

Hatley Parish Council

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Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Hatley Parish Council held in Hatley Village Hall on Tuesday 17th March 2026

PRESENT: Cllr Micky Astor (Chair), Cllr Samantha Abbasi (Vice Chair), Cllr Harold Nickerson, Cllr Peter Hayward, Cllr Charmian Flowerday, Clerk to the Council Kim Wilde, County Cllr James Stuart (arriving late), District Cllr Heather Williams (arriving late), and one member 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
None received.
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 20th January 2026 and they were signed by the Chair.
5. MATTERS ARISING
Any matters are covered during this meeting agenda.
6. OPEN MEETING FOR MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO ADDRESS QUESTIONS TO THE PARISH COUNCIL
There were no questions raised.
7. COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORTS
At this time in the meeting neither Councillors were present.
8. CAPALC AFFILIATION PACK 2026-27
The **Parish Council resolved** to renew all membership fees.
9. (Agenda item 9. was struck off. No discussion was required as it was included in error).
10. FINANCE
 - i. The Clerk shared details of income received in the period 01.01.26 to 28.02.26, which was mostly hall hire income. The Chair confirmed having reviewed the bank reconciliation for the same period, with the difference explained by uncleared cheques.
 - ii. The **Parish Council resolved** to approve the following payments:
 - 1) *Abacus Oil Experts* – Village Hall boiler service – £290.88
 - 2) *CAPALC* – Code of Conduct training fee – £45.00

- 3) *K Wilde* – Overtime payment for January and February 2026
- 4) *HMRC* – PAYE for overtime payment
- 5) *K Wilde* – March salary payment
- 6) *HMRC* – PAYE March salary payment
- 7) *CAPALC* – Affiliation and DPO fees 2026-2027 – £237.57
- 8) *O2* – Mobile phone contract D/D – £23.84 16.02.26 and 16.03.26
- 9) *BT* – Village Hall broadband D/D – £39.01 23.02.26 and 23.03.26
- 10) *Octopus Energy* – Village Hall electricity D/D – £10.92 16.02.26 and £11.22 on 16.03.26

- 11. (Agenda item 11. was struck off. No discussion was required as it was included in error).
- 12. INTERNAL AUDIT SERVICES 2025-26
The **Parish Council resolved** to appoint LGS Services to undertake the year end internal audit.

- 13. PARISH COUNCIL ELECTION 7TH MAY 2026
The Clerk reminded the Councillors of the election process including the requirement for candidates to submit their applications by hand to the District Council office in Cambourne. The Chair volunteered to deliver all paperwork that has been handed over to him by 1st April.
County Cllr Stuart arrived at the meeting and was invited by the Chair to discuss his report.
Cllr Stuart was pleased to announce that a new SEND specialist school will hopefully be open in Gamlingay on the site of the old First School by next September. However, talks are continuing in relation to transport links for pupils, with the possibility of a bus service to reduce the number of taxis and traffic congestion, plus ideas on renewable energy sources. In reply, some concerns were raised that taxis taking children to the new school would worsen congestion in Gamlingay at an already busy time of day. Cllr Flowerday and Cllr Nickerson pointed out that travel by bus is often not appropriate for children with autism. Cllr Flowerday encouraged Cllr Stuart to consult with families who might use the school so that appropriate travel plans might be put in place. The school would cater for children 11 to 18 years of age.
Cllr Stuart has requested road surfacing to be improved between the new surface at the top of Croydon Hill, right through to East Hatley. There are now 30 pothole repair crews compared to just 8 last year, and the goal is to repair grade 1 potholes within 5 working days. Cllr Abbasi asked if the parish council could be contacted in advance of road closures, and Cllr Stuart replied that some of the works are on an emergency basis so it is not always possible to provide sufficient notice. The variable quality of pothole repairs was discussed and Cllr Stuart acknowledged that some contractors undertake the work more professionally than others. Cllr Abbasi suggested that Highways should negotiate harder with contractors and ensure their work is inspected by a full-time inspector who could be paid from the money the Council saves on repeated repair work and over-priced contracts. Cllr Stuart agreed to speak to Highways to scrutinise the costs and find out more about the routine inspection of work by contractors. Cllr Flowerday commented on the locations that Cllr Stuart had focused his report on, where road repairs are most needed, and asked how Hatley might join the list. Cllr Stuart explained he has escalated areas where the state of the road is considered to be a danger to life, such as the subsidence on the route towards Wimpole (A603).

