

HEMINGFORD ABBOTS PARISH COUNCIL

Draft Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council

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



PRESENT:

HAPC Councillors: Marcus Whwell, Shaun Reinson, Richard Chamberlain, Livia Poelking and Rie Hargreaves.

District and County Councillors: HDC Cllr Brett Mickelburgh and CCC Cllr David Keane.

Clerk: M. Blewett.

Public: 3.

2026-2027	Minutes	Meeting opened 7 pm
53	<u>Public Participation</u> HGPC Cllr A. Meridith spoke about Tarmac's intentions to sell-off Marsh Lane Lakes, an Asset of Community Value situated in Hemingford Grey. Because the Lakes are registered as an AoCV, a moratorium is in place, meaning that no other buyer can put in a bid until 7/1/27. HGPC plan to set up a Steering Group made up of residents and Cllrs who will gather more information, carry out consultations and, if necessary, raise funds for the purchase. Two public meetings are to be arranged in September, hopefully at the Pavilion. HGPC are looking for volunteers with planning / finance / legal experience from the Hemingford villages. Tarmac have not yet set a purchase price, or made its intentions clear whether the land is to be sold for building purposes, or continue as a nature reserve. HDC Cllr BM suggested the Steering Group look at the Local Plan, specifically on biodiversity net-gain (as once BNG is agreed the land cannot then be built on for 50 years).	
54	<u>Apologies for Absence</u> Apologies received and accepted from Cllr Eddie Halls.	
55	<u>Councillors' Declarations of Interest</u> None.	
56	<u>Minutes of the previous meeting</u> Resolved to approve the minutes from the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 22 nd June 2026. Proposed by Cllr RC, seconded by Cllr SR, all in favour.	
57	<u>Reports from District and County Councillors</u> CCC Cllr David Keane's full report is available within the 'Minutes' section of the HAPC website. Cllr DK said that in the Autumn we will know if a cycle route will come through the Hemingford meadow. The bus consultation finishes at 5 pm 28/7/26. PCs are encouraged to submit their thoughts about having a bus route coming through the Hemingford villages. HDC Cllr Brett Mickelburgh reported that Central Government deferred an announcement on the decision for the new unitary authority, which was expected in July. Option D's boundaries may be modified to what was originally proposed. HDC employees are under enormous pressure and the Head of Service jobs are at risk of redundancy. It is expected that 80% of staff will keep their jobs after LGR. The LGR option for HDC should be known by the end of October. Carter Jonas has made a planning application on behalf of their anticipated client to build 1400 new homes near to Godmanchester, which without the new Local Plan being in place may be approved under tilted balance. The proposals include facilities that Godmanchester Town Council are looking for. Central Government has decided that any building plan involving 250 houses must go through CG. New house builds of 10 or fewer will not need to go to DMC. There is a new law that now requires only 13 Councillors to sit on a DMC. A member of the public asked why a new Local Plan was needed when the original went to 2036. Cllr BM responded that this had to be re-done due to Westminster having increased the number of new homes	

	needing to be built. If houses are planned in the new Local Plan the Planning Authorities won't be at the mercy of tilted balance. Cllr MW asked for an update on 'Pause the Plan'. Cllr DK put the motion to CCC and he said that it is up to members of the council to decide on whether to put the new LP forward. Councillors need to fully understand why and what they are voting for. CCC must also look at how infrastructure is funded. There are concerns about how to get across the river and it seems that this isn't being fully considered. Planners are working on the new Local Plan communication (including the supporting infrastructure) which will be easier for the public to understand. It is hoped this will be ready by September. shared Cllr MW suggested that there should be a face-to-face consultation/public meeting to explain to the public what has been proposed. Cllr BM stated that any comments people wish to make on the LP will be shared directly with the Inspectorate and not HDC. Cllr BM said that after a planning peer review, HDC were informed that they carried out some of the best public consultations in the country.
58	<u>Update on Meetings attended</u> a) Cllr MW and the Parish Clerk attended a meeting of the North Huntingdon and St. Ives Cumulative Impacts Group in HDC's offices. Proposal to distribute information across the parish regarding the public campaign to 'Pause the Plan' (MW). No further action – This is being communicated by villagers aided by P. Boothman (H&WPC). b) Cllr MW attended HGPC's meeting to discuss a Notice of intention to dispose of Asset of Community Value: Fishing Lakes, Marsh Lane, Hemingford Grey 16/7/26. HAPC are happy for Cllr MW to represent HAPC on the Steering Group. c) TIGER Bus route – all documents have been issued to C&PCA and we await their decision. COVID remembrance event meeting 16/7/26 (Clerk). Proposal to ask Cllr Rie Hargreaves to be HAPC's nominated person to help HGPC's Cllr R. Elliott organise the event. Resolved that Cllr RH to assist with the remembrance event. Proposed by Cllr MW, seconded by Cllr RH (all in favour).
59	<u>Planning</u> a) <u>Noted that Moats Way Limited</u> responded to the letter received from a parishioner. The Clerk has forwarded the email from Moats Way to the parishioner. b) <u>New Trees</u> <u>26/01171/TREE</u> 63 Common Lane Hemingford Abbots Huntingdon PE28 9AW. Proposal: Sycamore (T4) - Fell tree to ground. Respond to HDC by 28/7/26. Resolved neither for nor against this application but would ask that a replacement tree be planted. Proposed by Cllr MW seconded by Cllr RH, all in favour c) <u>Noted Approved</u> <u>26/00724/TRCA</u> Raywood High Street Hemingford Abbots Huntingdon PE28 9AE. Proposal: 1 x Ash tree: crown raise over the highway to a maximum height of 6m to provide statutory clearances; crown clean; remove epicormic growth; reduce single limb extending towards the house by 2m; halo prune around BT cables by 1m. 1x Sycamore tree: laterally prune over the highway by a maximum of 2m to provide statutory clearances; crown clean; re-pollard south-west scaffold removing existing reaction growth (identified in yellow on photograph).
60	<u>Footpaths</u> a) Noted: When the hot weather breaks, Dave Cook will install a new wooden Kissing Gate at the start of Footpath 4. He will also make good the open area that leads down to the ditch. Since the PC meeting DC has cleared the fence of overgrowth, finding 4 concrete notices: 2 'AC', 1 'Fire Hydrant' and 1 'WO'. The Kissing Gate may need to be re-positioned. Clerk to make further enquiries. b) Noted: The Footpath Leaflet has been re-designed, printed and collected from SIQP. Since the meeting the leaflets have been passed to the Footpath Warden for local distribution. c) Noted: 2 No Cycling Signs for placement at the beginning and end of the footpath behind Chapmans have been created and collected from SIQP. Following the meeting it was agreed that the first No Cycling sign will be placed on the second chicane on the footpath behind Chapmans, approaching from the High Street, the other notice will be attached to the Kissing Gate on the approach to the footpath from the field. DC has been asked to fit the notices.
61	<u>Update on the Speedwatch Group</u> (Cllr RC) Cllr RC told the PC that 9 Volunteers had agreed to join the SWG (3 groups of 3). Cllr RC has contacted the Police and arranged training for the volunteers. Since the PC meeting training has been organised to take place on Saturday 22nd August in the Village Hall.

