



HARSTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at 7.30pm, 4th of June 2026

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

Present: Councillor Wilson, Councillors Reynolds, Councillor Clarke, Councillor Pearce Gould

In Attendance: Locum Clerk, Lise Jackson

Members: 4 | **Quorum:** 4

Public: 3

26-27/30 Apologies and Reasons for Absence

It was proposed by Councillor Wilson, seconded by Councillor Reynolds and resolved that the apologies for absence with acceptable reasons from Councillor Carroll, Councillor Ormerod, Councillor Stierer and Councillor Wedgbury are approved.

26-27/31 Members' Declaration of Interest for Items on the Agenda

(Localism Act 2011 s 31 s 33)

None

26-27/32 Open Forum for Public Participation (15 Minutes)

Residents addressed the Council with concerns about the Zero Carbon Community grant and the Melbourn Warden Scheme.

The Chairman brought forward item 41

26-27/41 Net Zero Grant (Deadline 24th July)

It was proposed by Councillor Wilson, seconded by Councillor Pearce Gould, and resolved that the Council would, in principle, apply for the Zero Carbon Communities grant scheme, with the working group to look into it and bring back to the July meeting.

26-27/33 Minutes of Previous Meeting

1. It was proposed by Councillor Reynolds, seconded by Councillor Clarke, and resolved that That Harston Parish Council herewith agree the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 14 May 2026
2. The minutes of the Extraordinary Parish Council meeting on the 21st of May 2026 were deferred to the July meeting

26-27/34 To Receive Committee Meeting Minutes

To Receive Minutes of Finance Committee 14th of May 2026 – as the Finance Committee could not meet, there were no minutes to approve.

26-27/35 County and District Councillors Report

1. County Councillors Report received.
2. District Councillors Report received.

26-27/36 Committees and Working Groups

1. It was proposed by Councillor Pearce Gould, seconded by Councillor Clarke, and resolved that the Chairman and Vice-Chairman are Ex Officio members of all working groups.
2. It was proposed by Councillor Wilson, seconded by Councillor Reynolds, and resolved that the Recreation Park Working Group be delegated powers to instruct on minor variations with the contract within the agreed contract terms.

26-27/37 The Chairman brought forwarding this item.

- 1 It was proposed by Councillor Pearce Gould, seconded by Councillor Wilson, and resolved that the Terms of Reference for the Finance Committee be amended such that
 - a. '5' becomes 'up to 5' as the number and
 - b. the quorum of '4' is changed to '3'.
 - c. That the approval of payments be changed from 48 hours to 3 weeks except in the case of employees which would be in line with their contract terms

All four councillors present approved these changes

3. It was proposed by Councillor Wilson, seconded by Councillor Reynolds, and resolved that Councillor Clarke joins the Finance Committee.

The meeting was suspended at 8pm.

The Finance Meeting re-commenced at 8pm.

The Finance Meeting was closed at 8-30pm and the Parish Council resumed at this time

3 Proposal: To appoint Councillor/s to the Planning Committee

This item was deferred to the next meeting

26-27/38 Parish Council Policies

It was proposed by Councillor Pearce Gould, seconded by Councillor Wilson, and resolved that the Standing Orders be amended - a copy of the revised Standing Orders is attached to these minutes. All councillors present approved the change to the Standing Orders.

26-27/39 Ordinary Meetings and Committee Meetings

It was proposed by Councillor Pearce Gould, seconded by Councillor Wilson, and resolved that there would be no meeting in August unless the Chairmen (including Committee Chairmen) call a meeting.

It was proposed by Councillor Pearce Gould, seconded by Councillor Wilson, and resolved that meetings would be held on the first Thursday of the month, except January and the Easter meeting to change at the discretion of the Chairmen.

26-27/40 Grant Requests

1. Nature Reserve Action Group (Harston Residents Group)

Advice had been sought from both CAPALC and SCDC. It was proposed by Councillor Pearce Gould, seconded by Councillor Reynolds, and resolved that, based on the advice received, the Parish Council cannot consider this application.

2. Melbourn Mobile Warden Trust

It was proposed by Councillor Pearce Gould, seconded by Councillor Renolds, and resolved that the Parish Council would support the Trust with a grant of £1,800.

26-27/41 East West Rail

1. Councillor Pearce Gould circulated a draft reply to the consultation, and the Council has three weeks to finalise the reply.
2. It was proposed by Councillor Pearce Gould, seconded by Councillor Wilson, and resolved that the Parish Council, as part of the South Cambridgeshire Rail Group, supports a balanced approach that reflects the issues east of Chapel Hill and further supports the rotation of the Chair position between the participating parishes.
3. It was proposed by Councillor Pearce Gould, seconded by Councillor Reynolds, and resolved that the working group has the authority to finalise the Parish reply to the the EWR 2026 consultation. Action EWR Working Group

26-27/42 Harston Parish Council Property Matters

1. Recreation Ground/Play area

- Play area inspection received – no actions required

2. Orchard and Meadow

- A report from the Working Group was received
- It was decided to defer the discussion of management of the area to the next meeting.
- It was proposed by Councillor Pearce Gould, seconded by Councillor Wilson, and resolved to ask the Orchard Group if the bottler has accepted liability for the apply juice, and if so, to ask for a copy of the agreement.
- Further, it was resolved to ask the insurance company for temporary cover for picking apples and the sale of the product. Action The Clerk

3. Pavilion

- Pavilion Hire and related services

It was proposed by Councillor Pearce Gould, seconded by Councillor Wilson, and resolved that the Parish Council agrees to the concept of charging for the hire of the pavilion and take soundings of what was reasonable.

It was proposed by Councillor Pearce Gould, seconded by Councillor Wilson, and resolved to purchase a key safe for the entrance. Action The Clerk

26-27/43 Facebook Page

It was proposed by Councillor Pearce Gould, seconded by Councillor Wilson, and resolved to attempt to gain administrative control of the Facebook page, and if not, to create a new page. Action The Clerk

26-27/44 Clerks Report

The report was received. It was agreed to add 'to get specification and start procurement exercise' for verge cutting to the next agenda.

26-27/45 Reports and items for future agenda

Councillor Reynolds is watching the construction on the PEM site on Station Road and suggest the Council may need to send a letter about parking. Councillor Reynolds will contact Councillor Damary-Homan.

26-27/46 Date of Next Meetings

Date/Time - 2nd of July 2026 - Finance Committee (7.00pm) Parish Council Meeting (7.30pm)

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