



HARSTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at 7.30pm, on 5th February 2026, at Harston Village Hall, Large Committee Room, Cambridge, CB22 7PX

Present: Councillor Peace Gould (chair); Councillor Wilson; Councillor Reynolds; Councillor Clarke; Councillor Naik; Councillors Richards and Councillor Wedgbury.

There were 0 members of the public present and the District Councillor Ariel Cahn, County Councillor Laurence Damary-homan and the clerk Jessica Harding

Members 11: Quorum 4

25-26/196 Approval of Apologies and Reasons for Absence

(LGA 1972 s 85 (1))

It was proposed by Councillor Reynolds; seconded by Councillor Holdom and resolved that apologies for absence with acceptable reasons from Councillor Stierer, Councillor Ormerod; Councillors Richards are approved.

25-26/197 Members' Declaration of Interest for Items on the Agenda

(Localism Act 2011 s 31 s 33)

None

25-26/198 Open Forum for Public Participation (15 Minutes)

None

25-26/199 Minutes of Previous Meeting

1. Amendment to 25-26/173 - It was proposed by Councillor Clarke, seconded by Councillor Reynolds and resolved that the minutes from the 8th January are approved and signed by the Chair.
2. It was proposed by Councillor Reynolds, seconded by Councillor Wedgbury and resolved confidential minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 4th December 2025 are signed by the chair.

25-26/200 To Receive Committee Meeting Minutes

1. The Minutes from the Finance Committee meeting held on 4th December 2025 have been received.

25-26/201 Clerks Report

The Clerk's Report was received in advance of the meeting.

25-26/202 County and District Councillors Report

County Councillors: No report was submitted.

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

25-26/203 Internal Audit 2025/2026

It was proposed by Councillor Wedgbury seconded by Councillor Holdom, and resolved the Parish Council appoint LGS Services to conduct the internal audit.

25-26/204 Transport/Highways

1. The Clerk shared information regarding the 20mph projects, which take up to 18 months to complete, depending on scope and delays. Schemes will be designed by Cambridgeshire County Council's in-house team, with delivery expected between May 2026 and March 2027. CCC also confirmed that as the Parish Council has submitted the LHI application for Newton Road, London Road can be included in the same application to explore reducing the speed limit to 30mph.

Action: Clerk to respond to CCC to confirm the inclusion of London Road

2. The Clerk shared information regarding the 20mph application for 2026/2027, with the application deadline being 27th March. The Parish Council suggested including all public roads (ie non private roads) roads leading off the A10 and London Rd, these include The Limes, Manor Close, New Road, Queens Close, High Meadow, and Meadow Way in the application.

Action: The Clerk to draft the application and submit it to the Council for final approval.

3. Speed Indicator Device Locations.

The Clerk reported that the two Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs) cannot be converted to solar power. The remaining SID will be installed on Church Street. Councillor Holdom advised that the devices collect data via an app and access will be shared with Parish Councillors to enable them to view the data individually. Action Councillor Holdom to organise an Update for Councillors on the use of SID

4. East West Rail

The Council noted that there is no substantive update from the East West Railway. A further scheme plan is expected. The Development Consent Order (DCO) is currently anticipated next year, and Harston Parish Council will be consulted as a statutory consultee. The proposed link between Station Road and Newton remains under consideration. .

5. Road signs and road conditions

Councillors raised ongoing concerns regarding the condition of roads within Harston, including potholes, general surface deterioration and the state of road signage. It was agreed that the Clerk would draft two letters, one for the road signage and one regarding the road surfacing, formally outlining the Council's concerns and requesting action to address these issues.

Action: Clerk to draft letter and share with councillors at the next meeting

25-26/205 Harston Parish Council Property Matters

1. Recreation Ground

- Councillor Reynolds undertook the play area inspection and highlighted that the bench in the small play area is deteriorating and requires either replacement or refurbishment.

Action: The Clerk will liaise with the caretaker to obtain a cost for refurbishment or Replacement.

- The Clerk shared the quotes for the various options for the car park at the Recreation Ground and security measures. Councillors discussed the proposals and agreed that the working group would meet to review the boulder options, refine the specification and make recommendations to the Parish Council for approval.
- **It was proposed by Councillor Reynolds, seconded by Councillor Holdom, and resolved that the Parish Council approve the purchase of a lock for the black bin as the preferred option to stop third party use.**
- **It was proposed by Councillor Wilson, seconded by Councillor Wedgbury, and resolved that the Parish Council approve to purchase 4 additional dog waste bins.**
- The Chair informed councillors that additional signage is required at the recreation ground to provide useful information, including signage for the overflow car park and stop anti-social activities. The Clerk will circulate details of the current signage to councillors and invite suggestions on the content to be included on the new signs.

