

Hatley Parish Council

Clerk to the Council: Kim Wilde, 36 Fairfield, Gamlingay, SG19 3LG
Email: clerk@hatley-pc.gov.uk Tel: 07591 346835 Website: www.hatley.info

Minutes of Hatley's Annual Parish Meeting held at 7.00pm on Tuesday 20th May 2025

PRESENT: Cllr Micky Astor (Chair), Cllr Samantha Abbasi (Vice Chair) Cllr Harold Nickerson, Cllr Peter Hayward, District Councillor Heather Williams (arriving late), Clerk to the Council Kim Wilde, and three members of the public.

1. Welcome by the Chair of Hatley Parish Council.
2. No apologies were received.
3. Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Tuesday 21st May 2024 were approved and signed as a true record, being proposed by Cllr Nickerson and seconded by Cllr Abbasi.
4. There were no matters arising.
5. Cllr Abbasi read the annual report for the previous year, which will be made available on the Hatley website. Thanks were given to various members of the community for their efforts and also to County Councillor Sebastian Kindersley for his service.
6. Annual reports were provided by the following parish groups and will be made available on the Hatley website.
 - i. Hatley St George Church
The report was received by email and read in full by the Parish Clerk. Cllr Astor added that some trees have been removed from the churchyard for safety reasons.
District Cllr Williams joined the meeting.
 - ii. St Denis' Church Local Nature Reserve Management Group
A paper copy of the report was provided and the key points were raised at the meeting, to include the planning application for the new stained-glass window, the damp issue, and the monitoring of the bats by the Bat Conservation Trust. The churchyard is still being maintained by volunteers but more people are needed for the work, especially the scything. The Chair gave his thanks and commented on the rarity of the bats that are residing at the church.
 - iii. Hatley Village Association
The Chair of the HVA reported it had been a quieter year for events but the quiz night and Christmas tea were a great success, although some financial losses occurred. A summer BBQ event is planned for Friday 11th July at the Village Hall. An afternoon tea on the village playing field is also a possibility this summer. The Chair gave his thanks.
 - iv. Speedwatch
Cllr Nickerson confirmed that sessions have resumed and shared details of the speed data that has been collated and provided to the Speedwatch Coordinator. Sessions have been held in three locations in the parish during 'rush hour' periods. More volunteers are welcome to join so that sessions can be held more frequently.

Cllr Nickerson can provide the brief training. The Chair gave his thanks.

v. Defib Group

The report was received by email and read in full by the Parish Clerk. The team continues to work well and the defibrillator has not been needed, thankfully.

vi. Hatley Village Hall

The Hall Booking Clerk read the report in full. The hall now has three regular hirers and the overall number of bookings and subsequent income has increased. Volunteers and/or a caretaker are very much needed for the hall to operate. Cllr Abbasi questioned whether there is an option to pay someone to help manage the hall. The Clerk confirmed this is possible but not practical due to the ad hoc nature of the work and the administrative impact of a new staff member on the Parish Council; therefore a volunteer would be ideal.

7. District Cllr Williams provided a brief summary of her written report, to include the council tax increase and its bearing on the future reorganisation of the Local Government, the four day working week at SCDC which will now be voted upon by all elected members, weekly food waste collections to include a food caddy, and the five year land supply which is currently under appeal. Cllr Williams gave thanks to those who voted for her in the recent County Council election, where she missed out on the seat by just seven votes, and shared her well wishes to the new County Councillor, James Stuart. Cllr Abbasi asked whether the results of the four day working week will be published and it was confirmed they should be available from 9th July. A brief discussion was also had relating to the options for the reorganisation of Local Government. The Chair gave thanks to Cllr Williams and she excused herself from the meeting. The newly elected County Cllr was not present at the meeting, however an annual report had been provided by his predecessor, County Cllr, Sebastian Kindersley. All reports will be made available on the Hatley Website.
8. The Parish Council's unaudited annual accounts for 2024/25 were made available via the meeting agenda. They are due to be discussed and approved in the Parish Council's Annual General Meeting. The Parish Clerk explained that additional information relating to the reserves and spending over £100 will be made available on the website.
9. Cllr Nickerson raised a question on behalf of a member of the public who was not present at the meeting, asking if the toilets at the Village Hall could once again be designated to single sex usage. The Councillors all agreed the toilets do not need to be gender assigned as they are secure individual spaces, with no communal area being shared for toilet cubicles or hand washing purposes.
10. The time and date of the next Annual Parish Meeting was agreed as 7.00pm on Tuesday 19th May 2026.
11. The meeting closed at 7.49pm.