

Chair: Cllr Toby Acton
Clerk: Bonnie Jones | Ware Farm, The Street, High Roding, CM6 1NT |
clerk@highongar-pc.gov.uk | www.highongar-pc.gov.uk

You are hereby summoned to attend
A Meeting of High Ongar Parish Council
To be held on
WEDNESDAY 9th April 2025 – at 7:30pm
at the High Ongar Village Hall

for the purpose of transacting business as shown on the agenda below.

The public and press are welcome to be present. Please note that this meeting may be recorded.



Date: 30/03/2025

AGENDA

2024/25.183 Apologies for Absence

Members are reminded that s85 of the Local Government Act 1972 states that apologies for absence must be received prior to the meeting.

2024/25.184 Other Absences

2024/25.185 Co-option of Councillor

There is currently one Councillor vacancy Paslow Common ward, and the Council is able to fill this vacancy by co-option. Councillors are asked to consider any candidates for co-option.

2024/25.186 Declarations of Interest

To declare the existence and nature of any Disclosable Pecuniary, Other Registerable Interest or Non-Registerable Interest relating to items on the agenda.

2024/25.187 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

To agree the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 12th March 2025.

2024/25.188 Public Participation Session

The Chair will invite questions and observations from members of the public present. A maximum time of 15 minutes will be allowed, with 3 minutes per person.

2024/25.189 Reports and Members Reports

- a) Chairman's Report – verbal report.
- b) Vice Chairman's Report
- c) District & County Councillors Reports - District Councillors are invited to submit a written report if they are unable to attend the Parish Council Meeting.
- d) Parish Councillors - verbal reports will be received if no written report has been submitted.
 - Ward Councillor Report – Paslow Common
 - Ward Councillor Report - High Ongar
 - Ward Councillor Report- Norton Mandeville
- e) Highways Report
- f) High Ongar Village Hall

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g) Police Reports

2024/25.190 Clerk's Report

To receive any reports from the Clerk.

2024/25.191 Millfield parking update

Councillors involved to provide an update on the above matter.

2024/25.192 VE Day commemorative event

At the previous meeting a small working group was formed to liaise regarding the organisation of a VE day event in High Ongar. An update regarding the progress of this will be provided at the meeting.

2024/25.193 High Ongar Grass Cutting

At the previous meeting Councillors felt that fortnightly cuts of various open spaces in High Ongar may not be necessary. It was requested that the Clerk advise Thornwood Ground maintenance (TGM) of the Council's budget and ask they are able to provide cuts around this. The Clerk has been in contact with TGM and the below grass cutting schedule had been informally agreed by Council:

Grass cutting locations: *Paslow Common and strim around bollards, The Allotments, Triangle Rookery Road.*

Schedule: *1 cut in March.*

2 cuts a month in April, May, June.

July and August – cut as needed due to hot and dry conditions

2 cuts in September (if needed)

1 cut in October

TGM have confirmed that they will stick to the agreed budget of £1,800 per year for grass cutting, which was previously agreed by this Council.

Council is asked to formally agree the above grass cutting schedule for 2025.

2024/25.194 Street Light – electrical testing

At the previous meeting Councillors were provided with an electrical testing report which was completed on all streetlights owned by the Parish Council in High Ongar. One unit was identified as having several very significant structural defects that affect the units continuing performance, and it was recommended that the unit was replaced as soon as is reasonably practicable. A quote for the repairs had been provided, and Councillors felt that they would like to inspect the streetlight themselves before anything is agreed. Councillors are asked to agree how they wish to proceed with this matter.

2024/25.195 Rural England prosperity fund 2025/2026

The Rural England prosperity fund for 2025/2026 is open for applications. This grant is for capital expenditure only and awards are anticipated to be from £10,000 to £50,000 with a minimum of 20% match funding or external funding added to the amount you bid for. Delivery of all projects must start immediately after the funding is received and be completed and delivering the projected benefits within a year. One of the aims of the fund is to support new and improved community infrastructure, providing essential community services and

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assets for local people and businesses to benefit the local economy. Councillors are asked to consider if they have any projects that they would like to apply for funding via the Rural England Prosperity fund.

2024/25.196 Speed sign

At the previous meeting Councillors expressed an interest in purchasing a solar speed sign. The Clerk has investigated this matter and found that the most cost effect way to install a speed sign is to apply for a License through Essex Highways. This will allow the Parish Council to procure their own speed sign as well as owning it and maintaining it in the future. This matter would still however have to be progressed via the Local Highway Panel Process.

The Clerk to provide further costings at the meeting, after which Councillors will be asked how they would like to move forward with this matter.

2024/25.197 Planning applications for consideration

There were no planning applications to consider at the time this agenda was distributed.

2024/25.198 Planning Updates

There were no planning updates to consider at the time this agenda was distributed.

2024/25.199 Finance

199.1 To note the current status of the accounts.

199.2 Clerk to provide bank reconciliation, to be reviewed and signed by the Chairman.

199.3 Closure of Lloyds account.

199.4 To agree the following payments:

Payee	Description	Method	£ (inc VAT)
Bonnie Jones	Clerks Salary - March	PAID	£499.30
Information Commissioners Office	Registration fee	PAID	£52.00
TBS Hygiene Ltd	Dog bin collection (March)	Online	£29.28
Bonnie Jones	Essex records office – payment for Paslow Common enclosure map	Online	£5.20

2024/25.200 Outstanding Matters

To note any outstanding matters.

2024/25.201 Date of the next meeting

The Clerk is on annual leave on the 14th May, which would usually be the date of the next Parish Council meeting and Annual assembly. The Clerk has enquired with the Hall as to an alternative date on the 21st May. Councillors are asked to agree a date and time for the May Parish Council meeting and annual assembly.

2024/25.202 Exclusion of the public and the press

In the event that an agenda item needs to be discussed confidentially, councillors will be asked to consider the following motion to be proposed by the Chairman: “That the public and the press be excluded from the meeting, the Council believing that publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business about to



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be discussed. However, an item may be placed in the Confidential part of the meeting so long as it is accordance with the Statutory Guidance.

Land Adjacent to 202 Nine Ashes Road, Blackmore