UNAPPROVED DRAFT1

High Wych Parish Council

Minutes of the High Wych Ordinary Parish Council Meeting
Wednesday 16th September 2026
8pm in High Wych Memorial Hall

Cllr Tom Payne (TP) Chairman*	Cllr Carrie Payne (CP)*
Cllr John Andreotti (JA)*	Cllr Brian Sullivan (BS)*
Cllr Jacqueline Jackson (JJ)*	Cllr Natalie Higgins (NH)
	**** Denotes present***

Present: No members of the public. County Cllr Eric Buckmaster joined the meeting at 9.35pm.

Clerk: Colin Marks, Clerk to the Parish Council

The Chairman opened the meeting at 8.13pm. **ACTION**

26.065 Apologies for absence

1. Councillors: None – all present
2. Others: Cllr Eric Buckmaster – that he would be arriving late

26.066 Declarations of Interest and requests for dispensations

1. **Interests declared:** None
2. **Dispensation requests:** None.

26.067 Co-option

No co-option applications were received for the vacancy. **Clerk**

26.068 Approval of Minutes

RESOLVED: ***to approve the Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting held on 1st July 2026.*** The Chairman signed the Minutes**.** **Clerk**

The meeting was not suspended for public comments

26.069 Chairman's announcements

The Chairman noted that the Scarecrow Festival was very impressive and a great success. A note of thanks and appreciation was recorded for the organisers. It was agreed that the Chairman, as a trustee of the Playing Field, should write to the organisers to remind them that parking on the Playing Field is not permitted.
The recent successful outcome of the Travellers' site issue in Sawbridgeworth was noted.

26.070 East Herts Rural Police Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT).

1. **Crime report:** No crime report was received.

26.071 Reports by County and District Councillors

County Cllr Eric Buckmaster's full written report is included in the Minutes as Appendix B.

Upon his arrival at 9.35pm, Cllr Buckmaster commented on the unique circumstances that resulted in the successful outcome of the recent Traveller's site incident in Sawbridgeworth, where community action and where granted police powers played a crucial role.

District Cllr Ian Devonshire did not submit a report.

26.072 Planning

1. New Applications:

3/26/0999/HH	**Millfield, High Wych Lane:** Installation of a front porch. **RESOLVED:** ***No objections***	**Clerk**

2. Decision Notices. As detailed in Appendix A below – for information only

3. Other planning matters

1. **Late planning matters:** None

 Signed……

2. (i) Noted: The new East Herts Local Plan is due for adoption in April 2029

(ii) Noted: The new NPPF came into force on 17th August

26.073 Finance

1. Report of the Council's Accounts at 31st August 2026

Opening cashbook balance 1st July 2026	**24,151.31**
Plus income to 31st August	0.00
Minus expenditure to 31st August	3,614.38
Balance available to Council at 31st August (cashbook balance)	**20,536.93**
Plus unpresented payments	0.00
Bank statement/cashbook balance 31st August 2026	**20,536.93**

RESOLVED: ***That the Accounts Statement to 31st August 2026 be approved.*** **Clerk**

2. Bank Reconciliation at 31st August 2026

Cashbook balance 31st August	£20,536.93
Bank balance 31st August	£20,536.93

Clerk

RESOLVED: ***To agree the bank reconciliation as presented.***

3. Performance against 2026/27 budget at 31st August 2026

	Budget	Actual 31st August	Forecast Year-End
Income total	**20,690**	**10,405**	**23,041**
Expenditure balance Net of VAT	**25,652**	**10,423**	**25,156**

Budgetted deficit 2026/27	- 2,991
Actual net budget deficit 31st August	-8,962
Opening bank balance 1st April 2026	16,879
Actual Bank balance 31st August 2026	20,537
Forecast bank balance Year-End 31st March 2027	18,908

