitsbury the place we are fortunate to live in. I won't name names but from our elected representatives at County, District and Parish level to all the many groups in the village - on behalf of everyone who lives here I say thank you for what you do.
2. At our Parish Council meeting in April, we said farewell to our long-standing Parish Clerk, Edward Hale, and appointed his successor Melissa Hildreth. Melissa brings with her the added benefit of also being the parish clerk for Martin Village. This connection along with the recent acquisition by Whitsbury Farm & Stud of the Rockbourne Manor Estate may, I hope, lead to closer links between the 4 Downland villages. We are a small village with limited resources - by joining forces with the other Downland Villages we would be better resourced to tackle wider issues such as local transport or planning. The 4 Western Downland Churches are already sharing issues and challenges through a joint PCC meeting.
3. Melissa has already proved her worth by making us aware of a number of areas in which we as a Parish Council can be more compliant and more efficient. This is one of the reasons our upcoming Council meeting will be bit longer than usual.
4. Thanks to Geoff Dominey's persistence we can, at last, be fairly optimistic about the improvements we have been seeking to our road signage and attempts to cut down speeding traffic. We won't get 20mph yet but maybe one day.....

Chairman's Initials _____

5. In an increasingly uncertain and fragile world we are planning to increase our resilience through the creation of a Village Emergency Plan which we'll hear more about in our Council meeting in a few minutes. It is our hope that everyone in the Village will know where or who to turn to in the event of an unforeseen emergency. As important as having a plan (ably supported by willing volunteers) is, in my view, the strength and quality of the relationships we have with each other - or - "knowing who is there as a friend in need". Having an active social programme and a successful pub are just two of the ways this can be encouraged. Talking of social programmes, I understand that this year's Harvest Supper will be later so as not to coincide with busy periods at the Stud and Farm.

4. Annual Financial Statement by Clerk

The balance in the Council Accounts has increased by £456.08 overall during the financial year. The Parish Council had £13,703.13 at the start of the year and now has £14,159.21.

The income for the year was £2,228.12 in total comprising £2,200.00 from the precept and £28.12 of interest on the bank accounts.

The expenditure for the year was £1,772.04 in total which includes £168.62 for insurance, £80.61 for printing, £71.86 for the website, £595.00 for grass cutting, and £360.00 for Clerk duties.

The Parish Council has only issued 13 cheques during the year, which are listed in the Accounts

Melissa Hildreth 09.06.25

Chairman's signature _____

Date _____

Chairman's Initials _____