

Petition for a Community Governance Review for the Establishment of a New Parish Council for the Rural Settlement of Ratcliffe Culey, Separating from Witherley, Fenny Drayton and Atterton

Petition to Bill Cullen, CEO, HBBC and Stuart Bray, Leader of the Council.

We, the undersigned, request that HBBC separate the rural hamlet of Ratcliffe Culey, from the Witherley Parish Area. Attached maps show the parish ward boundaries.

Residents are not happy that there is now a significant risk that we will lose our local amenities, eg, the parks and services, because Witherley Parish Council's insurers have declined to offer to renew the council's insurance in March 2026. The Insurers decision was communicated to the council following notification of changes to the makeup of councillors after the July 25 election period concluded. The reasons for the decision have been outlined, together with confirmation that the insurer obtained advice from its in-house legal team.

We call on Hinckley & Bosworth Council to:

1. Remove Ratcliffe Culey from the parish area of Witherley Parish Council before the 31st March 2026
2. Form a new Parish Council for the settlement of Ratcliffe Culey with five elected representatives.
3. The new Parish Council to have a new name.

Ratcliffe Culey is a hamlet and has, for years, been treated as a poor relation within the Witherley Parish Council area. In May 2024 a Tribunal found that the council in post before May 2023 had met the threshold for Contempt of Court, by failing to publish documents in accordance with the requirements of the Environmental Information Regulations 2004. As of Oct 2025, no other insurance company, that has been approached, will offer cover.

We are not prepared to allow our parks and services to be paused because Witherley Parish Council will not be able to function. We request our own Parish Council and understand that new councillors will need to be elected. We understand that HBBC will allocate a proportionate balance of the precept held by the current council.

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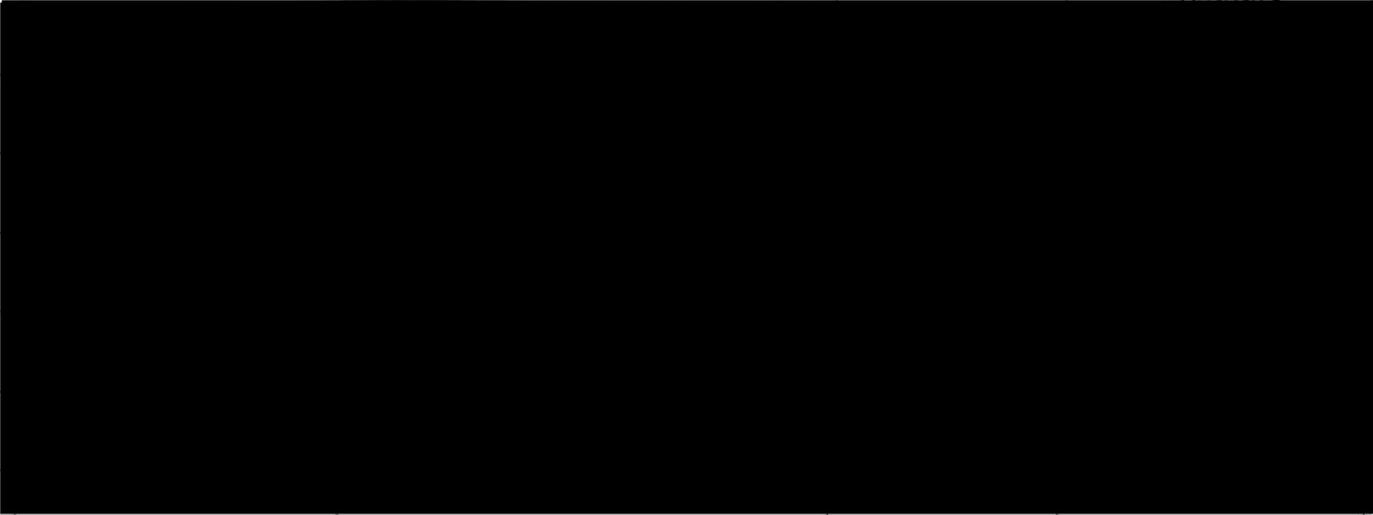
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