Minutes of the Meeting held on the 14th September 2026 at Burton Court Bilsthorpe

Present: **Steve Kemp (Chairman), Keith McAdam, Alan Ward, Jess Fletcher, Bryan Stanley, Doug Mincher and Clerk Vikki Arkell**

26.79 Apologies for absence

Apologies were accepted from Parish Cllrs; Stoneman, Jackson (Cllr Cooper's long term apology was accepted at a previous meeting)

26.80 Declarations of pecuniary and/or personal interest

Cllrs Ward declared an interest in Heritage Museum matters and Cllr Stanley for matters relating to the litter picking contract

26.81 To approve the minutes of the meeting held on the 10th August 2026

It was resolved to receive and approve the minutes as drafted

26.82 To receive updates on outstanding items (if available):

a. Boundary review request ref Mickledale Lane to A614 (SK)
   Cllr Kemp had no further updates
b. Graffiti incidents and cleaning requirements (SK
   Cllr Kemp had no further updates, Cllr Stanley will investigate a machine to remove it.
c. Village sign installation (Clerk)
   The Clerk informed the Council that the remaining sign was due to be installed by the end of the month, weather dependent.

26.83 Reports from District and County Councillors

Cllr Holloway reported that there had been further developments regarding Local Government Reorganisation (LGR).

Angela Rayner had paused work on LGR while Ministers carry out a review of the process, following challenges and requests for judicial reviews by a number of councils across the country. The review may take six weeks or longer and is expected to impact the previously proposed timetable of May 2027 for shadow elections to the new unitary authority and 2028 for the formal commencement of the new authority and cessation of Newark & Sherwood District Council.

Cllr Holloway advised that District Council elections are now expected to take place in 2027 using the existing ward boundaries. This would mean Bilsthorpe continuing to have a dedicated District Councillor from May 2027, although it is not currently known for how long. Cllr Holloway's current term of office would therefore end at this point rather than in 2028 as previously advised.

If LGR continues as expected, the likely revised timeframe would see the new unitary authority commence in 2029. It is not yet known when elections to the new unitary authority would take place.

Cllr Holloway also reported that work relating to Newark & Sherwood District Council's Five Year Housing Land Supply had been halted while the position regarding LGR remains uncertain. The Five Year Housing Land Supply identifies

whether sufficient deliverable housing sites are available within the district to meet anticipated housing requirements over the following five years.
Cllr Holloway confirmed that she would provide further updates to the Parish Council as more information becomes available.

26.84 Reports from community groups (CG), working groups (WG) and designated responsibility Cllrs (DR)

a. Speedwatch CG – **No report**
b. Flood Resilience team CG – **works that have been previously done seem to have helped.**
c. Village Hall WG - **The working group is seeking further quotes for a structural survey. The Clerk reminded the group that three quotes were required, although if only two could be obtained, this could be sufficient for the Council to decide**
d. Community Hub WG - **Funding opportunities for the Community Hub continue to be explored, with a number of funders approached and further potential funding routes being considered.**
The Football Foundation PlayZone is progressing, with the project currently being pushed forward with the aim of a January 2027 start on site. Community engagement is also being progressed as part of the Football Foundation process. The PlayZone will form part of the wider Community Hub development.
The Clerk requested approval for up to £40 for two months' use of a survey platform to support the community engagement exercise, this was approved by the Council.
e. VIA Group DR
No further updates, the group are working on coping mechanisms
f. Parks DR
Both parks are in good condition, and the vandalism has reduced significantly. The electric bikes, dogs and electric scooters are still an issue.
g. CCTV DR
No updates

