

Hay Town Council

Hay Town Council
Council Offices
Recreation Facilities
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Minutes for the meeting of Hay Town Council on Monday 15th June 2026 at 6.00pm in the Council office, Brecon Road, Hay on Wye, HR3 5DY.

1. Apologies for absence.

Present: Cllr F Howard, (Chair) Cllr J Morgan, Cllr G Williams, Cllr A Bielski, Cllr K Elleson, Cllr G Ratcliffe

Also present: Clerk C Bunton and 2 members of the public.

Apologies for absence: Cllr W Bielska, Cllr A Powell.

2. Declarations of Interest & Code of Conduct.

GR Planning Application.

3. Questions from Members of the Public.

None

4. Minutes of the meeting dated 11th May 2026 and 14th May 2026

RESOLVED: Unanimously agreed that the minutes previously circulated of the Town Council meeting held on the 11th May 2026 and 14th May 2026 be accepted as a true and accurate record.

5. Report from County Cllr.

6. Cllr Gareth Ratcliffe Update June 2026

1. Parish Hall

Concerns have been raised regarding the potential closure of the Parish Hall. I have written to the trustees and have been invited to attend a meeting on 24 June to discuss the situation. I have also requested that a representative from Hay Town Council be invited to attend.

2. Street Bins

The issue of bins on the streets has once again been raised by residents. I have contacted Powys County Council for an update and have been advised that the matter has been discussed by the Waste Awareness Team, Waste Contracts Team, and Highways Management. However, as far as I am aware, no decision has yet been made.

3. Vehicle Speeding Concerns

I have received several reports regarding a blue car allegedly speeding around the town during the evenings. The information and vehicle details have been passed to the police for their attention.

4. Social Media Conduct

Concerns continue to be raised regarding behaviour and levels of respect on local social media platforms. I raised the issue publicly and posted on Facebook. The response received significant support, with many residents sharing similar concerns about the tone and conduct they are witnessing online.

5. Street Lighting Improvements

Last week, James and I met with the Street Lighting Officer from Powys County Council to discuss the county's street lighting improvement programme.

The project aims to modernise ageing infrastructure, improve energy efficiency, reduce carbon emissions, support dark skies and biodiversity, and ensure lighting is provided where it is needed most.

One of the most noticeable changes will be the replacement of the current bright white LED lighting with a warmer, softer orange-coloured light using a 2200K colour temperature. This is significantly more wildlife-friendly and better for dark skies than the 4000–6000K white lighting currently used in many locations.

While some residents may initially feel the new lighting appears dimmer, experience elsewhere suggests that people quickly adjust. The benefits for reducing light pollution and protecting our night skies are substantial.

The programme will also review where lighting is necessary and where it may no longer be required. Lighting will continue to be provided in towns and villages, while some remote roads, footpaths, and areas where lighting is no longer needed may see reductions. Existing lighting that was switched off in certain built-up areas may also be reinstated where appropriate.

There will also be changes to operating hours. Rather than being switched off overnight, many lights will be dimmed during quieter periods. This approach helps maintain safety while reducing energy consumption, with estimated energy and carbon savings of up to 60%.

As some columns and infrastructure are around 60 years old, additional works may be required beyond simple lantern replacements. Engineers will assess each installation individually and some temporary disruption may occur during the programme.

Residents with any questions or comments are encouraged to get in touch.

6. Hay Bridge – Bird Entrapment and Repair Works

I have received an update regarding the ongoing issues at Hay Bridge involving trapped birds.

The works are now back in hand and have been included within this year's capital programme, having unfortunately been delayed from an earlier planned schedule.

The proposed works include:

- Removal of the existing mesh that is causing pigeons to become trapped.

- Removal and disposal of guano and bird carcasses.

- Cleaning and disinfection of affected areas.

These works will be combined with identified concrete repairs to the bridge structure to improve efficiency and reduce overall costs through a single contract.

Engineers are currently obtaining prices and confirming contractor availability. A further update, including anticipated timescales, will be provided once details are confirmed.

7. Fire and Rescue Service Co-Responders

Following concerns raised locally regarding ambulance response times, particularly in rural areas, I sought clarification from the Welsh Ambulance Services NHS Trust regarding the role of Fire and Rescue Service co-responders.

The key points from their response are:

Welsh Ambulance Services works with Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service under Welsh Government guidance.

In Hay-on-Wye, Fire and Rescue co-responders are currently deployed only to out-of-hospital cardiac arrest incidents.

Co-responders are not trained or authorised to attend incidents such as chest pain, abdominal pain, overdoses, maternity emergencies, or violent incidents.

All 999 calls are clinically assessed and the most appropriate available resource is dispatched.