RESOLVED: ***To agree the performance against budget as presented.*** **Clerk**

4. Payments for approval: *All expenditure to be made under The General Power of Competence*

As at 13th August		**Value**	**VAT incl**
Everflow Water	Water 14/08/26 – 13/09/26	**174.34**	
Clerk	Expenses June/July	**26.60**	
Clerk	Salary July	**514.00**	
HMRC	PAYE July	**128.60**	
HMRC	Employer's NIC July	**33.84**	
TP Jones LLP	Payroll April - June	**64.40**	10.73
High Wych Mem Hall	Outreach Post Office Subsidy Q3 2026	**96.25**	
High Wych Mem Hall	Car Park lights June	**16.11**	
Alan Felstead	Hedgecutting Playing Field	**140.00**	
Clerk reimburse	Flash drive for laptop back-up	**13.99**	
Waste Managed Ltd	Bin service 23/07 – 22/08	**60.00**	10.00
Unity Trust Bank	Monthly service charge	**7.00**	
Alan Felstead	Litter bin servicing July	**120.00**	
Alan Felstead	Cutting allotment hedge	**340.00**	
Luxury Toilet Hire Ltd	Toilet hire for Scarecrow Festival	**588.00**	98.00
Clerk	Salary August	**514.00**	
HMRC	PAYE August	**128.60**	
HMRC	Employer's NIC August	**33.84**	
Everflow Water	Water 14/09/26 – 13/10/26	**424.21**	
Alan Felstead	Litter bin servicing August	**120.00**	
Waste Managed Ltd	Bin service 23/08 – 22/09	**63.60**	10.60
Unity Trust Bank	Monthly service charge	**7.00**	
Clerk	Expenses August/September	**36.30**	
Clerk	Salary September TBC	616.00	

Clerk

HMRC	PAYE September	TBC	154.00	
HMRC	Employer's NIC September	TBC	45.00	
Everflow Water	Water 14/10/26 – 13/11/26	TBC	180.00	
Alan Felstead	Litter bin servicing July	TBC	120.00	
Waste Managed Ltd	Bin service 23/09 – 22/10	TBC	63.60	10.60
Mokut Mower Services	Grass cutting September	TBC	370.00	
Unity Trust Bank	Monthly service charge		7.00	
*** Grass cutting KGV Field High Wych and Allen's Green Village Green*				
VAT included *To be reclaimed under VAT Act 1994 (1), (3)*				**139.93**

RESOLVED: ***to approve all payments as per the Clerk's report***

5. Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) 2025/26

Noted: PKF Littlejohn have not raised any issues and therefore the AGAR has been concluded. **Clerk**

6. AGAR 2026/27 **Clerk**

The Clerk reported that for 2026/27 the AGAR will be moved to being submitted digitally. A training session for clerks and RFOs is being set up by HAPTC with SAAA (Smaller Authorities' Audit Appointments Ltd) and SLCC (Society of Local Council Clerks). The Clerk has registered for the training. SAAA is the sector-led limited company appointed by the then Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG) as the 'specified person' to procure and appoint external auditors to Category 2 (smaller) authorities in England, to perform the functions set out in the relevant legislation, and to monitor delivery of the ongoing audit contracts. The Clerk is a member of the SLCC. It is currently unclear whether the digital move will be mandatory for 2026/27 or whether it becomes mandatory at a later date.

26.074 NALC National pay agreement 2026/27

1. The NALC National pay agreement scale (3.3%) was considered. **Clerk**
   RESOLVED: ***to implement the new pay agreement, backdated to 1st April 2026 as recommended by NALC.***

2. Review of the Clerk's pay grade: It was noted that the Clerk's pay grade is LC2 SCP23. This at the top of the lowest LC2 range defined as being *"below the substantive range".* HAPTC's definition of that range is that it is the lower SCP range used for early progression or for roles not yet fully at the benchmark level. The next range is LC2 *"substantive benchmark range".* HAPTC's definition of that range is that is the main SCP range that defines the proper pay band for that mid LC2 grade. **Clerk**
   It was acknowledged that the Clerk should properly be in the mid LC2 range, being CiLCA qualified since 2017, has 15 years experience, and has been the High Wych Parish Clerk for eight years.
   RESOLVED: ***that the Clerk's grade be uplifted from SCP23 to the top of the mid LC2 range, ie SCP28, with immediate effect and backdated to 1st April 2026. The Chairman to write to the Clerk confirming this decision.*** **TP**

26.075 1. Highways

1. Blounts Lane speeding issues: Not progressed any further. **EB/TP**

2. The following road works TROs were noted:
   TRO31004 and TRO31512: Blounts Lane
   TRO31054: West Road and High Wych Lane
   TRO31289: Bakers Lane

3. HCC Winter self-help salt availability was noted. Cllr John Andreotti to check if any is needed. It was noted that the salt is for private use and not for filling HCC salt bins, which is HCC Highways responsibility. **JA**

2. Footpaths and other Public Rights of Way (PRoW)

No issues raised.