26.85 Councillor Reports

Cllr McAdam **– Attended the licensing service for Revd Dr David Emerton, the new Priest-in-Charge for Bilsthorpe and Eakring, on Sunday 13 September at St Andrew's Church, Eakring. Keith commented that it had been a lovely occasion.**
Cllr Ward **– The Council discussed moving the defibrillator currently located at the pharmacy to Burton Court, due to there being a 12-month waiting list for a new defibrillator pad at Burton Court. It was noted that this would leave the pharmacy location without a defibrillator until a suitable replacement can be found. The Council also discussed whether it would be better to rent or purchase a replacement.**
Cllr Stanley **– Raised a Facebook post showing that reported crime rates in Bilsthorpe are high. However, he felt there was a positive aspect to this, as it suggests that more incidents are now being reported. He also raised concerns regarding the limit on visits to the Reclamation Waste site for commercial vehicles over 3.5 tonnes, and the potential for this to lead to increased fly-tipping.**
Cllr Kemp **– Attended Rufford Council and raised the matter with James Gamble, who is yet to respond to emails. Mick Barton had also advised that a response would be received within a fortnight, which has now elapsed. Cllr Kemp also questioned the position regarding the £5.5 million funding for the junction.**

26.86 Public questions (maximum 10 minutes)

A member of the public representing the Whippet Club attended to ask for grant funding to support the club. The Clerk offered to post a grant form to the resident to

apply for a grant. Marie Purdy thanked the Council on behalf of the fisheries for the grant towards the aerator.

26.87 Correspondence
None

26.88 To consider financial matters; to review and approve:

a. Bank Reconciliation – to be reviewed by one Councillor and signed as accurate
Cllr Kemp reviewed the bank reconciliation and signed it as accurate
b. Previous month's invoices - to be reviewed by two Councillors and signed as accurate
Cllrs Kemp and Mincher reviewed the August invoices against the bank statement. Cllr Mincher questioned a duplicate invoice from the previous month, the Clerk to investigate. All other invoices were signed as complete.
c. Budget and financial status
The Clerk highlighted projects outstanding and the Council noted the budget and financial status
d. Invoices to be paid
The Council approved the two invoices to Severn Trent to be paid
e. To note the 2026 Local Government Services Pay Agreement
The Council noted the LGS Agreement and increase in salary for the Clerks pay point.
f. Clerk to give an overview of the budget setting process
The Clerk gave a brief overview of the precept and budget setting process. The Clerk requested that draft project requests were received by the 30th September to allow the first draft of the budget to be ready for the October meeting.
g. To note the amalgamation of banks
The Council noted the amalgamation of the Coventry Building Society and Co-operative Bank. At the moment no changes are planned with the banks still being operated under different business names.

26.89 To accept the ViaEm winter assistance offer for free bags of salt and agree on how many extra to purchase at the reduced price offered
The Council resolved to accept the 5 free bags to be placed inside the Village Hall to prevent deterioration of the bags.

26.90 To confirm plans for Remembrance Day
The Council discussed wanting to go ahead with a larger parade however time constraints would not allow to do so for 2026. It was requested that the Clerk book the smaller closure as normal and add an item to the agenda in January to start planning the 2027 parade.

26.91 Summary of the meeting (time permitting, maximum 10 minutes)
None required

26.92 Date of next meeting(s): 12th October, 9th November, 14th December - To note that potential agenda items must be with the Clerk by 30th September 2026
The date was noted as the 12th October 2026

26.93 To consider and if appropriate, to pass the following resolution: That in accordance with section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960, and as extended by Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, the public, including the press, be excluded from the meeting because of the confidential nature of the following business to be transacted

It was resolved to exclude the public and press from item 26.94

26.94 To consider the request received from Bilsthorpe Heritage Museum regarding security of tenure at the Cross Street site to secure grant funding

The Council considered the request from Bilsthorpe Heritage Museum and noted that an existing 25-year lease is in place, with over 20 years remaining.

The Parish Council agreed to confirm by email that there is currently no resolution in place to sell the Cross Street site and that it supports the Museum's efforts to secure external grant funding. It was noted that the Council could not provide an absolute guarantee regarding any future decisions relating to the site.