

HEMINGFORD ABBOTS PARISH COUNCIL

Draft Minutes of the Full Meeting of the Parish Council

Held on Monday 27th April 2026 at 7 pm in the Hemingford Abbots Village Hall,
High St, Hemingford Abbots, PE28 9AH.



PRESENT:

Councillors: HAPC, Marcus Whewell, Richard Chamberlain, Rie Hargreaves, Eddie Halls, Shaun Reinson. CCC, David Keane. HDC Sarah Conboy.

Members of the Public: 5

2026-2027	Minutes	Meeting opened 7 pm
1	Public Participation A member of the public asked why this year's council tax increase includes a charge for the Tiger Bus service when the Tiger Bus does not cover the Hemingford Villages. Cllr MW thanked the MOP and advised that this was on the agenda for discussion this evening.	
2	Apologies for absence. Apologies received and accepted from HDC Cllr. Brett Mickelbrough.	
3	Reports from District and County Councillors. Cllr Sarah Conboy (HDC): HDC have submitted further supporting information to central government regarding the Local Government Reorganisation Option E (Huntingdonshire as a stand-alone authority). A decision is expected by the end of July. RAF Wyton, is now the head-quarters for space intelligence. This will be a combined intelligence force (Navy/Army/Airforce). It is planned to grow the Geo-Spatial intelligence / TECH community for the UK's national defence. There are plans to increase housing in North Huntingdonshire to support the new service based at RAF Wyton. To support growth in the area Project 'Fairfax' (upgrading of the A1198) has been and continues to be worked on to improve links into the area. It is expected that further financial support will be needed from central government. Cllr RC asked if security around the area would need increasing and Cllr SC said that there were already good levels of security. The Local Plan is being worked on, which will help counter 'tilted-balance'. The Great Ouse Valley Trust's Arkwood Report has received funding and support from HDC and although it is felt that there is an economic benefit for the recommendations, other organisations may be a better partner for the GOVT, such as the Combined Mayoral Authority. Cllr David Keane (CCC): Highways have carried out numerous fixes, including Rideaway and Harrison Way (CCC have undertaken the work for safety reasons). The results from the consultation on the roads into St. Ives is expected to be published around September. CCC has put road markings for the installation of an additional drain near the High Street/Royal Oak Lane junction. CCC's procurement committee is divesting themselves of assets (such as the piece of land next to H/Grey School). A new Zebra crossing has been placed near to SILVACO offices to accommodate an increase in private homes and offices which are being built in the area. There will be no cycle route through the gardens of Hemingford Abbots residents' gardens. A MOP asked if CCC is saying that the cycle path will not be built over the meadow? However, Cllr DK said he was not able to confirm this at present. He is liaising with the cycle group to encourage them to upgrade the existing cycle routes. A MOP said that they had serious concerns about the amount of money being spent on the hiring of external consultants who are based far away from Huntingdonshire and are using out of date records on which to base their recommendations. Cllr DK explained that the external consultants are being managed by the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority. Cllr MW also voiced concern over the amount of money that had been spent on the cycle-route project, which may run into tens of millions of pounds more and still not go ahead. A MOP asked who owns the Market Place St. Ives, as his car had been damaged by the deep potholes at the entrance to the car park. Cllr SC said she would report the potholes.	