2. Croquet Lawn

Councillors discussed the croquet lawn proposal, The location item was deferred as the working group needs to meet with the proposed club and make recommendations to the Parish Council for approval .

3. Pavilion Damage

It was proposed by Councillor Wilson, seconded by Councillor Holdom, and resolved that the Parish Council approved to proceed with submitting the insurance claim for the damage and cost of repair/replacement pump for the pavilion including full testing of the electrics. Action: The Clerk to submit insurance claim

4. Cemetery

- **Arboricultural inspection**

It was proposed by Councillor Wilson, seconded by Councillor Carroll, and resolved that the Parish Council approve the quotation of £2,106.00 (including VAT) for arboricultural consultancy services to carry out the arboricultural report for the Orchard/Meadow and the Recreation Ground.

- **Burial Ground Software and Mapping**

It was proposed by Councillor Carroll, seconded by Councillor Reynolds and resolved to approves a five-year agreement for the burial ground software and mapping, at a cost of £429.60 per annum including VAT.

5. Basketball Court

It was proposed by Councillor Reynolds, seconded by Councillor Wedgbury, and resolved that the Parish Council approve the creation of a Basketball Working Group. Councillors Wilson and Councillor Ormerod, were appointed to the group, which is authorised to proceed with the feasibility study outlined in the report.

6. Football Club

It was proposed by Councillor Wilson, seconded by Councillor Naik, and resolved that the Parish Council approve Councillor Pearce Gould and Wedgbury to negotiate and draft the agreement with the football club, with the final agreement to be submitted for approval by Full Council.

25-26/206 Queens Close

Councillors discussed the request from a resident regarding the installation of two benches and a bin at the Meadow Way and Queens Close grass area. It was noted that the land in question is owned by SCDC (South Cambridgeshire District Council). The Clerk will seek permission from SCDC to install the benches and bin, and will gather cost estimates for the proposed installation. These will be presented for final approval by the Parish Council.

25-26/207 Section 106

Councillor Wilson informed councillors of two suggestions for using some of the section 106 funds to remove the scrub land on the recreation ground and possibly lay grass seed, It was proposed that the Council consider relocating the manhole on the northern side of the pavilion to allow for alternative use of that area of land

Action: The Clerk will obtain quotes for both options.

25-26/208 Social Media

1. It was proposed by Councillor Naik, seconded by Councillor Carroll, and resolved that the Parish Council will develop an internal Social Media Policy
2. It was proposed by Councillor Naik, seconded by Councillor Reynolds, and resolved that the Parish Council will separately develop an external Social Media Policy

Action: Clerk to draft policy's and share with pc for approval.

25-26/209 Risk Assessment

It was proposed by Councillor Naik, seconded by Councillor Carroll, and resolved that the Parish Council approve the updated Risk Assessment for 2026, subject to the Clerk incorporating an appendix relating to risk assessments for community group activities including Litter Picking and "Picking and Sale of Apples"; other community activities may be included. *Action: Clerk to draft annex to cover known community groups and submit to council for approval.*

25-26/210 Planning Application

1. It was proposed by Councillor Reynolds, seconded by Councillor Carroll, and resolved that the Parish Council support planning application 25/04858/ADV, 59 - 61 High Street Harston Cambridgeshire CB22 7PZ
2. It was proposed by Councillor Naik, seconded by Councillor Carroll, and resolved that the Parish Council support planning application 26/0041/TTPO, 44 The Limes Harston Cambridgeshire CB22 7QT.

25-26/211 Annual parish meeting

The Clerk informed Members that the Annual Parish Meeting will take place on 16 April at 6:00pm. The agenda will be published in the coming weeks and community groups will be notified accordingly and invited to present.

25-26/212 Agenda Items for Next Meeting

1. Active travel routes Letter
2. Employers Pension Contribution
3. Risk Assessment Annex

25-26/213 Date of Next Meeting

Date/Time: 5th March 2026 - Finance Committee(7pm) Parish Council Meeting(7.30pm)

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

Meeting closed 10.02pm

Chairman: **Date:**