

Hatley Parish Council

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DRAFT Minutes of Hatley's Annual Parish Meeting held at 7.00pm on Tuesday 19th May 2026

PRESENT: Cllr Micky Astor, Cllr Harold Nickerson, District Cllr Heather Williams, Clerk to the Council Kim Wilde, and five members of the public.

1. Welcome by Cllr Astor on behalf of Hatley Parish Council.
2. Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Tuesday 20th May 2025 were approved and signed as a true record, being proposed by Cllr Nickerson and seconded by Cllr Astor.
3. There were no matters arising.
4. Annual reports were provided by, or presented on behalf of, the following parish groups, with the written reports due to be made available on the Hatley website:
 - i. Hatley Parish Council
Cllr Astor read aloud the Chair's annual report and gave thanks to his fellow Councillors and Clerk for their work in the previous year.
 - ii. Speedwatch Group
Cllr Nickerson shared data that has been collated through the work of Speedwatch, which disappointingly shows speeding to still be an issue in the parish. However, the Group has expanded, making it possible to operate more frequently.
 - iii. Defibrillator Group
The report was read aloud by the Clerk on behalf of the Defib Custodian. The team continues to work well and thankfully the defibrillator has not been needed in the past year.
 - iv. Hatley Village Hall
The Clerk read aloud the report for the Village Hall, confirming that the number of bookings and income have increased in the past year. There is one regular hirer and possibly one or two others in the pipeline.
 - v. Hatley Village Association
As the members have all stood down, the Clerk read aloud a summary of events organised by the HVA in the past year and thanks were given to the three members who have worked hard in to keep the group going and to bring the community together at their events.
 - vi. Website Group
P Mann confirmed the website work carries on quietly and efficiently. It was noted that a new volunteer has offered to help the group but direct contact has yet to be made. Cllr Astor enquired as to whether the 24 years of website data is stored in the Cloud, and P Mann confirmed hard copies are still held in Wordpress and all wording is also stored with the host, Cloud Next. Cllr Astor thanked P Mann for his continued hard work.
 - vii. Climate Action Group
N Jenkins shared her first annual report on behalf of CAG, providing background information on how the group set up and its

objectives. The group's meeting minutes can be found on the Gamlingay Parish Council's website. N Jenkins share details of the many events that were held in the previous year and encouraged new members to come forward to help represent Hatley. Cllr Astor gave thanks to N Jenkins for her hard work and ongoing support for Hatley.

viii. Hatley St George Church

Reverend Hilary Young shared her report and highlighted some of the key points. Most notably, that the Reverend will be retiring by the end of July, the importance of knowing the correct status of the church, and thanking all who have been involved in helping with the church and church grounds (to include St Denis).

HSG Church has been confirmed to be a Chapel of Ease, not a Parish Church, meaning it is available for worship but there is no expectation to hold services. An informal service is being held for the Trinity at 6pm on Sunday 31st May. St Denis' Church is generally in a better state of repair than HSG Church, thanks to the Friends of Friendless Churches and local volunteers. It is likely to take a year or so for her vacancy to be filled, however the Reverend will ensure everyone who plays a significant role in any one of the three churches in the Diocese is known to each other before she leaves. Thanks were given to P Mann and N Jenkins for the volunteering work in the churchyard of St Denis' and to Cllr Astor and his team for maintaining the churchyard in HSG. Cllr Astor thanked the Reverend for her work and acknowledged the sadness of her reasons for bringing forward her retirement.

ix. St Denis Church Local Nature Reserve Management Group
N Jenkins discussed the key points of the report, which included issues with the movement of stones following the erection of the scaffolding for the east window. It is expected the new glass-stained window will be installed by next May. The Friends of Friendless Churches will be creating a map of all the churches they support, with an image of St Denis's being highlighted in the overall design. A record of visitors can be found inside the church, with some lovely messages left by those who consider the church to be a very special place. Cllr Astor thanked the team for their continued effort.

x. Neighbourhood Watch

Nigel Stevenson confirmed there have been no crime reports for Hatley in the past year. There was a surge in membership after the break in at the Gamlingay Post Office. Leaflets have been distributed in Hatley with the help of P Mann, and many of the East Hatley residents have been introduced to the Nigel, with the help of N Jenkins. Leaflets and stickers will be provided to homes in Gamlingay where the street has seen a one-off crime. Nigel would be happy to install Neighbourhood Watch signage if suitable suggestions are put forward. Articles are being written for the Gazette to help promote the group. In April the article was entitled 'How safe were we in 2025?' with 145 crimes being reported, 63 of which were violent or sexual offences. Future articles will focus on domestic violence and anti-social behaviour. District Councillor Williams added that South Cambs District Council supports the White Ribbon campaign, which engages with boys and men to prevent violence against women.

5. Community Events
Cllr Astor and C Cooper shared details of the recent social event that took place in the Village Hall, to encourage residents to help organise future events, in the absence of the Hatley Village Association. The outcome was that people shared ideas but there remains a reluctance by people to volunteer to help organise or host an event. A BBQ event has been planned for 11th July at the Village Hall, whereby people will bring their own food and drink. Cllr Astor confirmed it is possible that an event for local youths may be in the pipeline too.
6. Annual reports from the County and District Councillors
County Councillor James Stewart was not present however his annual report was received by email in advance of the meeting.
Cllr Astor congratulated Cllr Heather Williams on her election success. Cllr Williams gave a reminder that she will help all residents irrespective of how they voted. Her annual report was written ahead of the election and shared by email. The key points noted were:
Proposals for significant financial savings were made by Cllr Williams but were not supported by the Cabinet.
The Greater Cambridge Development Corporation consultation will potentially see greater power given to Westminster without local approval, in relation to planning applications for 250 houses or more.
Outcomes of the recent Local Government Reorganisation consultation are due to be published in July.
The four day week in the District Council remains but will be voted on by the new authority (LGR).
Food waste caddies are expected to be distributed in Hatley in September.
Cllr Williams continues to support local farming businesses and is also lobbying Government to reduce or remove business rates for rural shops and pubs.
Cllr Astor gave thanks to Cllr Williams.
7. The Parish Council's unaudited accounts for the year ended 31st March 2026 were shared.
8. One member of the public questioned how much of the Parish Council's work is a 'must do' and how much is 'nice to do'. There was a general discussion in the room about the significant increase in local government bureaucracy, public consultations, general communications by email etc. which hit all councils the same, irrespective of the council size or the number of clerk hours worked. The Clerk confirmed that she does not have time for 'nice to dos' with a backlog of work still to complete and therefore does push back where possible. The Clerk also holds the Parish Council to one project at a time, to manage her workload on limited hours.
9. The time and date of the next Annual Parish Meeting were not agreed at this time, due to discussion about whether to hold the meeting separately to the Parish Council's Annual Meeting, hoping this might encourage greater attendance by making the Annual Parish Meeting more of a 'social' event. Dates in April and May were suggested and will be confirmed.
10. The meeting closed at 8.27pm