All

14. HATLEY VILLAGE ASSOCIATION

- i. The Clerk read aloud the HVA's report for their Christmas Tea event held in December, which included entertainment by the Gamlingay Choir. Following the event some of the villagers visited nearby households to carol sing. Thanks were given to all who attended and especially to the two HVA members who organised the food and drinks for the event.
- ii. The Clerk confirmed that all three members of the HVA have decided to stand down. This is partly due to poor attendance at some of the events over the past year, plus the amount of time that goes into planning and hosting events, which is quite a burden on such a small team.
- iii. The Clerk shared a financial update, explaining that some of the monies remain ringfenced for specific purposes, plus there is a sum due to be donated to Hatley St George Church, being a 50% contribution from the Coffee Morning monies. The recent HVA members were happy for the balance to be used, if needed, on the play area project. There remains cash to bank, as detailed in their final report.
- iv. The Chair shared news of the successful community bonfire event that took place in February. Approximately 70 residents attended and a dozen new volunteers have come forward to help across a range of community tasks. The Chair would like a follow-up event to be organised, with the hope that reconnecting people might encourage a desire to host more social events to maintain a sense of community. The goal would be to get the HVA back in place but in the meantime there is scope for easy to run events, without a need for fundraising or handling money. Cllr Flowerday said she had heard positive feedback and enthusiasm for such events. Cllr Nickerson added that there is a need to bring people together but there is a lack of people willing to steer it. The Chair suggested the Parish Council (with HVA funds) could help to finance refreshments at the next event, but ideas from others are welcome.

Clerk

Chair/all

15. HIGHWAYS AND SPEEDING

- i. Cllr Nickerson has 4 new speedwatch volunteers as a result of the community bonfire event, which means that two teams can share the workload and ensure more sessions take place. So far 4 sessions have been held and during this time 118 vehicles were recorded speeding. The fastest was a car travelling at 57mph in the 40 mph section of the parish (Village Hall to East Hatley). Other vehicles were captured at speeds of 45mph in the 30mph area in Hatley St. George. The new device provided by the Police has enabled data to be recorded at a greater distance. All drivers who were recorded speeding will receive official warning letters from Police. Generally, speeding remains a problem so the ability to get out more often will help to tackle this.
- ii. Cllr Nickerson shared images of speedwatch signage and asked the Parish Council to consider purchasing a sign for both entrances to the village. There was interest by the Councillors, providing permission is granted by Highways. Cllr Nickerson has struggled to find a supplier and therefore costs are unknown. The Clerk was asked to investigate this further. The Chair congratulated Cllr Nickerson for sticking with the speedwatch project.

Clerk

- iii. The speed monitoring sign has not recorded data since it was knocked down but is responding to passing cars to give warning of their speed. A few electronic tests are due to be carried out, and if the recording issue is resolved, a new battery will need to be purchased.

Clerk/
Cllr
Nickerson

16. PLANNING

The Clerk confirmed that Appeal Reference Number 6001890 was dismissed by the Planning Inspectorate. This was an appeal against the decision for refusal by SCDC for application 25/02051/OUT, being an outline application with some matters reserved for access for the erection of 1 No. Self Build dwelling at land lying to the northeast of 15 East Hatley, Cambridgeshire). The Appeal Decision can be found on the District Council's website.

District Cllr Williams arrived at the meeting and was invited by the Chair to give her report.

The suggestion for using AI cameras underneath the waste service vehicles was not approved by vote, however Cllr Williams hopes this will be reviewed again in the future. SCDC has concerns about the proposed 'Urban Development Corporation' which will not work for the rural parishes. It will see decisions being made without public consultation from quite a low level of planning. The Development Corporation consultation ends on 1st April. Food caddies were expected to be delivered to all parishes by March, but in some areas, including Hatley, this may now be delayed until September. Cllr Williams has opposed details in the new National Policy Planning Framework regarding attempts to manage water scarcity by limited water usage for agricultural purpose. Cllr Williams is happy to help check forms for candidates applying to stand in the next Parish Council election. Reporting potholes continues to be a laborious task and the reported number of claims against County Council for vehicle damage caused by potholes has not increased in line with the growing deterioration of the road. This suggests the criteria for claims has changed. The Chair asked whether anyone in County Council is inspecting the roads or whether they completely rely on the public. Cllr Williams confirmed the public are expected to report, though some reports have been closed without the work taking place.

District Cllr Williams left the meeting.

17. VILLAGE HALL

- i. The Clerk shared details of recent hall hire and future bookings, which are steady.
- ii. The Clerk will organise the window cleaning and still needs to get the plastic threshold on the door the garden repaired.

Clerk

18. PLAY AREA

- i. The Clerk shared details of the monthly play area inspections, kindly undertaken by Cllr Hayward. Cllr Nickerson was thanked for helping to relocate the football goalpost to its new socket. The previous goal area has been re-seeded.
- ii. As the weather is improving it is time to commence with the playtower project. Councillor Flowerday asked for clarification about next steps regarding a grant application for new play equipment. Councillor Astor advised that following the meeting at the play area, it had been decided not to pursue a grant application and to instead make use of the existing equipment. The Clerk read aloud the minutes from the meeting held in November 2025 to confirm this decision.