3. Other Parish Matters

1. High Wych Memorial Hall and car park

1. (i) Update on moving filing cabinet containing HWPC records HWMH to AGVH: Move agreed. The Parish Council Chair to liaise with the Memorial Hall Chair. **TP**

(ii) Trimming car park hedge: Paul Newell has agreed to cut the hedge and dispose of the trimmings. Quoted approximately 3 hours at £15 per hour. Quote approved. **Clerk**
The Clerk to raise the order. Cllr John Andreotti to liaise as necessary. **JA**

2. Parked/abandoned cars update

The Jaguar has been removed. The Mazda's MOT expired in August; Cllr Tom Payne has reported it to the police. **TP**

2. Sawbobus service to Allen's Green

Request for service yet to be resolved. The Sawbridgeworth Town Council Clerk is investigating the possibility.

3. Other matters raised

1. Christmas tree for Broadfields and the triangle by Chandidi. **RESOLVED: *for the Broadfields tree to be ordered and set in a tub.*** Cllr Carrie Payne to organise delivery with receipt made out to HWPC. **CP**

2. Noted: Stansted Airport Community Forum on Thursday 22nd October.

3. Update: Perimeter bollards for Allen's Green Village Green. The Clerk reported that he had emailed Simon Thake on 4th September but had not received a reply. Cllr Brian Sullivan said he had been on holiday but has now returned. It was agreed to ask that three additional posts for the High Wych KGV Field be added to the order. **Clerk/ BS**

4. New domain and email addresses: Ongoing with one councillor yet to successfully set up their dedicated email. **JJ/ Clerk**

4. Other updates

(i) Removal of flower / plant holder at the corner of the play area: In hand with Alan Felsted

(ii) Cars left in Car Park: All dealt with (see 26.075.3.1.2 above)

26.076 **1. Playing Fields and buildings**

1. Harlow Theatre Company

1. No issues raised. The Clerk reported that invoices have been sent to HTC for the 2026 lease and 2026 insurance. **Clerk/ JA**

2. Play area

1. Disintegrating swing seat cover: Sovereign Play should rectify under warranty. Cllr Tom Payne to chase since these are still under warranty. **TP/NH**

2. Annual RPII report: Not yet received. **Clerk**

3. Dead tree removal from KGV Playing Field

Dudley Simpson has quoted £250 to remove the tree. Cllr John Andreotti to seek quotes from Howletts and J Salmon, who have public liability. **JA**

2. Allotments

1. No issues reported

2. The unexpected death of Barrie Richardson was very sad news. He was a remarkable stalwart at the allotments and will be greatly missed. **RESOLVED: *to donate £100 to St Clair Hospice via funeral directors Daniel Robinson*.** Cllr Carrie Payne to compose a tribute. **Clerk CP**

26.077 **Correspondence:** The list of correspondence was noted as it appeared on the Agenda:

- SAAA: AGAR digital changes for 2026/27 (26.073.6)
- Places for People: Village 1 Masterplans update
- HCC: TRO31004 Blounts Lane (26.075.1.2)
- HCC: TRO31054 West Road and High Wych Lane (26.075.1.2)
- HCC: TRO31289 Bakers Lane

 Signed……

- Stanstead Aiport: Parish Council Forum - Thursday 22nd October - 1-3pm
- HCC: Winter self-help salt availability (26.075.1.3)
- EHC: Update on new East Herts Local Plan (26.072.3.2(i))

26.078 Late items and items for future agendas

1. Late items raised: Concerns over Waste Managed collections not being done in accordance with the contract – collection dated being missed. Confirmation required that the collection due on 15th September actually happened. Cllr Jacqueline Jackson is having to spend an exorbitant amount of time dealing with the company.
   It was noted that the school has held a meeting to consider the impact of parking on event days, especially when they conflict with other HWMH and church activities. The Head has been very helpful and possible longer term solutions are being worked on.
2. Other items raised for future agendas: None

26.079 Date and venue of next Parish Council meeting

11th November Allen's Green Village Hall (Note: changed from previous date of 18th November); **Clerk**
20th January 2027 High Wych Memorial Hall

There being no further business, the Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 10.10pm.