62	<u>Trees & Village Maintenance</u>
a)	Item carried forward to the next PC Meeting - Tree/Hedge proposals submitted at the last meeting (TM & EH). Noted that Cllr RC will be introducing TM to the owner of the field on Rideaway.
b)	Noted that Cllr Brett Mickelburgh emailed HAPC with news that HDC will be running a tree campaign in the autumn but with fewer, more mature trees (rather than lots of whips) and scheduled to coincide with national tree week. Applications will be limited to one person per tree. Cllr BM to send full details of how to access the trees when it becomes available. https://treecouncil.org.uk/seasonal-campaigns/national-tree-week/
c)	Noted that D. Cook has checked the Village Sign on Rideaway. The top fitting of the sign is loose. DC is going to take a closer look and he will advise if he is able to carry out the repair. Proposal that MW and Clerk look at the signs to see if they need refreshing/resecuring, Resolved for Cllr MW to carry out an assessment of the work needed.
d)	Update on the proposed Environmental Working Group (TM & MW). Cllr MW HAPC is working together with H&W Godmanchester and Hem. Grey and it is hoped that there will be a working plan ready by the Autumn.
e)	Proposal to give written support the Great Ouse Valley Trust's Business Case for Landscape Self-Designation . Resolved the HAPC give their written support and for Cllr MW to produce the letter of support. Proposed by Cllr RC, seconded by Cllr RH, all in favour. Since the PC meeting the letter has been prepared and issued to GOVT.
63	<u>Finance</u>
a)	Resolved to approve the invoices for July (salaries and standing orders for payment as listed at the end of the agenda). Proposed by Cllr RC, seconded by Cllr SR, all in favour.
b)	Resolved to approve the Bank Reconciliations for June 2026 and accept the Q1 budget update (Appendix 4 & 5 respectively). Proposed by Cllr RC, seconded by Cllr RH, all in favour.
c)	Proposal to discuss the reinvestment of Hemingford Abbots Parish Council FT6 Account number 80192051, Balance £85,000.00, Paying a gross interest rate of 3.45% AER which will end on the 28/07/26. Resolved that the Clerk arranges for the re-investment of the £85,000 into a 12-month fixed interest deposit account with UTB paying xxx. Proposed by Cllr SR, seconded by Cllr RC, all in favour. The Clerk was also asked to research the Government Debt Management scheme with a view to placing further funds into the instant access scheme if the rates are more favourable than UTB's instant access savings account.
d)	Noted that the notice of the conclusion of the audit for 2025/26 was received on 20/7/26. PK Littlejohn's invoice was presented with the July payments. AGAR signed Sections 1, 2 and 3 and notice of conclusion of audit have been uploaded to the Finance section on the website.
64	Matters arising (for discussion at the next PC meeting)
a)	Hedge cutting around the Playing Field.
b)	Report on the village walk-a-round to identify areas needing repair or restoration.
65	Closure of the Meeting 8.35 pm
66	Date of the next Meetings: Monday 28 th September 2026 at 7 pm in the Village Hall, High Street, Hemingford Abbots PE28 9AH.