

Hatley Parish Council

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Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Hatley Parish Council held in Hatley Village Hall on Tuesday 21st October 2025

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

ACTION BY

1. WELCOME AND MEETING PROTOCOL
The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. The protocol was not read aloud.
2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE
Received from Cllr Peter Hayward.
3. INTERESTS
 - i. Declarations of interest: None received.
 - ii. Dispensation applications for items on this agenda: None received.
4. PREVIOUS MINUTES
The **Parish Council resolved to approve** the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Hatley Parish Council held on Tuesday 15th July 2025 and they were signed by the Chair.

District Councillor Williams arrived at the meeting.
5. MATTERS ARISING
All matters will be covered on this meeting agenda.
6. OPEN MEETING FOR MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO ADDRESS QUESTIONS TO THE PARISH COUNCIL
No questions were received.
7. COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORTS
County Cllr James Stuart was absent but emailed a report that was shared ahead of the meeting.
District Cllr Williams was invited to discuss her report which included:
 - a) An update on Local government Reorganisation (LGR), which is 'dominating everything'. County Council voted for Option A today without a business plan. Cambridge City and SCDC have announced their support for Option B, which was confirmed despite the consultation period being open and again without any data or agreed policy.
 - b) Her concerns about the overspending on websites by SCDC, of which there are now four, at a cost of £75k to the taxpayer.

- c) An unsuccessful motion to give awards to volunteers in the district, which was considered by the administration as being a waste of money.
- d) The approval of supplementary questions for members of the public at meetings to ensure they can expand on their questions with explanations to get the answers they came for.
- e) The elections that are due in 2026 will proceed however any scheduled elections or by-elections in 2027 will not be held, as that is the proposed date for the election of the Shadow Local Government Reorganisation.
- f) A summary of progress and action relating to the new-age traveller application at New England Farm in Tadlow, leading to her complaint to the Planning Secretary about the 2 year waiting period for decisions, which can have a detrimental impact on the local community. A response has been received.
- g) Pushing for the protection of 'exception sites' to assist local residents with the issue of housing affordability and to ensure proof of local connections remains important.
- h) The Local Plan will be considered in December.

Cllr Abbasi asked whether the LGR business plan will be based on the same allocation of finances per head across all areas. District Cllr Williams explained it will be based on local needs, with some areas having higher debts due to social housing stock. It will also take into account the expected growth of local economies and the needs of the population, such as adult social care and childcare. Cllr Williams expressed her disappointment of how the SCDC leader has asserted a preference for Option B without this being agreed by Cabinet.

The Chair made reference to Agenda item 19., asking District Cllr Williams whether there is any point in responding as decisions seem to have been reached and when the questions are lacking substance without supporting information to draw upon. The Clerk advised that she had raised a complaint on behalf of the Parish Council regarding the consultation period being less than one month, which would prevent some Parish Councils from being able to respond. SCDC agreed a late response could be submitted. District Cllr Williams encouraged the Parish Council to respond and asked to be included in the email.

The Clerk asked how SCDC's four day working week would be impacted by the LGR. District Cllr Williams explained the contracts will transfer with staff regardless, and how the four day week already applies to some City staff in the shared services.

(Agenda item 18. brought forward at the Chair's discretion and by approval of all Councillors for the benefit of the speaker)

18. NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH GROUP

An update was provided by group leader, Nigel Stevenson, which included:

- a) Confirmation of the NWG merger for Gamlingay and Hatley. The focus remains on growing membership through speaking to residents, leafleting households and by attending the Gamlingay show.
- b) Uptake is generally slow due to the low crime rate in the area, however the recent burglary at Gamlingay's Post Office did spark new interest by some residents to join the group.
- c) Noting there has been no reported crime in Hatley since May.
- d) Information is shared via a Facebook page and monthly reports in the Gamlingay Gazette.

- e) NW signs can be placed in Hatley and suggested locations are welcome.
- f) Contact details for the local police officer were shared again and were confirmed as being available on the village website.
Thanks were given to Nigel by the Chair.

District Councillor Williams left the meeting.

(Agenda item 21. brought forward at the Chair's discretion and by approval of all Councillors for the benefit of the speaker)

21. CHURCHES

- i. St Denis' Church - Revd Hilary Young reminded all that the Diocese is still responsible for the churchyard but not the church itself. A report for St Denis' Church was shared by N Jenkins ahead of the meeting. Thanks were given by the Revd to the volunteers who undertake the scything and mowing, and for helping to manage grassland for wildlife which has led to the site being granted the Wildlife Trust's Conservation Churchyard Award. The church building is open every day with thanks to P Mann.
- ii. Hatley St George Church - Revd Hilary Young requested two weeks' notice for future meetings to prepare a report. The quinquennial inspection has taken place and the report is available for review. The inspection did not find the cause of the damp patch on the church floor. The church would incur huge costs to undertake a full investigation and has no funds available for repairs, so no action is being taken. The church would benefit from a working group. The status of the church is unclear, with the Diocese registry classing it as a 'parish church', which has an impact on the reading of wedding banns, as this requires a public service whereby the banns are read to the congregation. Therefore they are investigating whether the banns can be read to the Gamlingay congregation whilst allowing the marriage to take place in Hatley. The church has also been considered as a 'festival church' but such churches do not offer other services. The correct status and subsequent rules will be established and reported once they are known.

