HILL CROOME PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at 8.00pm Monday 16th November 2026

1. Apologies - Cllr Owenson MHDC Cllr M Allen CC/MHDC

2. Declarations of Interest – no new declarations from Councillors

3. Minutes of the last meeting held on Monday 21st September – all agreed them to be a true record and signed by the Chair

4. Local Government Reorganisation – the Clerk provided an update on the recent statement from Government relating to the likely development of two Unitary Authorities for Worcestershire – North and South.

5. Councillor Vacancy/2027 Elections – the Council is still showing a vacancy and we need to find a suitable candidate. A reminder that the elections are due next year.

6. Finance

a. A full reconciliation provided for Council

b. 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 agreed in advance.

d. Budget Analysis – the Clerk provided copies of the annual budget for analysis. Questions includedthe apparent overspend on Donations and Equipment. The 'overspend' in each category has been subject to full approval of Council and is due to the nominal figures allocated to each element. This ensures that expenditure is subject to full scrutiny.

e. Annual Precept 2027/2028 – the Clerk provided Council with an appraisal of the likely changes under the Unitary Authority and the need to ensure that the precept is kept at a level able to service the Council's needs. The likelihood of requiring a paid Clerk is the biggest concern and this is to be addressed. The proposal put forward was for a further increase of £500 per annum, to show directly in the sum allocated for the Clerk's Salary. The outcome of this puts the Council in a more stable financial position were a new Clerk be required. The proposal met with full approval and the Clerk will submit the application in due course.

7. CALC – proposal to become a company – the Clerk updated Council on the proposal by CALC to become a company. The main advantage is the restriction of liability to members. The matter is currently the subject of a good deal of work and will be determined in the coming months.

8. Progress reports –

1. The new bin on Stanks Lane is working well and so far has been emptied in a timely manner.
2. Speed sign requires attention to ensure it picks up cars a little earlier. It may have been affected by strong winds.
3. The meeting was attended by PC Kevin Johns from the Local Policing Team at Upton. Whilst unexpected, his attendance was much appreciated by all Councillors. The main issues were relating to speed and wildlife crime. Council requested that we have a more regular presence with the speed gun if only to ensure uncertainty for those driving through. The final issue related to a recent bank account fraud attempt against an elderly resident in a neighbouring Parish. The next newsletter to include a reminder of what banks will and will not do.

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9. Lengthsman – the Clerk is to compile a list of regular jobs for the Lengthsman in the hope that we see consistency. The amount of funding available far outstrips the amount used and we can get more benefit.

10. Planning – no new updates available.

11. Remembrance Sunday - 8th November 2026 – a good turnout for the event and the weather held off, if a little misty. The soldier cut-outs looked very impressive in the gloom, adding to the event.

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 and Cllr Owenson provided written reports 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 1st February 2026

Signed as a true record.

…….. Date ……..
P. Smith - Chairman

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