

HEMINGFORD ABBOTS PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

Time: 7 pm Date: Monday 23rd February 2026.

Venue: Hemingford Abbots Village Hall, High St, Hemingford Abbots, PE28 9AH.

Present:

HAPC Councillors: Marcus Whewell, Chair, Rie Hargreaves, Eddie Halls and Richard Chamberlain.

CCC Councillor: David Keane

Members of the Public: 4



Public participation

Agenda item 147 (d), the applicant handed out images of the tree and told the PC that the tree had a badly split trunk and according to the previous HDC Tree Officer the tree would be unsafe within the next 4 years.

A member of the public asked what could be done to prevent water pooling on the High Street near to the junction of Royal Oak Lane. Water is being thrown up against her property wall as cars drive through the pooled water. This has resulted in the external wall becoming saturated and the dampness inside the cottage has caused mould to form. This has been reported to Highways but the member of public was advised the issue should be handled at local level. Cllr DK offered to investigate and speak to the correct person at CCC.

Cllr RC encouraged everyone to report potholes after his recent success with Highways. He has received a timely email from Highways confirming the potholes on Royal Oak Lane had been recorded on their system for repair.

2025-2026	Minutes	Meeting opened 7 pm
140	Apologies for absence Apologies received and accepted from HAPC Cllr. Shaun Reinson and all HDC Councillors.	
141	Councillors' Declarations of Interest Cllr MW stated that he will step out of meeting during the discussion on item 147a, as the property belongs to his direct neighbour.	
142	Reports from County and District Councillors. Cllr David Keane gave a summary of his recent engagements: - The Environmental and Green committee are working with The Great Ouse Valley Trust. - The CCC Budget was agreed on the 10/2/26 (a 4.99% rise), 2 % was allocated to adult care. - Work on potholes across the county is underway. Additional resources have been assigned (3 x as many people have been employed to carry out the repairs). Cllr DK requested that everyone should report pot-holes, and to use the emergency pothole line should the potholes be dangerous. Cllr MW asked if a claim process exists once a pothole had been reported. Cllr DK confirmed there is a claims process in place if a vehicle is damaged by a pothole, but claims would only be considered if the pothole had been reported to, and confirmed by CCC. - Local Government Reorganisation public consultation is open. Cllr DK believes that Option E is the best solution for residents. - Elections are going ahead in May. - The A141 improvement consultation is going to the CPCA transport committee on the 4/3, results to follow. - Bellway Homes have re-submitted plans to build up to 300 houses in St. Ives. Q. Cllr MW asked about the claims process for damage to vehicles that had been caused by potholes. Cllr DK will confirm the claims process. Q Cllr MW asked about the LGR public consultation and Cllr DK confirmed he would be willing to help the PC should a decision be made to hold an open meeting for the Parish. It is noted that there is a short window in which to organise this. Q. Cllr MW asked if there would be any benefit to the general public in attending the CPCA meeting, particularly as it is stressful for some parishioners. Cllr DK said he doesn't believe there is any option for public feedback.	

143	Presentation by Tom Mosher, HAPC Tree Warden The following action was taken after the last PC meeting. - TM has contacted HDC regarding the marked-up trees along Rideaway. Highways confirmed that pruning and removal of tree works is likely to take place on the 11 March, and will last for approximately 3 days. This will coincide with the road closure for resurfacing from the A1307 which is due to start on the 7 March and end on the 22 March 2026. - Trees that are painted X means they will be felled, those painted O means they will be pruned. - A tree-lined area which sounds to be adjacent to Hemingford Park will be crown lifted to 5.5 metres, (this is the target clearance for this type of byway), - Highways understand the amenity value/conservation area and will target trees have died or have the potential to cause a risk to the highway, - Closer to the A1307 and the golf club, dead matter/overgrowth/scrub/brambles will be searched and cleared. - A TPO search has been carried out to ensure no TPOs are affected (e.g. those at Park Lodge) - There are likely to be barren patches at the entrance to Hemingford Abbots after the works have been completed. - Tom asked Highways about the village replanting some trees. Highways Green Infrastructure Officer will confirm if this is something we can organise. - East Side Common / Godmanchester. A councillor at Godmanchester Town Council is a botanist and they have agreed to speak to someone at the District/County Councils about the Grey Poplar Tree that is in need of attention. GTC don't have a full-time tree officer. Cllr MW suggested that he and Tom attend a Godmanchester Town Council meeting to foster a closer working relationship. - Tom met Neil Smith, the Chief Arborist at HDC and they agree to walk the village so that Neil could gain an understanding of the position of the village (flood plain etc.). - Cllr MW thanked Tom for all his support.
144	Report by Anne-Marie Farmer, HAPC Footpath Warden and proposal to consider updating and printing the Footpath Guide and replacing kissing gates 3 & 4. Anne-Marie told the PC that little had changed to the footpaths since her last report. Most footpaths are in good order. The stile at the end of Common Lane has a leg that has rotted away at ground level. The style is still safe to use, with care, but needs to be repaired. Clerk to arrange for DC to quote for the repair. There is some damage to the gate at Footpath 3 (near to the Pavilion). Significant work has been undertaken by Kate, the owner of two miniature ponies in the field next to the Common; however the metal farmer's gate on Footpath 4 is damaged and difficult to open. The Farmer would like to replace two stiles and a metal gate with three Kissing Gates on Footpath 4. He has asked if the PC would be willing to buy the gates to improve the footpaths for walkers. Clerk to provide information on the cost of the Kissing Gates for the next meeting. Resolved to continue using the existing footpath leaflets at there are no significant changes. Proposed by Cllr RC, seconded by Cllr RH, all in favour. Cllr MW thanked Anne-Marie Farmer for her report and also for her work in keeping the village free from litter.
145	<u>Minutes of the previous meeting</u> Resolved to approve the Minutes of the PC meeting held on Monday 26th January 2026. Proposed by Cllr RH, seconded by Cllr EH all in favour.
146	<u>LGR Public Consultation</u> Consider holding a public meeting to promote a response to LGR proposals. Cllr DK confirmed dates he would be available to attend the meeting should it be possible to arrange before the deadline. Resolved to enquire if the village hall's large room was available before the consultation deadline. Proposed by Cllr RC, seconded by Cllr RH, all in favour.