Co-responders are only sent where there is a proven clinical benefit and where the incident falls within their scope of practice.

The role has become more clinically focused over time, based on evidence and patient safety considerations.

There are currently no plans to expand the range of incidents attended by co-responders.

Co-responders are intended to support ambulance services rather than replace them.

I raised the issue because of increasing concerns regarding ambulance response times and the importance of ensuring rural communities understand how emergency resources are deployed and prioritised.

7. 50 years Independence of Hay.

Lyndy and Richie agreed that they are happy to take over the running. Clerk found another grant with £3k today which was shared. We need people to meet with them.

8. Place Plan.

Consultation starting on Thurs 25th June at Hay Markets Cllrs please give an hr.

9. Surveys.

Monthly estates surveys not all completed. Clerk to send GR the link. Those not done please get done in the next week.

10. Parish Hall.

Parish Hall gave 3 days notice to close. Meeting on 24th head diocese coming down, Fr David was unaware and on holiday when news broke. Two extra fire exits are not available. FH & Clerk to also attend the meeting. Chamber have been running it and taking an income from it. We need to get a full understanding before anything can be decided.

11. Martyn's Law.

New law coming into effect, Clerk attending a training session 30th month.

12. Friends of Hay Town Council.

Posters to be circulated regarding starting Friends of Hay Town Council.

Would be responsible to the Council and go through Clerk, managed through clerk, resign through clerk.

Proposed AB, seconded KE, unanimously agreed.

13. Community Group QR Code board.

In notice board is collection of QR codes of all community groups. AB to do. A3/A4 would fit in the butter market notice board. Renewed every June.

14. Haygarth Surgeries.

No reply to letter sent. 2 cllrs have recently received very prompt care.

15. In Post Lockers.

4 different possible sites proposed from the company, Council discussed various possible sites around the building. Clerk to email renter of bay 2 and offer them bay 9. GR proposed bay 1 & bay 2 be used JM seconded unanimously agreed. GW to send photos to company.

16. Lamp post signs.

After the festival, signs not being collected, GR and another resident being out collecting them, GR will ask Powys about putting signs on lampposts.

17. Open Meeting.

Discussed before we do need to do something, so hand in questions before the meeting so we can give them the

answers. Clerk to try and book the school in Oct.

GR left the room.

18. Planning Application.

Change of use for honesty bookshop and storage to become a restaurant / café. Council has requested is there are any parking considerations. Comments in by Friday.

GR rejoined the room

19. I) Policy List

Worked through list of suggested policies and agreed 30 policies to be created over the next 12 months.

II) Cash Collection Policy

KE proposed AB seconded unanimously agreed.

III) Safe Access Procedure

JM proposed GW seconded unanimously agreed.

20. Cllr Projects:

a) Play Area Team.

Haven't had a chance to meet since the last full Council. GW & Clerk have a meeting with Ben from Wicksteed on Thursday, he will prepare some pump track designs.

Gipsy Castle Wii Hooper was meant to be fixed and swing raised 1st Fri, GW to check.

b) Town Enhancements.

Bench chasing the payment, need to look at the concrete pad next to the castle, GR has found a company Clerk to get three quotes,

FH & Clerk to get QR codes.

c) Remembrance

Town Crier hat and socks to be bought

Clerk to Pay the band.

Arrange photo for hand over of lamppost poppies.

d) Oxford Road Toilets

Grant has been approved, meeting contractor tomorrow, meeting already had with Powys.

General feeling is that we will order the parts, submit and reclaim them. Question asked if Powys will be happy with we need to clarify that if we buy it we can claim the VAT back. Clerk to email Regeneration.

Intending to start the work in September. We will need to go through buildings regulations, need a call with them there is no revenue funding coming from the businesses, needs to be clear the on going costs are which covered from residents council tax.

e) Town of Culture

Update on UK Town of Culture 2028 given, new decision date end of July and council shown postcard JM designed for the online exhibition being organised by DCMS.

21. Subcommittee Reports / Minutes:

a) Finance.

i) Annual Return

Resolved: That the Annual Return, having been checked by the Internal Auditor and reviewed by the Council, was considered correct. The Council approved all statements and responses contained therein and authorised submission of the Annual Return.

Feedback from IA, now suggesting putting depreciating in Fixed Asset register, and sales invoices to be clearly sequentially numbered on the invoices as well as saved by numbers.

ii) Amazon Business Account with Prime

GW proposing that we start an amazon business account with Prime KE seconded , unanimously agreed.