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8. FINANCE

- i. The Clerk shared details of income received in the period 01.07.25 to 30.09.25.
- ii. The **Parish Council resolved to approve** the reconciliation of the cashbook with the bank statement to 30.09.25.
- iii. The **Parish Council resolved to approve** the following payments for approval: -
 - 1) *K Wilde* – Travel and office costs (cheque approved and paid in July) – £87.68
 - 2) *K Wilde* – Reimbursement for payment to Cloud Next Ltd for the transfer of the hatley.info domain – £27.58
 - 3) *K Wilde* – Reimbursement for payment to Cloud Next Ltd for hosting the Hatley-pc.gov.uk domain – £60.00
 - 4) *Abacus Oil Experts* – Village Hall boiler repairs and parts – £523.44
 - 5) *P Mann* – Reimbursement for payment to Enix Ltd (HostPresto!) for the renewal of the hatley.info domain – £18.00

- 6) *K Wilde* – Reimbursement for football net ‘tent pegs’ and defibrillator first aid supplies – £14.24
- 7) *K Wilde* – Reimbursement for Village Hall toilet supplies, printing ink and paper – £96.09
- 8) *K Wilde* – April to July salary adjustment following implementation of the Local Government Services Pay Agreement 2025/26, plus overtime due for July
- 9) *HMRC* – PAYE for the salary adjustment and overtime payment
- 10) *K Wilde* – Salary payments for October, November and December 2025
- 11) *HMRC* – PAYE for October, November and December 2025
- 12) *O2* – Mobile phone contract D/D – £23.84 13.08.25, 15.09.25 and 15.10.25
- 13) *BT* – Village Hall broadband D/D – £39.01 23.07.25, 27.08.25 and 23.09.25
- 14) *Octopus Energy* – Village Hall electricity D/D – £3.92 14.08.25, £13.98 16.09.25 and £21.06 13.10.25

Revd Hilary Young left the meeting.

9. PLANNING

- i. The Clerk confirmed the decision by South Cambridgeshire District Council to refused planning application reference **25/02051/OUT**, being an outline application with some matters reserved except for access for the erection of 1 No. self build dwelling at land lying to the north east of 15 East Hatley. The grounds for refusal were in line with the concerns raised by the Parish Council.
- ii. There were no other planning issues to note.

10. HATLEY VILLAGE ASSOCIATION

There were no HVA members present at the meeting to provide an update and no update was received by email prior to the meeting. The Clerk advised that no monies have been handed over by the HVA in recent months and the cash position remains unconfirmed. A Harvest Festival event was held in October, though turnout was very low, possibly due to the event being organised and advertised at short notice. The HVA has reserved the Village Hall for a Christmas Tea Party event on Sunday 14th December. Cllr Astor reminded all that he had hoped to help the HVA host a community Bonfire Night event, with the idea being suggested earlier in the year. However the decision to proceed was only recently confirmed by the HVA and was then retracted due to insufficient time to organise. There is interest on all sides to host this event next Autumn.

11. HIGHWAYS AND SPEEDING

- i. The Clerk apologised for not having provided photos of the warning sign for the bend in Hatley St George (close to Thatched Lodge) to the Highways Team, to allow them to consider its revised location. The Clerk will action this week. The outstanding invoice is likely to be issued for payment once the sign location has been resolved.
- ii. Cllr Nickerson continues to be unable to undertake Speedwatch activity due to a lack of volunteers. Cllr Abbasi asked how often volunteers would need to help, which was confirmed as ideally three times a week and during peak rush hour periods. This target becomes more difficult in the darker winter months. There was an offer of

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assistance from a member of the public and a suggestion that there may be opportunities to share equipment with the Gamlingay Speedwatch team, which would help to cover the 40 mph sections in Hatley.

Cllr
Nickerson

- iii. The Clerk confirmed the speed monitoring sign remains in need of further repair, despite being slightly improved by a local resident. Suggestions were made for quotations to be sought for both repair and replacement by alternative suppliers, due the original supplier having stopped trading. An offer was made by a member of the public to see if an engineer from Gamlingay could take a look at the sign first, which was agreed by all. The Clerk will organise handing the sign over. Another member of the public offered to approach his contacts on the Police and Crime Commissioner's team to see what funding opportunities might be available, in case a replacement sign will be required.

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12. VILLAGE HALL

- i. The Clerk advised that bookings have been steady since July, varying from four to eight events per month, in addition to hall usage by the HVA and Parish Council. Hall income in the past quarter exceeded £600. Bookings are also looking good in the next two months.
- ii. The boiler has required repair and parts, as per the invoice that has been approved for payment. The Chair asked whether the condensation issue has reappeared, which it has not, although the Clerk will keep an eye on this as the weather turns colder. The Clerk showed an issue with the plastic threshold at the base of the external door into the rear garden, which she will arrange to get fixed. There were no other issues to note.