Signed……Dated ……

APPENDIX A

26.072.2 26.072.2 PLANNING DECISION NOTICES for information only

3/26/0710/ARPN	**4 Pole Hole Farm:** Prior approval application (Part 3, Class Q) for change of use and conversion of existing agricultural barn to create 1 x 3-bed dwelling and associated operational development.	**REFUSED**
3/26/0247/HH	**1 Stepped Gable Mews,** High Wych Lane: Replacement windows and doors.	**WITHDRAWN**
3/25/1578/FUL	**Little Toad Hall, 3 Trimms Green:** Demolish sheds; site a mobile holiday home and new boundary fence.	Awaited
3/26/0531/HH	**Bonnys Row:** Enforcement appeal noted: **Appeal Reference: 26/00054/REFUSE**	Appeal decision awaited

APPENDIX B

E Buckmaster County and District Councillor Report Sept 2026
Local Government Reorganisation: Message from CEO Angie Ridgewell
Dear Members,
The Government has today announced a review of their Local Government Reorganisation decisions in all cases except Surrey, including the decision to create four unitary authorities in Hertfordshire.
As part of this announcement, the Government has confirmed that local elections will continue in line with the current cycle of elections for May 2027. Elections for the new Shadow Authorities will now no longer take place in May 2027.
At this juncture we have little information beyond the Secretary of State's statement and published coverage in the media.
We will continue to work collaboratively across all Hertfordshire Councils and engage constructively with ministers and officials throughout the review. We will also carefully consider any implications arising from its conclusions.
I recognise that this announcement may raise questions which we cannot answer at the moment. Our focus remains firmly on continuing to deliver our high quality services and supporting our communities now and in the future.
Whatever the outcome of the review, we will continue to work together in the best interests of Hertfordshire. We will keep you informed as further information becomes available.

Sawbridgeworth
Traveller's destruction of Flood Plain and Green Belt near River Stort/Chalk Stream during Bank Holiday weekend.
Some of you may have heard about the situation in Sawbridgeworth which has been picked up widely by media. This was not just owing to the location but also in the manor in which we dealt with it.
On Friday Residents informed us of activity on the land. Police were called. As Councillors we used the East Herts Emergency Whatsapp to alert senior management on standby.
East Herts Enforcement officers started working on an injunction.
On site Plant and equipment hired by the travellers started arriving and they went about flattening trees and greenery including where Himalayan Balsom was situated, an invasive species spreading seeds.
Trucks from Harlow Fencing arrived. Huge number of Lorries containing hardcore were all waiting in residential streets to take turn in getting on to site (the Livery on the Lorries was Heidelburg a well know international company. Tarmac had been ordered).
Hundreds of residents turned out trying to stop it, some tried putting cars in the way. Police on site were very patient and managed it well. They advised residents against blocking the Highway.
Residents with contacts in Tarmac alerted them to their potential part in illegal development. The supplier of the fencing was also contacted.
Over the 3 days we had 4 Silver Command meetings with Police, Council and Environment Agency.
The weakness is that Police have no powers until there is a breach of an injunction.
Counsel was appointed and judge located to issue first injunction warning that continuing warning that continuation would be contempt and further action to follow. The activity continued so a second stronger injunction was sought and was delivered just after midnight on Saturday.
Residents worked in shifts throughout the night outside the site, including Town Councillors
On Sunday Police videoed the activity for evidence and employed drones. Once they had enough ,they entered the site and advised the workers that they now risked arrest and that they had until Wednesday to remove all plant from the site. Ithas now been removed. Our own HCC officer Victoria Wilders assisted East Herts as she was a former employee with contacts and experience.
The media interest has been incredible, from TV , Radio, and press owing to the achievement of doing this in 3 days. A fantastic performance by our Enforcement officers
Next steps to talk through best practice and how prevention will be key to deterring this kind of unauthorised development and destruction of nature and wildlife.
The latest update on the NPPF adds slightly greater weight when unauthorised development is deliberate. under the current National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), greater weight is specifically given against granting permission for deliberate unauthorised development when a retrospective planning application is being determined. [gov.uk], [mhclgmedia...log.gov.uk]
The key point is that:
If it is concluded, based on evidence, that the unauthorised development was intentional, that fact should be given substantial weight in deciding whether planning permission should be granted.
In practical terms:

