

The Hennys, Middleton and Twinstead Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 19th November 2025

Present:

Parish Cllrs: *Cllr D Holland (Chairman), Cllr A Scattergood (Vice Chairman), Cllr L Boydell, Cllr A Smart, Cllr S Pinelli*

District Cllr: *Cllr D Holland*

County Cllr: *none*

Clerk: *Shelley Boydell*

Members of Public: 1

MINUTES

30.2025/2026 Apologies for absence

Cllr Mo Baker, Cllr M Cracknell, Cllr A Burns.

31.2025/2026 Declarations of interest on agenda items

Cllr D Holland is both a Parish and a District Councillor, also Cllr D Holland has a pecuniary interest in item 7 c.

32.2025/2026 Approval of Minutes

All members of the Parish Council present at the last meeting were in agreement with the minutes from the last Parish Council meeting.

33.2025/2026 Public Speaking

A member of the public requested that Parish Council meeting dates and a link to the Parish Council website go into the Lookout Parish Magazine – Chairman will take this suggestion to the Lookout Parish Magazine Management Committee.

34.2025/2026 District/County Councillors Report

County Councillor Peter Schwier noted in his email giving his apologies that the updates he provides via email should be noted.

District Councillor David Holland – urges local community to consider what they would like to apply to be funded with the funding from National Grid's significant compensatory funding.

Local Government Reorganisation process is continuing and there will soon be a Ministerial "minded to" decision as to how many unitary councils will be established in Essex.

35.2025/2026 Clerks Report

Clerks report noted. PC agreed to further review of the emergency plan, including the updating of local organisation contact details, and the emergency telephone contact tree, all revisions to be completed for adoption at March 2026 meeting. PC confirmed that the Emergency Plan should be reviewed annually, starting March 2026. The Parish Council give special thanks to the Clerk, Cllr Smart, and Cllr Scattergood for all the work already done on the risk assessments, insurance and emergency plan. Cllr Scattergood and Clerk to investigate the options for insurance renewal prior to renewal on or before 1st June 2026.

36.2025/2026 Planning – Including Current Planning Applications for objection or approval

a) *National Grid Update – no update*

b) **Change of use to equestrian and construction of manege.**

*Land To The East Of Clarkes Farm Pebmarsh Road Twinstead Essex
Ref. No: 25/02147/FUL*

The Council support this application in keeping with its long-standing policy of supporting right minded development proposals submitted by parishioners.

The Hennys, Middleton and Twinstead Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 19th November 2025

37.2025/2026 Highways Issues

National Grid are working on a massive scale in this area and will be transporting very large equipment – this will include road closures, hedge removal and the creation of bell mouths for access etc to facilitate the laying of underground cables, which come on very large, heavy reels, each containing 700m – 1000m of cable.

38.2025/2026 EALC / SLCC

The PC discussed in length and agreed to review the memberships in March 2026.

39.2025/2026 Communication

Communication and emails were discussed, and the PC urge councillors to respond to important emails, including planning emails, particularly where views were sought on an issue. It was agreed that members would respond with “no comment” where a response was appropriate rather than not responding, in order for matters to be progressed in a timelier manner.

40.2025/2026 Village Items

- a) *The motorbikes on the B13 Henny / Middleton Byway were discussed. The PC reiterated the response given at the parish council meeting on 10th July 2023; dealing with this is a police matter. The Police have been made aware of this issue, and the Parish Council are unable to assist further in this matter.*
- b) *The PC agreed that Cllr Smart would be the HMTPC’s representative on the Twinstead Village Hall Management Committee.*
- c) *A new warning sign will be erected by the pond on Twinstead Village Green.*

41.2025/2026 Parish Council Finance

- a) *All payments on finance report noted.*
- b) *Asset register reviewed and agreed.*
- c) *Contractors reviewed and agreed to remain with current providers.*
- d) *Internal Auditor reviewed and agreed to remain with current provider.*
- e) *Budget overview discussed prior to being finalised at the January meeting. PC requested clerk to produce a report of the effect of the employers National Insurance increase, the projected increase in the precept, and the implications of this for a Band D household, at the January meeting.*
- f) *It was noted policies should be in a separate section of the agenda, and not in the finance section. The PC agreed that existing policies are adequate and there is no demonstrable need for new safeguarding or disability policies to supplement or extend existing statutory duties.*
- g) *Council discussed the adoption of a “virtual phone line” rather than continuing with a contract phone. The comparative costs of these will be considered as part of final budget determination at the PC meeting in January 2026, before a decision on which option to adopt going forward, is made.*

42.2025/2026 Community Funding from National Grid

Chairman urges eligible parish organisations to identify and cost suitable projects, and to apply for funding from this source, Councillors Councillors were encouraged to inform organisations within their respective parishes of this opportunity. The public consultation on how these funds should be spent ends on 28th November 2025.

43.2025/2026 Items for next agenda

44.2025/2026 Meeting Dates

15th January 2026 Parish Council Meeting, 12th March 2026 Parish Council Meeting

14th May 2026 Annual General Meeting & Parish Council Meeting, 9th July 2026 Parish Council meeting

17th September 2026 Parish Council Meeting, 12th November 2026 Parish Council Meeting