

HARSTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Finance Committee held at 7.00pm on 6 August 2026
at Harston Village Hall, Large Committee Room, Cambridge, CB22 7PX

Present: Cllrs: Rupert Pearce Gould, Steve Wilson, David Stierer, Charlotte Clarke
In attendance: Locum Clerk - John Hammond, Locum RFO - Hazel Hammond.

Members: 4 | **Quorum:** 3
Public: 5

F26-27/32 Apologies for absence: None
F26-27/33 Finance Committee Chair: It was agreed to appoint Cllr Wilson as Chair.
F26-27/34 Declarations of Interest: None

F26-27/35

Public participation:

A member of the public asked a question regarding the valuation and income from land held by The Pinder's Land Trust. This was not for the parish council to answer, but it agreed to ask the Trust.

(ACTION: Clerk)

A question was asked regarding the location of the planned PFTA fireworks event and why it was not held on school property.

A member of the public asked about the amount to pay Microshade for remote hosting recommended in March to be taken from General Reserves. This was subsequently approved at the following April full council meeting. The Chair advised that General Reserves would not be depleted to the point where they were insufficient.

A question was asked concerning overspend on contractors in June. The Chair advised this had been due to an unclear specification for the work, and the system had now changed.

It was asked why the PC did not hold its meetings in its own building, the pavilion. A councillor advised that this was due to lack of Internet access.

The issue of the state of the traffic islands on the A10 approaching and in the village, was raised. The PC advised that they had asked Highways to sort this, and it was outside their control.

The Chair concluded the Public Participation session with an invitation to all Harston residents to make proposals for projects for S106 funds arising from recent residential developments in the village.

F26-27/36

The Minutes of the meeting on 2 7 2026 were approved.

F26-27/37

The bank reconciliation to end of June was approved. In future an up-to-date bank reconciliation would be circulated prior to the meeting for approval.

F26-27/38

The list of payments (see appendix) were approved.

F26-27/39

The expenditure against budget report had been circulated prior to the meeting. The Locum RFO advised that there were no significant variations to report at this stage of the year.

F26-27/40

The Harston and Newton Primary School PTFA had applied for a grant for financial support for the village fireworks event planned for November on the recreation ground. It was noted that the level of the request formed a significant proportion of the PC donations budget. It was decided to recommend to the full parish council meeting that a contribution be made, with the amount to be determined by the full council.

It was noted that there was no fire risk assessment for the pavilion and that this should be sought.

(ACTION: Chair to advise subsequent full HPC meeting)

F26-27/41

The Harston Residents Group (HRG) had applied for a grant of £250 for their public liability insurance to cover volunteer activities keeping the village open spaces tidy. This sum had been budgeted, having been paid the previous year, and the grant was agreed.

(ACTION: Locum RFO to liaise with HRG re payment)

F26-27/42

An S106 agreement had been agreed between SCDC and the developers for the land at Beech Farm. It was agreed to recommend to the full PC meeting that the indemnity agreement between HPC and SCDC be signed, thereby releasing the S106 funds for village projects identified within the scope contained in the Agreement.

(ACTION: Chair to advise HPC)

F26-27/43

Asset Register – There had been no changes to this.

F26-27/44

Agenda items for next meeting: Fire risk assessment for the pavilion, Orchard risk assessment.

F26-27/45

Date of next meeting: Thursday 3rd September 2026

Appendix

Payments List

Nest	Pension	142.09		142.09
Matt Dellar	Cleaning of Harston bus stops	140.00		140.00
Jason Trueman	Pavilion Caretaker (Inv. 506)	262.50		262.50
Jason Trueman	Pavilion Caretaker (Inv. 519)	210.00		210.00
DP Garden Works	Recreation Grass cutting (June)	360.00		360.00
DP Garden Works	Recreation Grass cutting (July)	700.00		700.00
Red Shoes	Services April, May, June	45.00	9.00	54.00
Zion Landscapes	Grass Cutting June (Inv. 12587)	1,134.00	226.80	1,360.80
Zion Landscapes	Grass Cutting July (Inv. 12688)	1,134.00	226.80	1,360.80
Valda Energy	Pavilion Gas & Electricity	59.84	2.99	62.83
Haslingfield Parish Council	Cover for Parish Clerk	95.13		95.13
Npower	Street Lighting	16.01	0.80	16.81
SCDC	Cemetery Rates from 1/4/26 - 31/3/27	91.17		91.17
SCDC	Administration of uncontested election	165.00		165.00
Melbourn Mobile Warden Scheme	Services April, May, June	600.00		600.00
John Hammond	Locum Clerk expenses	5.00	1.00	6.00
HMRC	Tax & NI (August)	546.32		546.32