147	<u>PLANNING</u> <u>NEW PROPERTY</u> a) Cllr MW removed himself from the meeting 26/00159/LBC Abbots Barn High Street, Hemingford Abbots, PE28 9AH. Internal reconfiguration including a new roof covering with rooflights and some minor external fenestration changes. Respond to HDC by 27/2/26. Resolved neither for nor against this planning application, Proposed by Cllr RC, seconded by Cllr EH, all in favour. b) 26/00158/HHFUL Abbots Barn High Street Hemingford Abbots PE28 9AH. Internal reconfiguration including a new roof covering with rooflights and some minor external fenestration changes. Respond to HDC by 27/2/26. Resolved neither for nor against this planning application. Proposed by Cllr RC, seconded by Cllr EH, all in favour. c) 26/80025/COND 6 River Meadow Hemingford Abbots Huntingdon PE28 9AY. Proposal Discharge condition 6 (Biodiversity Method Statement) of permission 24/00884/FUL. HAPC was not asked to comment. <u>NEW TREES</u> d) 26/00160/TRCA Hummingbird 52 Common Lane Hemingford Abbots Huntingdon PE28 9AW. Proposal: Cedar - Fell Tree is close to the house and boundary fences. It is approx. 11m in height and therefore poses a threat to the property, which is causing us great concern. The tree has NO amenity value as it cannot be viewed from any public areas (i.e. the road / Common Lane). Note the land behind the property (Hemingford Meadow) is a large privately-owned field with no public right of way. HAPC was not been asked to comment. <u>APPROVED TREES - NOTED</u> e) 26/00143/TRCA 30 Common Lane Hemingford Abbots Huntingdon PE28 9AN. Proposal T1 Cypress, reduce T2 Cherry tallest stem to 5m, cut back 2x T3 Cypress overhang by 2 - 2.5m, fell T4 Ash Sapling, cut back T5 Ivy covered Hawthorn overhang by 1m, cut back T6 Cypress overhang by 2 -2.5m, cut back T7 Prunus overhang by 2.5 -3m, and reduce T8 Yew height by 1.5 -2m and spread on all sides by 1.5m. f) 26/00026/TREE Rose Cottage Royal Oak Lane Hemingford Abbots Huntingdon PE28 9AF. Proposal T1-4 - Beech tree x4: Crown raise to 5m (TPO L/TPO/002).
148	<u>Finances / Contracts & Membership Subscriptions</u> a) Resolved to approve a Grant of £100 to The Hemingford Abbots Lunch Club. Proposed by Cllr RH, seconded by Cllr EH, all in favour. b) Resolved to approve and pay the invoices for February (salaries, standing orders and DDMs for payment as listed at the end of the agenda). Proposed by Cllr RC, seconded by Cllr EH, all in favour. c) Resolved to approve the January bank reconciliation. Proposed by Cllr MW, seconded by Cllr RH, all in favour. d) Noted that the fixed interest savings account was opened on the 28/1/26 for a period of 6 months. The period will end on the 27/7/26. The rate of interest is fixed at 3.45%. An amount of £85,000.00 was transferred from the instant access savings account into the new fixed interest account. e) Resolved to renew the PC's insurance with Zurich. Proposed by Cllr RC, seconded by Cllr RH, all in favour.
149	<u>Update on Training / Meetings and or Training attended</u> Feedback from all Councillors. The Parish Clerk was asked to re-send the online courses to Cllr EH.
150	<u>Meeting Closed at 8.05 pm</u>
151	<u>Date of the next Meetings:</u> Monday 23 rd March 2026 at 7 pm in the Village Hall, High Street, Hemingford Abbots PE28 9AH.

PAYMENTS 148 (b)

BACS ✓	4000 Staff Costs				
BACS ✓	4060 Clerk's Expenses				
BACS ✓	4055 Reimburse Clerk for Office equipment from TG Jones	1 homefile, 1 box file, 2 black ringbinder folders	£ 40.48	£ 8.10	£ 48.58
BACS ✓	4305 The Hemingford Lunch Club	Grant towards insurance (funded from Projects)	£ 100.00		£ 100.00
BACS ✓	4070 Great Ouse Valley Trust	Annual subscription	£ 40.00		£ 40.00
BACS ✓	4250 K&M Lighting Ltd.	Repair to streetlight 802, Chapmans - broken door	£ 80.00	£ 16.00	£ 96.00
BACS ✓	4250 K&M Lighting Ltd.	Service Contract renewal (year 1 of a 3 year contract)	£ 469.20	£ 93.84	£ 563.04
			£ 1,301.24	*£ 117.94	£ 1,419.18
DDM	4250 Yu Energy Direct Debit Mandate	January supply of electricity	£ 222.44	£ 11.12	£ 233.56 *
			£ 1,523.68	£ 129.06	£ 1,652.74