4	Tree Officer Update and Proposal to create a joint environmental working group with Houghton & Wyton and Hemingford Grey. Lucas from Houghton and Wyton gave an update on a recent meeting with Tom Mosher and Cllr MW regarding the negative impact Ivy was having on local trees. It was suggested, with agreement from the nearby parishes of Houghton and Wyton and Hemingford Grey, that the creation of a multi-working group of volunteers could help to manage the ivy and reduce the threat to trees. Tom Mosher has made a list of trees in the village which would benefit from having a TPO placed on them due to their prominence/age/importance to the village. Tom has emailed the PC with his suggestions and asked that we let him have our thoughts and to notify him of any other trees the PC feels should be included. The HDC Tree Officer has been supportive. Cllr EH asked if HAPC might encourage people to plant more trees. Cllr MW thanked everyone for their hard work and input into preserving the health of our trees and he will confirm the next steps for the volunteer group and TPO project at a future meeting.
5	<u>Tiger Bus Route</u> Noted: HGPC is happy to make a joint presentation to ask that the Tiger Bus route is altered to include both the Hemingford villages. Picking up from the public participation session, HDC Cllr SC agreed to contact the person responsible for the Tiger Bus route at Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority to find out why both villages were missed off the route.
6	<u>Councillors' Declarations of Interest</u> None.
7	<u>Minutes of the previous meeting and Matters Arising</u> Resolved to agree and approve the minutes from the Parish Council meeting held on the 23rd March 2026. Proposed by Cllr SR, seconded by Cllr RC, all in favour.
8	<u>Planning Applications & Appeals</u> NEW (Property) a) 26/000598/OUT 5 Common Lane Hemingford Abbots Huntingdon PE28 9AN. Outline application for the erection of 2 dwellings. Received: Fri 27 Mar 2026, Validated: Fri 27 Mar 2026. 30/4/26 deadline. Resolved to recommend refusal of this planning application for the following reasons: The proposal would consist of in-depth development that would fail to respect and harmonise with the prevailing and distinctive linear pattern of development on Common Lane to the detriment of the character of the area, and it would cause significant harm to the semi-rural character of the Conservation Area. In addition, this would represent considerable development in an area designated as flood zone 2. Finally, we noted that several of the supporting documents are out of date (such as the flood risk assessment) and so may not contain accurate up-to-date information. Proposed by Cllr RH, seconded by Cllr RC, all in favour NOTED APPROVED (Property and Trees) b) 26/80025/COND 6 River Meadow Hemingford Abbots Huntingdon PE28 9AY. Discharge condition 6 (Biodiversity Method Statement) of permission 24/00884/FUL. c) 23/00627/OUT Land Between Houghton Grange and The How Houghton Road Houghton. Outline planning permission with all matters reserved for the construction of up to 120 homes (Use Class C3) with associated public open space, landscaping, play areas, surface water attenuation, roads, car parking, pedestrian and cycle routes, utility infrastructure and associated works. d) 26/00114/HHFUL 5 River Meadow Hemingford Abbots Huntingdon PE28 9AY. Glass box extension to replace existing conservatory and redesign of landscaping. e) 26/00370/TRCA 66 Common Lane Hemingford Abbots Huntingdon PE28 9AW. Fell 3x T1 Willow, T2 Laburnum T3 Conifer. f) 26/00456/TRCA 41A Common Lane Hemingford Abbots Huntingdon PE28 9AW. G1 4x dead Birch: remove close to ground level T1 Willow-Leaved Pear: remove close to ground level g) 26/00377/5DAY Haysel Cottage Manor Lane Hemingford Abbots Huntingdon PE28 9AJ. Proposal: 5 DAY NOTICE - Removal of fallen tree. HAPC has not been asked to comment. h) 26/00541/5DAY 13 Rideaway Drive Hemingford Abbots Huntingdon PE28 9AQ Proposal T1 Crack-Willow at rear of garden. Remove one snapped branch at 5m over garden. i) 24/02200/TRCA Littlecote Rideaway Hemingford Abbots Huntingdon PE28 9AG. Remove x3 lime trees leaving the stumps ground level & x1 silver birch leaving the stump ground level. Re-pollard additional x3 lime trees to previous pollard points. j) 26/00514/TRCA Barn Hall Rideaway Hemingford Abbots Huntingdon PE28 9AG. T1 Weeping Willow - re-pollard to previous pollard points, reduce by 8-10m. k) 26/00506/TRCA 7 Common Lane Hemingford Abbots Huntingdon PE28 9AN. T1 Holly tree – remove. l) 26/00445/TRCA Riverside Church Lane Hemingford Abbots Huntingdon PE28 9AL. 1x Weeping Willow - Crown Reduce by 3m and crown raise to 3m.

