

HARSTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Finance Committee held at 7.00pm on 3 September 2026
at Harston Village Hall, Large Committee Room, Cambridge, CB22 7PX

Present: Cllrs: Rupert Pearce Gould, Steve Wilson, David Stierer

In attendance: Locum Clerk - John Hammond, Locum RFO - Hazel Hammond.

Members: 4 | Quorum: 3

Public: 10

F26-27/46 Apologies for absence: Cllr Charlotte Clarke

F26-27/47 Declarations of Interest: None

F26-27/48

Public participation:

A member of the public asked why the council had a budget of £2,000 for PKF Littlejohn (The Government external auditor), according to ChatGPT. The Financial Officer advised that this figure was incorrect; the audit budget was £600 of which £200 had been paid to the internal auditor.

The resident also asked about £7,300 she believed had been budgeted for flowers, Christmas trees and sundry other decorative plants.

The resident additionally asked why the PC had paid for a stall at the PTFA fete but did not attend.

A resident asked about funding she believed had been budgeted for public art on roundabouts.

(ACTION: The Chair advised that the PC would investigate these claims as they were not recognised by him or the Locum RFO)

A resident asked if the £50K previously allocated as an Ear-Marked Reserve for pavilion refurbishment was still allocated.

(ACTION: RFO to check and Chair to respond)

F26-27/49 The Minutes of the meeting on 6th August 2026 were approved.

F26-27/50 The bank reconciliation to end of August was approved.

F26-27/51 The list of payments (see appendix) were approved.

F26-27/52 Expenditure vs budget

The expenditure against budget report had been circulated prior to the meeting. The Locum RFO advised that the only significant difference to the budget was a donation to the Village News magazine, but it was probably an allocation difference, it being recorded as magazine rather than donations.

(ACTION: RFO to reallocate to the donations budget)

F26-27/53 Annual Governance and Accountability Report (AGAR)

The Locum RFO reported that although it was imminent, the External Auditor's Report & Certificate had not yet been received. It was agreed to defer this to the next meeting.

F26-27/54 Fencing contract

The initial milestone payment ("Contract Signed" Milestone) with the contractor selected for the birdsmouth fencing project was agreed, payable when the contract is signed.

F26-27/55 Grant request

It was agreed to fund litter picking equipment for the Harston Residents Group to the requested value of £157.53.

F26-27/56

Date of next meeting: Thursday 1 October 2026

Payments made since last meeting

Npower	Street Lighting (1/5/2026 - 31/5/2026)	19.12	0.96	20.08
Npower	Street Lighting (1/7/2026 - 31/7/2026)	16.86	0.84	17.70
HMRC	Tax & NI	546.52		546.52
Harston Residents Group	Donation	250.00		250.00
Clear Insurance Management Ltd	Insurance (14/8/2026 - 13/8/2027)	1,530.30		1,530.30
Nest	Pension July	142.09		142.09
Nest	Pension August	142.09		142.09
Valda Energy	Pavilion Gas & Electricity	57.15	2.86	60.01

Payments for the meeting

HMRC	Tax & NI	546.52		546.52
Jason Trueman	Pavilion Caretaker	210.00		210.00
Zion Landscapes	Verge Cutting	1,134.00	226.80	1,360.80
Parish Council Websites	Domain Name (2/9/2026 - 2/9/2027)	30.00	6.00	36.00
Nest	Pension September	142.09		142.09
Clover HR Services	Professional fees	541.00	108.20	649.20
Harston Residents Group	Donation request	157.33		157.33
Harston & Newton PTFA	Donation request	750.00		750.00
Cambridge Water	Pavilion water	136.42		136.42