**HEDGE END TOWN COUNCIL - MINUTES OF A FULL COUNCIL MEETING HELD 17 DECEMBER 2025**

**Cllrs. Present:** Cllr Paul Carnell, Cllr Ian Corben, Cllr Tonia Craig, Cllr Leigh Hadaway, Cllr Keith House, Cllr John Jupe, Cllr Jim Mitchell, Cllr Ron Nichols (Chair), Cllr James Paine, Cllr John Shepherd

1. **Apologies:** Cllr Maggie Allingham, Cllr Helen Corben**,** Cllr Cynthia Garton, Cllr Cliff Morris, Cllr Derek Pretty

2. **Public Questions not on the Agenda**
   None were raised.

3. **Declarations of Interest**
   None were declared.

4. **To Receive a Police Report**
   PCSO Tracey Chilcott was not in attendance, however had sent her best wishes to Councillors and staff for a Happy and Safe Christmas. Cllrs offered their best wishes in return.

5. **To receive the Speedwatch results**
   Cllrs noted the results.

6. **To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on Wednesday 19 November 2025.**

   **RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meeting held on 19 November be confirmed with an amendment to add that Cllr Kyrle was in attendance and signed by the Chair as a correct record.**

7. **Approval to apply to the Public Works Loan Board (PWLB) for borrowing to support the delivery of Drummond Refurbishment.**
   The Clerk outlined the discussions led by the Policy & Resources Committee regarding the proposed refurbishment of the building. The Clerk has proposed a loan of £110,000 from PWLB. Councillor Ian Corben proposed that a loan of this value be applied for, noting that this amount falls within the existing budget. The proposal was seconded by Councillor John Shepherd and was approved unanimously by all councillors.

8. **To consider co-option of a Councillor for the vacancy in Berry Ward**
   Cllrs noted that there had been no applications for the vacancy and this would be left unfilled.

**9. Local Government Reorganisation Consultation**

Councillors received a briefing from EBC regarding the proposed response to the Government consultation. A draft of the EBC response, including its preferred option, has been circulated to parish councils across the borough. This draft may be used by the Policy & Resources Committee to help formulate the parish's own response at its January meeting.

Councillor Ron Nichols proposed that, given the level of engagement and detailed work already undertaken by the borough council, the EBC response should be used as the basis for the parish's submission. In doing so, it was emphasised that the parish response should clearly reflect local identity, priorities, and interests, and explicitly avoid the parish being grouped with areas of no direct relevance or connection. The proposal was seconded by Councillor Paul Carnell and was agreed unanimously.

**10. Chair's Remarks**

Councillor Ron Nichols reported, based on feedback received, that the switch-on of the lights was successful. He further reported that the Remembrance event was well attended and proceeded successfully. Councillor Craig added that Frances Welsh was delighted to have taken part in the Remembrance Parade.

**11. Resolved Items for NOTING Only:**

(a) Highways & Planning Committee – 5 November 2025
(Minute H852 and H853)
**That the Minutes of the meeting of the 5 November be received.**

(b) Policy & Resources Committee – 2 December 2025
(Minute P1491, P1492 and P1493)
**That the Minutes of the meeting of the 2 December be received.**

(c) Recreation & Amenities Committee – 10 December 2025
(Minute R584, R585 and R586)
**That the Minutes of the meeting of the 10 December be received.**

**12. Borough and County Reports**

Councillor Ian Corben noted that a HEWEB meeting was held on Monday 15 December. He reported that funding has been approved for two connecting paths on Bubb Lane to the Train Station footpath at Nelsons Gardens, and at Cheltenham Gardens, with works expected to commence in the new year.

Additional funding was granted for improvements at Norman Rodaway Pavilion, specifically for the replacement of some polycarbonate panels in the roof, at a cost of £1,890.

Funding was also approved for the replacement of doors and shutters at Turnpike Pavilion following a recent break-in, at a cost of £15,380.

Councillor Tonia Craig highlighted that county grant funding remains available for community groups, and Councillor Kyrle reported that he also has remaining funding that could be allocated.

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There being no further business the Chair closed the meeting at 19:47pm.