

Highnam Parish Council
Highnam ~ Linton ~ Over ~ Lassington



Dear Councillor / Resident

I hereby give notice of the Parish Council meeting that will be held in **Gambier Parry Hall**, on
20th October 2026

*Public Questions a period of no more than 15 minutes will be set aside for public question
between 7.30 pm and 7.45 pm.*

WM Barnard
Wendy Barnard
Parish Council Clerk & RFO
14th October 2026

Public Forum: A maximum of 15 minutes, 3 minutes per resident will be allowed for
questions and comments from members of the public.

1. To receive apologies for absence.
2. Members of the council are invited to declare any interest they may have in the business
set out below.
3. To allow dispensations.
4. To approve minutes of meeting held on 15th September 2026
5. To receive Reports
 - i. County Councillor
 - ii. Borough Councillor
 - iii. Parish Chair
6. Finances -To approve invoices for payment as per the Payment Schedule. (Circulated
beforehand)
7. To Consider Planning Applications received. – None Received
8. Proposal for a Further Refresh of the Highnam Parish Plan - To consider the case for
initiating a further review and update of the Highnam Parish Plan (last refreshed in 2018),
and to decide on the appropriate mechanism for exploring this project.
9. Solar Farm Community Benefits Packages – Negotiating Strategy

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- i. Approve a strong, commercial approach to negotiate community benefit packages across all three schemes, using local precedents and market evidence.
- ii. Grant delegated authority to the Chair, Vice-Chair, and Clerk to immediately progress these negotiations as a priority, tailored to each developer's timeline.
- iii. Maintain strict confidentiality regarding negotiating tactics and parameters to protect the Council's commercial position.
- iv. Require regular progress updates to the full Council, which remains the ultimate and final decision maker on all binding agreements.

10. Vehicle Activated Signs (VAS) report.

11. To elect/nominate two parish councillors to represent Highnam Parish Council on the Highnam Community Centre Trust.

12. Clerk Correspondence

Date of next meeting 17th November 2026
Gambier Parry Hall @7.30pm

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Parish Plan

Case for a further Refresh

Agenda Item 8

Background: The original Plan was adopted by the Council in 2007. Unfortunately, little work was undertaken on ensuring its implementation. In Spring 2017 therefore the Council decided to refresh the Plan and embarked on an extensive round of local consultation, including presentation events. Over 400 responses were received. These were independently analysed by students from the University of Gloucestershire. The results formed the basis of the 2018 Refresh Plan, see attached.

The preparation of the Plan was built around three generic themes of Community, Environment, and Leisure developed by three working parties comprising lead parish councillors and volunteer residents. It was an excellent example of effective community engagement and set the tone and a vision as to how the community wished to develop and evolve. Its subsequent implementation was overseen by a Programme Board. It provided the main vehicle for deploying the £256,000 funding secured under the Lassington Reach Sec 106 Agreement. Regular progress updates were provided to the Council.

Case for a further Refresh: The following summarises the case for considering a review:

- *Passage of Time:* - Most work on this plan was undertaken in 2017. By next year it will be ten years since this last work. The world has moved on in the intervening period. Since then, new perspectives, priorities, demands, and pressures have emerged; the Lassington Reach development has been completed; the Bromford Housing scheme is on the horizon; solar farm proposals have emerged; and the Strategic Local Plan continues its passage through the democratic process.
- *New Faces:* Since the last Plan was completed there has been a virtual complete turnover of parish Cllrs except for the chair. Residents have moved in, moved on, matured and may have changed their ideas and aspirations for the village.
- *Sec 106 monies:* Funding from the original Agreement have now been fully expended.
- *New Sec 106 Funding:* @ £60,000 will come available under the Bromford Housing scheme within, probably, the next two years once half the new housing is available for occupation.
- *Community Benefits Packages-* certainly from the approved Lassington solar farm scheme, and, possibly from other similar schemes if approved. These could amount to relatively significant large sums of money and would come on stream once these schemes start producing power.
- *Other Funding:* - In addition, there are a range of other sources of grant funding available both nationally and locally which could be pursued should the need for funding be identified. As has been said many times previously, our case for funding would be enhanced if we were able to demonstrate “oven ready” projects and possible match funding. A Refreshed Plan

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static statement representing a specific period. It lends itself, indeed was designed, to be periodically reviewed and updated.

Current Position: The 2018 Plan comprised 25 Actions. Quick analysis reveals 13 of these have been completed; little or no work has been done on a further 8; and 4 are in hand or relate to ongoing initiatives. It would be instructive to review this progress in more depth.

Way Forward: I suggest this matter be remitted to the Council's Projects Committee with an initial Brief to determine whether a case can be made for a further review. If such a case can be made a Project Brief to determine the terms of reference, scope, timeframe, and resources required for a Refresh should be prepared for the Council to consider.

Summary: - A Refreshed Plan would provide powerful evidence of future community needs and would immeasurably strengthen our negotiating position when dealing with developers.

Cllr Charlie Coats - Chair HPC 12.10 2026