- Accidental or mistaken breaches do not attract the same policy objection.
- Deliberate building first and seeking permission later can now carry substantial negative weight.
- The authority must still consider the development plan, Green Belt policy, amenity impacts, highways, heritage issues, and all other material considerations before reaching a decision.

Latest On Gilston Development and Highways Closures
Eastwick Road Closure: 21 September to 8 November 2026 PfP and Barratt Redrow are issuing comms to advise residents and road users that **Eastwick Road (A414) will be closed in both directions for seven weeks from 21 September until 8 November 2026** as part of the Central Stort Crossing project.
During the closure, essential utility diversion and drainage works will be carried out to prepare for the next phase of highway improvements. These works require a full road closure to ensure they can be completed safely.
A signed diversion route will be in place via **High Wych**. Drivers are encouraged to follow the official diversion route, particularly as other roadworks are taking place across the local network.
In addition to the road closure: 24-hour lane closures will remain on the A414 until early November. From 22 September, road users should be prepared for the lane closures to switch from

inside lanes to outside lanes to facilitate ongoing works.
For the latest updates: gilstonparkestate.com Causeway one.network

More than 15,371 fly-tipping incidents in Hertfordshire result in just 200 fixed penalty notices

New data presented to the Hertfordshire Waste Partnership shows that 15,371 fly-tipping incidents were recorded across Hertfordshire during 2024/25, while fewer than 200 fixed penalty notices were issued. The report found that Stevenage and Welwyn Hatfield recorded the highest number of incidents, with household waste remaining the most commonly fly-tipped material. Hertfordshire Waste Partnership representatives said incident levels have remained relatively stable compared with national trends and continue to support stronger penalties for offenders.

Gilston: First village masterplan approved garden village network

East Herts District Council has approved the masterplan and design code for the first village within the Gilston development, marking a significant milestone in the wider Harlow & Gilston Garden Town project. The plans include up to 1,600 homes, new schools, community facilities, green spaces and sustainable transport links. Hertfordshire County Council welcomed the approval, highlighting the benefits of partnership working and the delivery of infrastructure, active travel routes and greener communities alongside new housing.

20 MPH schemes

Rather than presenting a specific proposal to the community, the consultation now seeks to understand views in the community and among stakeholders on 20mph limits in their area. We will use the feedback to inform the proposed extent of new or expanded 20mph areas. This means we will be better placed to develop a scheme that responds to local factors and preferences in addition to technical and policy considerations.

Some project consultations have been brought forward and the overall consultation programme has been condensed. This will give us more time after consultation to develop a proposed scheme and continue to work with you as the local county councillor and other key stakeholders to finalise a scheme, where there is community support for it.

The table below shows the **planned start and end date for consultations** for the different areas. Consultations will be open for 4 weeks as standard.

Location	Consultation start	Consultation end
Wareside	28/09/2026	25/10/2026
Hunsdon	28/09/2026	25/10/2026
Sawbridgeworth	05/10/2026	1/11/2026

We will share details of consultation materials for your information ahead of the consultations starting.

Please see **www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/20mph** for general information on the programme. The page will be updated with links to engagement pages at the start of the consultation. Follow the links to see the format of the live consultations.

Leaflets promoting the consultation will be distributed to relevant areas. For larger schemes, we will also promote the consultation through social media and engagement with schools. Additional community engagement activity is subject to out team's availability.

