



HARSTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at 7.30pm, on 4th September 2025,
7.30pm at Community Room, Meadow Way, Harston, CB22 7NQ

Present: Councillor Peace Gould (chair); Councillor Luffman; Councillor Wilson;
Councillor Carroll ; Councillor Stierer; Councillor Reynolds; Councillor Ormerod;
Councillor Naik and Councillor Clarke

There were 4 member of the public present & County Councillor Laurence Damary-Homan & Jessica Harding (The clerk)

8.46pm Councillors Stierer left the meeting

Members 11: Quorum 4

25-26/88 Approval of Apologies and Reasons for Absence

(LGA 1972 s 85 (1))

It was proposed by Councillor Luffman , seconded by Councillor Reynolds and resolved that apologies for absence with acceptable reasons from Councillor Holdom are approved

25-26/89 Members' Declaration of Interest for Items on the Agenda

(Localism Act 2011 s 31 s 33)

None

25-26/90 Open Forum for Public Participation (15 Minutes)

A member of the public raised concerns regarding the volume of heavy goods vehicle traffic along Church Street and requested that the Parish Council consider the option of installing signage indicating that the route is not suitable for heavy goods vehicles. Action – incorporate as part of Melbourn Greenway discussions

25-26/91 Minutes of Previous Meeting

- a. **Approval of the minutes has been deferred to the meeting scheduled for 2nd October. The Clerk will publish the draft minutes on the Parish Council website for public reference.**

25-26/92 To Receive Committee Meeting Minutes

The Minutes from the Finance Committee meeting held on 7th August 2025 have been received.

25-26/93 Co-Option to fill casual Vacancy

It was proposed by Councillor Stierer seconded by Councillor Luffman and resolved Irene Richards is co-opted as a member of Harston Parish Council and has signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office and joined the meeting at 7.48pm. Action – to complete the declaration of interests

25-26/94 Clerks Update

- **SIDs Deployment:** Councillor Holdom confirmed to the clerk, that five new Speed Indicator Devices have been installed at various locations around the village. The two older units have been removed and placed into storage.
- **Weed Spraying, Recreation Ground:** Weed treatment is scheduled for Friday, 5th September. Public notices on the notice boards, website & social media have been published
- **Temporary Road Closure:** Newton Road and Station Road will be closed overnight from 23:00 on 17th September to 05:00 on 19th September to allow for maintenance works near the level crossing. Access to properties will be maintained, with a signed diversion in place.

- **War Memorial Bollards:** Repairs to the 2 damaged bollards at the War Memorial are scheduled to begin at the end of September.
- **Tesco Donation:** Tesco's solicitors have made a goodwill donation of £250.00 towards the cleaning of bus shelters in Harston.

25-26/95 County and District Councillors Report

County Councillors: The report will be submitted, shared with Councillors, and uploaded to the Parish Council website.

District Councillor: The report has been submitted, shared with Councillors, and uploaded to the Parish Council website.

25-26/96 Policys

1. **It was proposed by Councillor Wilson , seconded by Councillor Reynolds and resolved that parish council approve the Grant policy with the amendment that all grants are resubmitted annually.**
2. **It was proposed by Councillor Reynolds , seconded by Councillor Wilson and resolved that parish council approve the IT Policy**
3. **It was proposed by Councillor Reynolds , seconded by Councillor Luffman and resolved that parish council approve the Complaints Policy**
4. **It was proposed by Councillor Clarke , seconded by Councillor Wilson and resolved that parish council approve the Press & Media Policy**

25-26/97 Transport

1. The Chair informed councillors that the initial proposal was to object to the southern East West Rail route and then move it as far away from Harston a possible. A meeting is taking place on Thursday the 11th of September with our MP and an update will be shared with councillors at the next meeting on the 2nd October.
2. The Chair informed councillors that Melbourn Greenway has shared a traffic calming proposal for Church Street. The proposal includes the installation of double yellow lines from The Green to the doctor's surgery, as well as speed humps along Church Street. The plans will be circulated to councillors, and the Chair and Clerk will arrange a meeting with the surgery to discuss the proposals and provide feedback to Melbourn Greenway.

25-26/98 Planning Application for Consideration

1. 25/02509/S73

Site address: 2 High Street Harston Cambridgeshire CB22 7PX

S73 to vary condition 2 (approved drawings) of ref: 20/03394/FUL (Demolition of an existing public house and the development of the site to provide an E(a) convenience store at ground floor with 4no. C3 Apartments at first floor together with all associated access and parking - Resubmission of S/3708/19/) to extensions and alterations to the footprint along with re-configuration of internal layout, alterations to layout of the car park to suit the footprint changes, raising of eaves to remove the need for dormers and associated external changes to reflect amended floor plans.