- b) Estates.
 - i) Updates on Works Completed
 - Clearing fishing platform
 - Guttering & down pipes @ clock tower toilets
 - Hay Navigators & Tom cleaned up around the building
 - Red Rocket removed
 - Metro rod out again
 - Gate Brecon Road
 - ii) Biodiversity packages
 - One Voice Wales are offering various packages, if anyone has any idea please say, fencing on edge of car park etc ideas in by Thursday.
 - iii) Sport Powys – We do Tennis
 - Quick maintenance work on the tennis courts, specifically with the small trees. Clearing Wed 6pm. Cracks still need filling.
 - iv) Parking Bollards
 - Bays 3 and 4 were damaged. JM suggested a different parking bollard, bolted in the floor, locking key at the top.
 - JM proposed that we order 2 AB seconded, unanimously agreed.
 - Gliss & Pumping station
 - Planning notice is in for trimming the 2 horse chestnuts on Welsh Water land. Safety barrier has been removed. Sign already in situ that canoes can be dropped of however this is seen as ambiguous. New sign to be designed.
- c) Premises.
 - I) Clock Tower Toilets.
 - One of the handwashers is squirting water, to be swapped when Oxford Road is renovated.
 - Sun 5th July 4pm working party.
 - II) Oxford Road Toilets.
 - Nayax upgraded to 4G and now working well, some teething problems over the festival. DDA drain was blocked Metro rod visited. Now open 8am – 5pm, problems with the remote lock.
 - 24 hrs lock has been replaced. Remote operating switches in now working.
 - Ladies toilets: 2 leaks on the last day of the festival, 5 out of 6 cubicles working at the moment.
 - Stop cock is in the ATM room. Electrical inspection is still unsatisfactory,
 - III) Pavilion.
 - Insulation in the pipe blocking stopping the toilets refilling from the tank.
 - Key safe fitted as required for access to the fuse board. Clerk to sort Key.
 - End July, Prems meeting and working party.
 - FH propose get a skip. JM seconded and unanimously agreed.
- d) Light Up Hay
 - £1855 made from car parking, we had a meeting with potential installer, Tom is creating a map of socket points, All the stalls that night come in.

22. Report of the Clerk / RFO

Look at what we have achieved, very well done, almost at the end of the term. I think we can complete the current projects but not take on any more. Need to utilize Friends of HTC.

- a) Website is slowly being updated.
- b) Major Correspondence
 - i) Bench by cheese market – letter received saying bench is deteriorating, precedence already set that anyone installs a bench it is there responsibility to maintain. JM to investigate.
 - ii) Hallmark – Filming has been started, some locals are extras have requested that any left over props. Filming 4pm – 2am

iii) Pro Palestine protest

No laws broken, GR checked with police.

iv) Millbank

Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 says "Hedge trimming should be avoided during the main bird nesting season (generally 1 March to 31 August). Under Section 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, it is an offence to intentionally damage or destroy the nest of any wild bird while it is in use or being built"

Which Millbank do have permission Feb 22 they did some work back at the start of year, but not good practice, and should be doing with qualified landscaper as per original letter. JM suggest a letter be sent FH seconded and unanimously agreed.

v) Regional Cultural Strategy

All to do – all ready circulated.

vi) Community Risk Register Engagement Exercise

All to do – all ready circulated.

vii) Growing Food Locally

Letter received and discussed. Council feel that as we already have 2 community growing areas and 2 allotments Hay is already achieving this. Clerk to respond.

viii) Road Safety Community Grant – wait to see what comes out of the community consultation.

ix) Welsh Water building – Concerns have been raised to welsh water about the state of the pumping station building. Awaiting reply.

c) RFO:

i) The Schedule of Monthly Accounts was presented for consideration. It was **RESOLVED** that the Schedule of Monthly Accounts be approved. Proposed AB, seconded KE unanimously agreed.

ii) Bank Reconciliation Statement

The Bank Reconciliation Statement was presented. It was **RESOLVED** that the Bank Reconciliation Statement be approved. Proposed FH, seconded JM unanimously agreed.

iii) Invitation to tender duty of care tree survey

JM propose 3 year term. GW seconded, unanimously agreed.

23. Reports of HTC Representatives:

- a) Gwynne's Almshouses – none.
- b) Dial a Ride – given posters to share shopping buddies
- c) Dyfed Powys Police - none.
- d) One Voice Wales – none.
- e) Cheesemarket – none.
- f) BBNP – none.
- g) Chamber of Commerce – none.
- h) Hay Summer Show – bring a bottle, put a shout out on socials.
- i) Hay Primary School – none.
- j) Warren Close Allotments – none.
- k) HADSCAL – next update in Sept

24. Date and time of next meeting:

13th July 2026

Meeting Closed 8.22pm

