HILL CROOME PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at 8.00pm Monday 21st September 2026

1. Apologies - Cllr Owenson MHDC

2. Declarations of Interest – no new declarations from Councillors

3. Minutes of the last meeting held on Monday 18th May – all agreed them to be a true record and signed by the Chair

4. Councillor resignation – with immediate effect Cllr Philips has resigned pending an upcoming move away from the Parish. The Chair extended his thanks for her contribution in recent years. The recent newsletter to the Parish highlighted the need to recruit a candidate to fill the vacancy.

5. Policies and Procedures – the Policy relating to the work of the Office for the Information Commissioner is now in place. It serves to highlight where documents can be found, generally either online or within Council records.

6. Finance

a. A full reconciliation provided for Council

b. The purchase of the new litter bin for Stanks Lane – this being a retrospective approval following the generous grant received from Cllr Allen. The new bin will replace the existing dog bin and be subject to emptying by the MHDC refuse crew. All in favour.

c. Expenses/Receipts since last meeting – a full summary of the details agreed and signed for the records. In addition the ongoing expenses relating to (1) mower fuel, (2) Lengthsman and (3) the Remembrance Day Wreaths agreed in advance.

d. Budget Analysis / Update – the Clerk provided Council with an update comparison for the annual budget. The two items of note are 'Open Spaces' and 'Equipment'. The Open Spaces includes the contribution made to the Church for grass maintenance. This would be best served by moving it to 'Donations' rather than the Grass Cutting category, thereby restoring the category to within budget. The Equipment category excess is covered by the refund of the full value of the purchase.

7. The Green Project / Planter Units – the Clerk reminded Council that the current project has been running for more then eight years. In that time the cutting regime has moved from using contractors, collecting the grass in bales, then hand-cutting and now using a ride-on mower. The advantage of using a volunteer is of financial benefit but the time and effort to perform the task can be physically draining. The current situation is unsustainable long-term and alternatives are being sought. The County Council do provide an annual allowance for cutting but this would only provide 4-5 cuts during the year. We know from past experience that irregular cuts on that time scale leads to very long grass, weeds and a mass of clippings. Recent years has given us a smarter appearance and the attempt to encourage wildflowers.
Proposals – a) the creation of a 'green team' to share the workload, b) fencing the green and running sheep during the growing season, c) return to contracted cutting.
The Clerk is to approach Highways to establish if there is any mileage in proposal (2). Only then can further work be done regarding local thoughts and suggestions.

The Village Planter units took a severe hit during the hot summer. Some of the plants have expired and require update/replacement. The proposal to add soil, nutrients and new plants, agreed. A watering scheme is required to combat the problem for next year.

8. Progress reports –

1. Water Hydrant cover at Myrtle Cottage still awaiting attention – ref. Severn Trent 2007617939
2. Two recent fly-tipping issues in Stanks Lane cleared away.
3. 3-inch main on the A4104 near the green repaired.
4. The drainage work on the corner of Ash Lea and the A4101 completed.
5. Brambles at Ash Lea cut back.
6. The 'Police on speeding' action is considered inadequate and further visits are to be requested, if only in a prevention capacity. It is the only priority specified for our area.

9. Lengthsman – the Clerk to remind the Lengthsman about the gravel in the gutter along the A4104 and the weed growth. The grass on Stanks Lane to be trimmed to maintain the visibility near the blind corner.

10. Planning – the only matter relates to 4, Meadow Close and the failure to comply with the Planning as submitted.

11. Remembrance Sunday - 8th November 2026 – the recent Newsletter reminded the Parish of this event. The Clerk to arrange the wreaths and Cllr Wall will provide the music. Attendees are requested to be at the Memorial by 10.50.

12. Urgent matters at the discretion of the Chair – none reported

13. Training – Councillors reminded of the opportunities to further their knowledge.

14. District and County Council updates
Cllr Allen provided a verbal report and discussed ongoing issues. Cllr Owenson provided a written report read by the Clerk.

15. Correspondence – none reported

16. Councillor's Reports and Items for Future Agenda – meeting dates for 2027 - February 1st, April 5th, May 10th, September 20th and November 22nd all to be at 8.00pm at the Village Hall

Date of Next Meeting Monday 16th November 2026

Signed as a true record.

P. Smith 16th November 2026

…….. Date …….

P. Smith - Chairman