m)	26/00346/TRCA 60 Common Lane Hemingford Abbots Huntingdon PE28 9AW. Multi-stemmed willow tree - to reduce height to approx. 1.5m. The tree shows fungal growth and fire damage from nearby fire pit. The tree is to be reduced for safety issues.
n)	NOTED NEW (TREES) 26/06577/TRCA 8 Chapmans Hemingford Abbots Huntingdon PE28 9AU. Proposal: cut back dogwood tree to reduce and thin crown by 20-25%. HAPC was not asked to comment.
o)	26/00657/TRCA 44 Common Lane Hemingford Abbots Huntingdon PE28 9AN. Proposal: T1 Weeping Willow -reduce to pollard at 2m. HAPC was not asked to comment.
p)	26/00541/5DAY 13 Rideaway Drive Hemingford Abbots Huntingdon PE28 9AQ. 1 Crack-Willow at rear of garden Remove one snapped branch at 5m over garden. HAPC was not asked to comment.
q)	NOTED REFUSED PLANNING (TREES) 25/00993/TRCA 76 Common Lane Hemingford Abbots Huntingdon PE28 9AW. Beech - Remove limbs, lift canopy by 2.7m clearance.
r)	26/00160/TRCA Hummingbird 52 Common Lane Hemingford Abbots Huntingdon PE28 9AW. Cedar - Fell Tree. It is close to the house and boundary fences. It is approx. 11m in height and therefore poses a threat to the property.
9	Finances
a)	Resolved to renew HAPC's membership of CAPALC (£393.39 inc. of Data Protection cover). Proposed by Cllr MW, seconded by Cllr EH, all in favour.
b)	Resolved to authorise the payment of invoices for April (salaries, standing orders and DDMs for payment as listed at the end of the agenda). (Appendix 2). Proposed by Cllr RH, seconded by Cllr RH, all in favour.
c)	Resolved to approve and accept the Q4 bank reconciliation and end of year Budget Report. Proposed by Cllr SR, seconded by Cllr EH, all in favour.
d)	Annual Governance and Accountability Return 25/26
i)	Resolved to accept the Internal Auditor's report. Proposed by Cllr RC, seconded by Cllr RH, all in favour.
ii)	Resolved to agree the Annual Governance Statement (Section 1 of the Annual Return). Proposed by Cllr EH, seconded by Cllr RH, all in favour.
iii)	Resolved to approve the Annual Governance Statement. Proposed by Cllr MW, seconded by Cllr RC, all in favour.
iv)	Resolved to agree the Accounting Statements (Section 2 of the Annual Return). Proposed by Cllr SR, seconded by Cllr RC, all in favour.
v)	Resolved to approve the Accounting Statements. Proposed by Cllr RH, seconded by Cllr RC, all in favour.
vi)	Resolved to agree that the Accounting Statements were signed and dated by the Chair Marcus Whewell during the PC meeting. Proposed by Cllr RH, seconded by Cllr EH, all in favour.
vii)	Resolved to agree the period for the exercise of public rights as Wednesday 3 June 2026 and ending on Tuesday 14 July 2026 . Proposed by Cllr EH, seconded by Cllr SR, all in favour.
viii)	Resolved to appoint CAPALC as Internal Auditor for Financial Year 2026/27. Proposed by Cllr MW, seconded by Cllr RC, all in favour.
10	Feedback on the Litter Pick. Cllr MW expressed his thanks to all who volunteered for the village litter pick.
11	Repair to Footpath 4 update (Clerk). The Clerk explained that no further action has been taken yet as Dave Cook expressed his concern for safety about placing a Kissing Gate at the start of Footpath 4. The Clerk was asked to contact Anne-Marie in order to arrange a meeting with her and the Councillors/DC/Clerk and land owner.
12	COVID Remembrance Event HDC are offering PCs and TCs £250 to fund or part fund a commemorative event or activity at a time that best suits their community. Consider whether HAPC should host, or co-host an event with Hemingford Grey Parish Council. Resolved for HAPC to apply for the grant and to liaise with Hemingford Grey PC. Proposed by Cllr RH, seconded by Cllr SR, all in favour.
13	Meetings / Training attended. Cllr MW attended the Great Ouse Valley Trust meeting. The Trust is doing important work to enhance the local environment and they have the support of HAPC.
14	Matters for future PC meetings. Feedback from the Annual Parish Meeting.
15	Closure of the Meeting The meeting closed at 8.30 pm
16	Date of the next Parish Council Meeting (<i>The Annual Parish Council Meeting</i>): Monday 26th May 2025 at 7 pm in the Village Hall, High Street, Hemingford Abbots PE28 9AH.

The Annual Parish Meeting will be held in the Hemingford Abbots Village Hall on Wednesday 20th May, starting at 7 pm. The meeting is expected to last approximately 2 hours. Refreshments will be provided.

Payments for April (9b)

[illegible]