

Hatley Parish Council

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Minutes of Hatley's Annual Parish Meeting held at 7.00pm on Tuesday 21st May 2024

PRESENT: Cllr Paul Kraus (Acting Chair), Cllr Harold Nickerson, Cllr Samatha Abbasi, County Cllr Sebastian Kindersley, District Councillor Heather Williams, Clerk to the Council Kim Wilde, and six members of the public (one arriving later).

1. Welcome by the Cllr Kraus, Vice Chair of Hatley Parish Council.
2. An apology for absence was received from Cllr Micky Astor, Chair of Hatley Parish Council.
3. Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Tuesday 16th May 2023 were accepted as a true record and were signed by the Chair.
4. There were no Matters Arising.
5. Cllr Kraus read the annual report provided by Cllr Astor, Chair of Hatley Parish Council. The report which will be made available on the Hatley website.
6. Annual reports were provided by the following parish groups and will be made available on the Hatley website.
 - i. ~~Hatley St George Church~~ (not provided during the meeting)
 - ii. St Denis' Church Local Nature Reserve Management Group
 - iii. Hatley Village Association
 - iv. Speedwatch
 - v. Defib Group
 - vi. Beating the Bounds
 - vii. Hatley Village Hall

County Cllr Kindersley requested to present his annual report before agenda item 7. to enable him to exit the meeting sooner. This was agreed by the Chair. The report was provided in print and will be made available on the parish website. Following the report a member of the public questioned what the County Council's plan was with regard the state of the roads in the South Cambs District. County Cllr Kindersley stated that their plan must be based on the needs of the whole county and not any one district, with funding being prioritised to the roads in greatest need of repair in the county. Factors such as road safety and the economy of some areas are taken into account and some locations are far worse than we see in Hatley. More funding is required from the Government, and with record levels of rainfall during the winter months some of the planned work has been set back. District Cllr Williams questioned where the £4M funding for potholes has been spent, which was corrected by County Cllr Kindersley to be £2.5M. He explained that up to 400 potholes are repaired per day which means the funding is soon spent. Cllr Abbasi asked whether the Zero Carbon Community Grant might cover the purchase and installation of a high speed electric vehicle charging point. County Cllr Kindersley

reminded her that this grant is provided by South Cambs District Council and District Cllr Williams gave further information on this, with the recommendation to speak to the Councillors at Steeple Morden Parish Council as they have recently installed a charging point.

County Cllr Kindersley left the meeting at 7.41pm.

7. Mark Fitzpatrick shared leaflets with information about swifts and the possibility of installing nest boxes and nest bricks to properties. Mark spoke about a number of properties in Hatley and Gamlingay that have such boxes but would like to hear from others who may be interested in helping to increase the number of swifts visiting this area. There are two events coming up, being the Breakfast with the Swifts at the Emplins in Gamlingay on 8th June, and the Count the Swifts Day on 2nd July. Mark was thanked for his talk and as no questions were raised he left the meeting.
8. District Cllr Williams shared details of her annual report, which will be published on the parish website. No questions were raised.
9. The Parish Council's unaudited annual accounts for 2023/24 were made available via the meeting agenda. The Parish Clerk explained that the closing balance includes a significant sum of reserved funds for various projects. The Parish Council will need to avoid exceeding its budgeted expenditure in the coming year.
10. One member of the public wanted to raise a question to the Parish Council concerning progress with their new email addresses but the clerk suggested this could be discussed during the Parish Council meeting that was due to follow.
11. The time and date of the next Annual Parish Meeting was agreed as 7.00pm on Tuesday 20th May 2025.
12. The meeting closed at 8.06pm.