County council provides nearly 60,000 bags of free salt to communities since 2018

Hertfordshire County Council's Winter Self-Help Scheme will open for applications on 1 September, giving schools, town and parish councils, district and borough councils, residents' associations and community groups the opportunity to receive free salt to help keep local roads and pavements clear during icy conditions.

Since the scheme was introduced in 2018, Hertfordshire County Council has processed almost 2,500 orders and delivered just under 60,000 bags of salt to schools, residents' groups, and parish, town and district councils across the county. That's more than 1.2 million kilograms of salt supplied to support communities during winter weather.

Schools have been among the biggest beneficiaries of the scheme, receiving almost 35,000 bags, around 60 per cent of all salt distributed through the programme. The busiest years for applications were 2019 and 2023, following significant snowfall the previous winter, highlighting the importance of preparing ahead of severe weather.

This year, eligible groups can apply for up to 20 bags of salt to use on public roads and footpaths in their local area.

Alongside the Self-Help Scheme, Hertfordshire County Council maintains almost 1,400 salt bins across the county and will continue its cycleway gritting programme this winter, helping residents travel safely whether walking, cycling or driving.

Applications for the Winter Self-Help Scheme open on 1 September and can be made via the Hertfordshire County Council website at www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/winterselfhelp

Hertfordshire secondary school applications for September 2027 now open

The new school year is just about to start so it is already time for parents and carers in Hertfordshire to start planning for next year as the application process for transfer to secondary schools opens today (Tuesday 1 September).

If your child starts secondary or upper school next year, or wishes to apply for a place at a university technical college, do make sure you apply for a place in good time.

The closing date for secondary applications is Saturday 31 October 2026 and it is vital that parents make their applications on time.

The easiest way to apply for a school place for September 2027 is to visit www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/admissions and complete the online application form.

When you apply online, you will be able to access your school offer and accept your school allocation before allocation letters are received.

Last year over 99% of parents applied this way and found the system quick, easy, and secure.

Information explaining the secondary transfer process will be circulated to families through their child's primary, junior or middle school at the beginning of September.

Before making an application, parents and carers are strongly advised to read the information on our website thoroughly and where possible, attend school open events to help them make their preferences. Information outlining all the secondary and upper open events was distributed in July and is also available on the online school directory at www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/schoolsdirectory

All the information you need to know about the secondary transfer process is available at www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/admissions

On Street Electric Vehicle charging scheme

Subject: LEVI - new and replacement sites in your Ward

Dear Councillors,

Thank you for your feedback to the recent LEVI Members Consultation.

Your inclusion in this email means that :

1. a **new site** has been located in your Ward for your consideration, and/or
2. a previously proposed site in your Ward has been excluded based on technical feasibility and/or your consultation feedback and an **alternative site** is now proposed for your consideration

Please submit your feedback, referencing the site address, to the HCC EV Strategy Team via evstrategy@hertfordshire.gov.uk and feel free to copy me in.

Hertfordshire adds 51km to public rights of way network as updated map goes online. Whether it's following an ancient Roman road, exploring woodland trails or discovering a new route close to home, residents can now access the most up-to-date picture of Hertfordshire's public rights of way network online.

The county has added a net 51km of public rights of way over the last decade, with the newly published Definitive Map and Statement recording almost 500 legal changes since 2015.

The updated online map brings together these additions and improvements, helping walkers, cyclists, horse riders and outdoor enthusiasts explore around 3,200km of routes across Hertfordshire.

Home to approximately 5,600 public rights of way, Hertfordshire's network connects towns, villages and green spaces throughout the county. Some routes follow historic Roman roads and ancient highways, including sections of the Icknield Way, one of Britain's oldest roads.

Public rights of way provide valuable opportunities for recreation, active travel and access to nature, supporting Hertfordshire County Council's commitment to helping residents lead active, healthy lives while improving access to the county's natural environment.

Interest in Hertfordshire's countryside network continues to grow, with the county's online rights of way Google map receiving 5.3 million views. The mapping layer can also be downloaded to Google Maps on mobile devices, making it easier for residents and visitors to navigate routes while out and about.