Clerk/ Chair
/ Cllr
Nickerson

- iii. The Clerk will organise a site visit by a play safety expert to give guidance on the proposed embankment slide. The Chair would like to be included in the site visit. Cllr Nickerson will report back on the ideal diameter or the proposed tunnel, based on an example found in Gamlingay.
- iv. There were no further matters relating to the play area.

19. PUBLIC ACCESS DEFIBRILLATOR

- i. The Clerk has received the updated record book.
- ii. There were no other matters to consider.

20. WEBSITE

- i. The Clerk advised that a new volunteer has offered to help the website team. The webmaster has produced a very thorough and useful guide for future administrators, to include the Clerk.
- ii. The Clerk suggested the Parish Council might consider better ways to share information with the residents, ideally through social media. It was agreed that Cllr Flowerday would help to share important local information through an existing WhatsApp group, which Cllr Abbasi asked to join.

Cllr
Flowerday

21. CLIMATE ACTION

- i. N Jenkins shared details of the minutes of CAG's previous meeting, with the next meeting due on Wednesday 18th March. A seed swap event is taking place on 21st March at the Eco Hub. A biodiversity audit has been initiated. Scything lessons will be taking place soon. An event is being organised for 27th May where many groups will be invited to give talks on Climate Action ideas - details to be published nearer the time.
Cllr Abbasi was interested in the idea of butterfly mounds as noted in CAG's meeting minutes and asked the Chair, as the Hatley Estate landowner, whether these could be introduced in the parish. The Chair confirmed they have already been placed in the two new woods that were recently planted.
N Jenkins encouraged new members to join CAG, especially from the Parish Council. The Chair explained that much of CAG's biodiversity plan is already happening, with landowners having acted on biodiversity objectives as a collective, over the past 20 years.

22. COMMUNITY LITTER PICK

- i. The Clerk confirmed the litter pick equipment has arrived ahead of the community event on Sunday 22nd March. Hi-vis jackets have been supplied by SCDC and therefore none have been purchased by the Clerk for the Parish Council.
- ii. The Clerk suggested the idea of holding the event more than twice a year, or having equipment owned by the Parish Council to allow for ad-hoc litter picking by residents. It was suggested that the Clerk asks SCDC if we can hold a small amount of their equipment for regular use.

Clerk

23. SCDC'S ROAMING E-WASTE RECYCLING BIN

The Clerk confirmed that arrangements have been made for the pink e-waste recycling bin to be located outside the Village Hall in May. Full details will be shared with residents ahead of May.

Clerk

24. CORRESPONDENCE

- i. SCDC – Improving the High Street funding
Some ideas were suggested for areas of improvement which included benches and hanging baskets, improvement of the Post Office frontage and resurfacing of the parking area outside the village hall, but they related to private land so were not feasible. Cllr Abbasi was keen to pursue this opportunity so the Clerk will resend the information.
- ii. Cambridgeshire County Council – Easter Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) Programme
Details were shared by the Clerk.
- iii. East Anglia Region Really Useful Family History Show
Details were shared by the Clerk.

Cllr Abbasi

25. PUBLIC CONSULTATIONS

- i. Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Local Government Reorganisation (LGR)
The Parish Council had no change of view or intent, further to discussions in the January meeting. No action required.
- ii. Government proposal for a Development Corporation for Greater Cambridge.
Further to the information shared by email, the Clerk explained the proposed composition of the Corporation, which is expected to have a minority of elected members. The Councillors agreed to look at this again outside of the meeting to make responses individually. The Clerk agreed to share this information once again.
- iii. Gamlingay Parish Council's Biodiversity Audit Consultation.
As discussed briefly under agenda item 21. The chair advised that such work is already actioned by landowners in the area and suggested that CAG focuses on areas that can encourage changes among residents, such as a reduction in single use plastics.

All Cllrs

26. CHURCHES

- i. A thorough report was received ahead of the meeting for St Denis' Church and the Chair thanks Nicola Jenkins. The report included an update on the installation of the new stained-glass window, and the various volunteers involved with and tasks actioned by the St Denis' Churchyard / Local Nature Reserve.
- ii. Reverend Hilary Young contacted the Clerk just ahead of the meeting to apologise for no longer being able to attend. A report will be provided for the Annual Parish Meeting in May.

27. NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

There was no update available at this time.

28. NEXT MEETING TIME AND DATE

7.00pm on Tuesday 19th May 2026: Annual Parish Meeting immediately followed by the Annual General Meeting of Hatley Parish Council

29. MEETING CLOSURE

The meeting closed at 9.36PM.