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HARSTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at 7.30pm on 1st October 2026

Harston Village Hall, Large Committee Room, Harston CB22 7PX

Present: Cllrs: Rupert Pearce-Gould (Chair), Sandra Carroll, Paul Ormerod, David Stierer (until approx. 2015), Charlotte Clarke

Members: 5 **Quorum:** 4

Public: 6

Meeting closed C. 2100 hrs

26-27/107 Apologies for absence: Cllr Steve Wilson

Proposed: Cllr Ormerod, Seconded: Cllr Clarke

26-27/108 Declaration of Interest for Items on the Agenda – None

26-27/109 Open Forum for Public Participation

Items brought forward by the Public included the Neighbourhood Plan, the flyer concerning the proposed croquet lawn; East West Rail; questions regarding who is dealing with the mail in the absence of the Clerk.

26-27/110 Minutes of Previous Meeting

The Minutes of the previous meeting held on 3rd September 2026 were approved and signed.

Proposed: Cllr Clarke, Seconded: Cllr Carroll

26-27/111 Minutes of Committee Meetings

The Minutes of the previous Finance Committee meeting held on 18th September 2026 were approved.

26-27/112 County and District Councillors

There were no reports from County or District Councillors, written or oral. Apologies received.

26-27/113 Parish Council administration

To consider the co-option of a new Councillor:

Nadia Refioglu was co-opted.

Proposed: Cllr Ormerod, Seconded: Cllr Carroll

Update on AGAR report:

Nothing to be done but there are some anomalies on the website.

26-27/114 Planning Issues

51 High Street: the Parish Council has objected and has stated that we want to keep 3 parking spaces.

Tiger on Demand: will try for 3 stops but agreed that 2 would suffice, one by the petrol garage and one at the school end. Cllr Stierer to liaise with Tiger on Demand.

26-27/115 Update on EWR from working group

Cllr Ormerod gave an update on current situation. Nothing happening at present. A member of the public asked to join the Parish Council Liaison Working Party and this was agreed. There were concerns that if the project does go ahead, that we have not submitted our mitigation requests or village needs with sufficient pressure. The Working Group is continuing to meet with various lobby groups and EWR. It was suggested that a leaflet is produced to update the village.

Update on pavement issues on Church Street

The Chair stated that he has made the point again that the pavement is dangerous and needs attention, but no reply has yet been received. It was suggested that a solution could be that the Parish Council arrange to have the pavement from the corner of the road to the doctor's surgery re-surfaced so that it is safe and usable. To be investigated.

26-27/116 Property Matters

Fire Risk: Expenditure approved for the fire risk assessment for the Pavillion and the follow up work as emergency expenditure as the Pavillion is being used.

Proposed: Cllr Clarke, Seconded: Cllr Ormerod

Emergency Tree Work: An amount up to £750 (net of VAT) was approved, plus contingency in case of need and approved by a Councillor on the Property Working Group.

Proposed: Cllr Ormerod, Seconded: Cllr Clarke

Free Trees: A discussion was held regarding how many trees we should apply for, what type and where to place them. Cllr Clarke to investigate.

New Letter Box: A maximum spend of £700 (net of VAT) was approved. Colour dark grey.

Proposed: Cllr Clarke, Seconded: Cllr Carroll

WiFi: It was agreed to obtain quotes for WiFi availability access at two locations, one at the gate and one at the Pavillion.

26-27/117 Locum Clerk's Report and Correspondence

An update was given to the meeting regarding the following:

Benches in Queens Close: this is progressing and benches should be installed as soon as possible.

Fire Extinguishers will cost £308 (net of VAT)

Emergency lighting – needs quote from an electrician.

Emergency tree work.

Alarm update.

Hedge and scrub growth at entrance to Recreation ground now cleared.

Parking at 51 High Street referred back to Planning.

26-27/118 Working Groups

Cemetery: hedges cut and cleared. A good job has been done but more work required and built into future action plans.

Recreation ground rules: Cllr Carroll to arrange meeting with Cllr Pearce-Gould and Cllr Clarke to edit rules, including suggestions from village.

Remembrance Day: Cllr Clarke offered to deal with this.

26-27/119 Agenda items for the next meeting

Remembrance Day – final arrangements and instructions.

26-27/120 Date for next meeting

Thursday 5th November 2026 at 1930.

Location: Harston Village Hall, Large Committee Room