Among the new routes to discover are:

- More than 9km of new and improved rights of way on the Tyttenhanger Estate between Ridge and London Colney, including routes around Willows Activity Farm and Willows Lakes.
- A 3.5km bridleway through Hoddesdon Park Wood and Broxbourne Woods, added following evidence of longstanding public use.

- A network of well-used routes within Park Wood in St Michael Rural.
- The Old Bourne in Ardeley, described by rights of way officers as one of Hertfordshire's most challenging footpaths and a rewarding countryside walk.

The updated publication includes 96 map sheets and more than 5,000 individual path statements covering public rights of way throughout Hertfordshire. Every new or upgraded route included in the Definitive Statement has a recorded width, helping to protect and preserve public access for future generations.

Residents can view the working copy of the Definitive Map and Statement online at:

www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/row

Interactive mapping is also available through Hertfordshire County Council's Rights of Way mapping service:

https://webmaps.hertfordshire.gov.uk/row/row.htm

Ofsted praises Hertfordshire's "relentless ambition" for children and families

Children and young people in Hertfordshire are benefiting from high-quality support and care from Hertfordshire's Children's Social Care services, with Ofsted praising the county council's "relentless ambition" to help children thrive and achieve their potential. Inspectors found that children in the council's care make very good progress, with most receiving the right support at the right time.

Following its latest inspection of Hertfordshire County Council's Children's Services, Ofsted highlighted the council's strong leadership, dedicated workforce and continued focus on improving outcomes for children and families. The report recognises sustained progress since Hertfordshire's previous Outstanding inspection and praises leaders for their unwavering ambition for children and young people.

Inspectors praised the council's work to help families stay together safely wherever possible and the high-quality care and support provided to children in care. The report highlights services such as Building Bridges, which helps more children return home safely, and recognises the council's success in ensuring more children can live in stable homes close to their families, communities and support networks.

Ofsted also highlighted how children's voices are helping to shape services across the county and commended the positive culture created by leaders, where staff feel valued, supported and able to build lasting relationships with the children and families they work alongside.

The report identified a small number of areas where services can be strengthened further, including improving some multi-agency processes and expanding housing options for vulnerable care leavers. Inspectors noted that council leaders had already recognised these issues and were taking action to address them.

Eric Buckmaster September 2026

COUNCILLOR ACTIONS ARISING

Cllr Tom Payne

- Allotments (with Cllr Carrie Payne)
- Gilston development
- Blounts Lane S&V study – liaise with Cllr Eric Buckmaster and parishioner and contact Police & Crime Commissioner to see if grant funding is available
- Contact Sovereign Play re warranty on disintegrating swing seat
- Monitor play area risk items in RPII report (with Cllr Natalie Higgins)
- Removal of abandoned cars in car park
- Write to Clerk with new pay scale agreement
- Liaise with HWMH Chair to move filing cabinet to AGVH

Cllr John Andreotti

- Check winter salt needs
- HTC liaison
- Car park liaison
- Monitor playing field and open spaces issues
- Attend Police community engagement
- Liaise with HWMH caretaker the trimming of the car park hedge
- Follow up annual lease and insurance invoices sent to HTC
- Obtain quotes for removal of dead tree KGV field

Cllr Carrie Payne

- Monitor Highways issues, including parking
- Allotments (with Cllr Tom Payne)
- Order Christmas tree
- Compose tribute for Barrie Richardson and send it to Clerk

Cllr Jacqueline Jackson

- Footpaths, Public Rights of Way and accessibility matters
- Attend the next Police Cross Border meeting and report back to Council
- Follow up co-option prospects
- .gov.uk email address

Cllr Brian Sullivan

- Liaise installation of bollards along the verge of Allen's Green Village Green PLUS 3 additional bollards for KGV Field
- Liaise with police on Police Locality issues
- Liaise on Allen's Green issues

Cllr Natalie Higgins

- Monitor play area risk items raised in RPII report (when received)

Clerk

- Set up agreed bank payments
- Planning comments
- Hall booking for next meeting
- Website: upload papers; updating and email changes to .gov.uk
- Add Fireworks Code and policy to website

ALL

- Seek to find co-optees to fill vacancies
- Set up and use councillor .gov.uk email addresses

DRAFT