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13. PLAY AREA

- i. Following the most recent play area inspection by Cllr Flowerday, she recommended to the Parish Council at this meeting for the wooden play tower to be taken out of play. This is due to there being significant movement in the structure when vigorously tested by an adult at the top of the tower. The **Parish Council resolved** to dismantle the play tower at the earliest convenience and to also push forward to seek funding for its replacement. It was suggested that until the play tower can be dismantled the wooden ramp is to be blocked to prevent access and play, with appropriate signage being placed on all sides. A brief discussion was had about reusing the slide, which remains in good condition, but there was uncertainty about health and safety implications and how its use might be achieved. Cllr Abbasi expressed an interest in taking the slide for personal use if the only alternative is for it to be scrapped. The Clerk suggested the slide could be sold rather than scrapped. Cllr Flowerday and the Clerk will attempt to let families in the parish know the play tower is now out of use.
- ii. Cllr Flowerday has approached a number of families in the parish in recent months to present three possible designs for a replacement play tower. The preferred design has been noted, being the Sycorax, and a quotation to include the supply and installation for this design has been received and shared by the Clerk. The Parish Council requires funding assistance before it can proceed, with three possible funding opportunities suggested by the Clerk. They will be investigated further. Cllr Flowerday suggested that future fundraising needs might be met

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by including the use of a QR Code that would allow donations by local residents and business to support parish projects.

- iii. The Clerk noted that some of the new tent pegs that were securing the football net have disappeared, although another style has been installed in their place by someone.

14. PUBLIC ACCESS DEFIBRILLATOR

- i. The record book update has been received by the Clerk
- ii. The Clerk confirmed the new medical cleansings wipes have been purchased and will be added to the first aid kit this week.

Clerk

15. WEBSITE

- i. The Clerk confirmed that despite some technical and customer service difficulties both domains have successfully transferred to Cloud Next Ltd.
- ii. The Clerk advised that due to being unable to access the HostPresto! account for a prolonged period, for reasons out of her control, the website domain expired before the transfer was completed. Therefore a renewal fee needed to be paid to HostPresto! to reactivate the website domain to facilitate the transfer to Cloud Next Ltd.
- iii. Cllr Abbasi still has issues using the new .Gov.UK email address and will liaise with Cllr Flowerday outside of the meeting to see if the issue can be resolved.

Cllr Abbasi

16. COMMUNITY LITTER PICK

The time and date of the community litter pick was confirmed as starting from 10.30 am on Sunday 26th October. The Clerk advised that the equipment would be available for collection from the village shop and a map would be available to allow participants to mark the areas they are covering, to avoid late comers covering the same stretch of road.

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17. CLIMATE ACTION

The recent minutes of the CAG meeting were shared by N Jenkins ahead of this meeting and she gave a brief summary on the group's attendance at the Gamlingay Village Show. The next Repair Café is due to be held in March 2026 and the Great Collaboration website provides information on talks that are due to be held. Cllr Abbasi asked whether she could proceed to investigate the possible costs of installing electric car charging points in the parish. There were no objections to this offer but it was noted the play area project must be completed before a new project is considered.

Cllr Abbasi

Agenda item 18. previously covered.

19. LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION

- i. The Clerk confirmed that due to insufficient interest the suggested meeting with Liz Watts (SCDC's CEO) would not be proceeding and Liz has been informed.
- ii. It was noted that the second public consultation on Local Government Reorganisation has already closed, being open for just under a month. Further to the discussion under agenda item 7. with District Cllr Williams, the Clerk reconfirmed that Liz Watts is happy to receive comments from the Parish Council after the deadline. The Parish Council agreed to make no comments for the reasons outlined earlier in the meeting, primarily being decisions/preferences already

publicised by County and District Councils, and the lack of supporting data to allow a qualified response.

20. CORRESPONDENCE AND COMMUNICATIONS

- i. Cambridgeshire County Council – Community Gritting Scheme
The Parish Council noted the requirements of the scheme but no one volunteered to sign up at this time. Cllr Flowerday volunteered in previous years outside of Hatley. The Clerk will check whether the salt bins remain stocked for the winter months ahead. Clerk
- ii. South Cambs District Council – Consultation on Council Tax Support Scheme
Shared for information only. The Parish Council noted this was another consultation that has already closed and no comments were made.
- iii. South Cambs District Council and Cambridgeshire County Council – Survey on ‘Shaping Climate Strategies’
The Parish Council considered this to be another survey that is difficult to complete as a group of individuals on behalf of the community, and it was agreed that individual responses would be preferable.

Agenda item **21.** previously covered.

22. NEXT MEETING TIME AND DATE

7.00pm on Tuesday 20th January 2026.

23. MEETING CLOSURE

The meeting closed at 9.00pm.