It was proposed by Councillor Carroll, seconded by Councillor Reynolds, and resolved that the Parish Council objects to planning application 25/02509/S73.

- Lack of allocated disabled parking bays – The plans do not include any clearly designated or accessible disabled parking spaces. This is a failure to comply with inclusive access standards and does not meet the requirements outlined in national planning policy and local accessibility guidance.
- Highway safety risks due to insufficient access for service vehicles – The proposed layout does not appear to allow sufficient space for safe and unobstructed access by larger vehicles, including delivery vans and refuse collection lorries. This raises serious concerns about potential obstruction of the highway, especially on the

narrow access roads, which could compromise both road safety and the effectiveness of essential services.

- Shortage of off-road parking - The neighbourhood plan (in draft) calls for off road parking for all new residential units. We anticipate that some of the new units may contain two residents and will also require space for visitors; consequently, one parking space per housing unit is not sufficient and especially in a rural village. Please note that there are limited extra parking spaces on Station Road and non-spares at certain times of day due to the school and pre-existing housing on or just off that road.

Councillor Ormerod informed the Council that demolition of the Pemberton Arms is underway and most of the site has been cleared. Construction is expected to begin in September, with completion projected for May 2026, based on the amended design.

2. Pemberton Arms Community Asset

- a. It was resolved by a majority (2 in favour, 9 against) to not proceed with submitting a nomination to the local authority to list The Pemberton Arms public house as an Asset of Community Value at this time

3. Draft Greater Cambridge Supplementary Planning Consultation

- a. Item to be deferred to the meeting scheduled for 2nd October to consider the draft response from the Planning Committee.
- b. It was proposed by Councillor Naik, seconded by Councillor Luffman, and resolved that authority be delegated to the Planning Committee to draft a response, with the final version to be presented to Full Council on 2nd October.

25-26/99 Rural Exception Sites

The Chair informed councillors that a site visit has been proposed by Cambridgeshire ACRE for 30th September to review possible locations, the chair will feedback to the parish council. Action - Chair

25-26/100 Recreation Ground/Pavilion Matters

1. Councillor Reynolds informed councillors that the play area inspection was completed with no comments.
2. Councillor Reynolds informed councillors that he will provide suggested locations for the benches, which will then be reviewed by councillors for final placement. Action – Cllr Reynolds
3. The Chair informed Councillors that several a meeting had taken place to discuss proposals for a new croquet lawn, a basketball court, and the spatial plan for an extended pavilion. That meeting had concluded that it would be beneficial for the Parish Council to commission an up to date survey of the Recreation Ground, Orchard, and Meadows. This would support the planning of future improvements and aid in the effective management of those areas.

The Clerk will obtain quotes for the survey, which will be used to produce an updated plan of the site. Once completed, the updated plan will help inform the content of the public pamphlet for the pavilion work and location of sports areas inc football and scouts

25-26/101 High Street Bench Removal

The Clerk has been investigating the ownership of the bench outside the Ducati showroom. Councillors advised the clerk to contact the owners of the site (assumed Buckingham and Stanley or Vindis) to request them to remove it.

25-26/102 Letter to Landowners regarding vegetation overhanging pavements

The Clerk informed Councillors that the Parish Council has received several reports regarding foliage from private land encroaching onto pavements and causing obstructions.

Where issues are reported to the parish council, the Clerk will write to the relevant landowners or residents requesting that the overgrowth be cut back. The Clerk also advised that if the land in question is owned by Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC), the issue will be reported via the CCC online portal. The Council authorised the Clerk to send follow up letters and report any delays to the County Council who would then carry out work and charge the landowners or responsible party.

25-26/103 Agenda Items for Next Meeting

Any business and payments, to be considered at Parish Council meeting must be delivered to the Clerk for inclusion on the agenda at least 7 days prior to the meeting.

- *Harston & Newton Primary School PTFA*

25-26/104 Date of Next Meeting

Date/Time: 2nd October 2025- Finance Committee(7pm) Parish Council
Meeting(7.30pm)

Location: Harston Village Hall, Large Committee Room, Cambridge, CB22 7PX

Meeting closed 9.05pm

Chairman:

Date: