

Hatley Parish Council

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DRAFT Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Hatley Parish Council held in Hatley Village Hall on Tuesday 21st July 2026

PRESENT: Cllr Samantha Abbasi (Chair), Cllr Micky Astor (Vice Chair), Cllr Harold Nickerson, Clerk to the Council Kim Wilde, District Cllr Heather Williams (arriving late), and five 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
None received.
3. INTERESTS
 - i. Declarations of interest: None received.
 - ii. Dispensation applications for items on this agenda: Cllr Astor had submitted a dispensation application ahead of the meeting, which was read aloud at the meeting. **The Parish Council agreed to approve** the dispensations for a period up to 4 years and it was signed by the Chair.
4. PREVIOUS MINUTES
The **Parish Council resolved to approve** the minutes of the Annual Meeting of Hatley Parish Council held on Tuesday 19th May 2026 and they were signed by the Chair. (The meeting agenda was adjourned until 9th June).
5. PREVIOUS MINUTES
The **Parish Council resolved to approve** the minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of Hatley Parish Council held on Tuesday 9th June 2026 and they were signed by the Chair. (Being the adjourned agenda from the 19th May).
6. MATTERS ARISING
The external auditor has confirmed receipt of the Exemption Certificate for the annual audit 2025/26. The PAT tests are still due for the Village Hall. The action points from the previous meeting relating to Highways and Speeding are still outstanding.
7. OPEN MEETING FOR MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO ADDRESS QUESTIONS TO THE PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk

There were no questions from electors, however Reverend Hilary was given permission to use this opportunity to share details of her retirement event being held in Hatley St George Church on Saturday 25th July and her final church service and retirement party being held in Gamlingay on Sunday 26th July. Both the Chair and Cllr Astor thanked Hilary for her service and community support in the past 8 years and wished her well for the future.

8. COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORTS
At this time in the meeting neither Councillors were present.
9. REVISED TERMS OF EMPLOYMENT RELATING TO MILEAGE EXPENSES
The **Parish Council resolved to approve** the new rate for mileage expenses, backdated to 1st April 2026, in accordance with recommendations by HMRC and the National Joint Council for Local Government Services. The revised terms were signed by the Clerk and the Chair.
10. FINANCE
- i. The Clerk shared details of income received in the period 01.04.26 to 30.06.26, which included hall hire income and the annual precept from SCDC.
 - ii. The **Parish Council resolved to approve** the bank reconciliation for the period 01.04.26 to 30.06.26. The difference was explained by three uncleared cheques.
 - iii. The **Parish Council resolved** to approve the following payments for approval:-
 - 1) *K Wilde* – Overtime payments for May and June
 - 2) *K Wilde* – Reimbursement for office supplies – £17.18
 - 3) *K Wilde* – Reimbursement for travel expenses February to July – £86.66
 - 4) *K Wilde* – Reimbursement for the replacement speed sign battery – £72.61
 - 5) *LGS Services* – 2025/26 internal auditor's fee – £144.00
 - 6) *South Cambridgeshire District Council* – uncontested election fee – £75.00
 - 7) *Fire and Safety Solutions Ltd* – annual fire equipment inspection at the Village Hall – £50.40
 - 8) *M R L Astor* – Village Hall water rates 19.12.25 to 16.06.26 – £54.63
 - 9) *K Wilde* – Salary payments for July, August and September 2026
 - 10) *Mrs Cooper* – Reimbursement for supplies purchased for the Hatley community event held in May 2026 (Petty Cash) – £49.73 (published £54.63)
 - 11) *O2* – Mobile phone contract D/D – £25.67 15.06.26 and £25.67 15.07.26
 - 12) *BT* – Village Hall broadband D/D – £54.74 26.05.26, £30.94 24.06.26, and £38.34 (bill dated 09.07.26)
 - 13) *Octopus Energy* – Village Hall electricity D/D – £19.96 16.06.26 and £5.54 09.07.26
11. PLANNING:
- i. Planning reference **26/02181/OUT** was received for the Parish Council's consideration, being an outline application for the erection of 1 No. self build / custom build dwelling with all matters reserved except for access at land lying to the north east of 15 East Hatley SG19 3JA. The Parish Councillors acknowledged that the application appears to be the same development and site location as application 25/02051/OUT, which they had recommended for refusal in June 2025, and which was also refused by SCDC and dismissed under appeal by the Planning Inspectorate. It was noted that while some details differed, such as the agent's name, it otherwise appeared to be a repeated application. The Parish Councillors expressed their

disappointed about the time and money wasted on a repeated consultation that should not have been accept by SCDC. **The Parish Council resolved recommend the refusal** of this application without a full discussion, citing section 70a of the Town and Country Planning Act 1994, whereby the local authority can refuse an application received within a two year period that is substantially the same as a previously refused application. It was agreed the response to the 2025 application will be resubmitted in reply to this application.

Clerk

- ii. There were no other planning matters.

12. PARISH COUNCILLOR VACANCIES

- i. An application for one of the two vacant seats was received and shared with the Councillors ahead of the meeting. The applicant was present at the meeting and gave a brief explanation about why he would like to join the Parish Council. Thanks were given by all Councillors.
- ii. The **Parish Council resolved to co-opt** to fill one of the two vacancies and Dr. Alastair Smith was welcomed onto the Council. The Clerk explained the next steps, including the signing of the Declaration of Office at the end of the meeting.

13. HIGHWAYS AND SPEEDING

- i. Cllr Nickerson shared details of the three Speedwatch sessions held during June and July. The number of speeding vehicles remains high in all locations and a speed of 58mph was captured in the 30mph limit close to St George's Tower. The Speedwatch co-ordinator at South Cambs police has visited the parish on three occasions and, having witnessed the issue first hand, has requested for the Vision Zero team to conduct a speed check in the coming months. Both the Chair and Cllr Astor gave thanks to Cllr Nickerson and congratulated him for gaining the support of the police. Two members of the Speedwatch team have stepped down but there remains sufficient helpers to organise sessions on both sides of the parish.
- ii. The Clerk still needs to organise the possible repair of the sign so that the data is recording. A new battery for the sign has been purchased and is now in use. The Council agreed to consider at the October meeting the possibility of purchasing a new sign via the Local Highways Improvement Scheme. The Clerk will check the scheme's timetable.
- iii. The Parish Council responded to a request from an elector during the June meeting to consider the placement of a highways mirror to improve road safety and visibility at the East Hatley junction. The Parish Council concluded that the first step should be for concerned residents to speak to the landowners, to seek their assistance by cutting back the hedges for everyone's benefit. If this doesn't suitably resolve the problem, they can report back to the Parish Council to consider next steps.

Clerk

One member of the public left the meeting.

Some concerns were raised about the potholes that were marked for repair which have not been mended, despite others in close proximity being repaired.

14. VILLAGE HALL

- i. The Clerk shared details of recent hall hire and future bookings, which are quiet, as expected at this time of year.

- ii. The Clerk still needs to get the plastic threshold on the door the garden repaired.

15. PLAY AREA

- i. The Clerk has not received any monthly reports but has herself been checking the play area regularly, due to issues that will be discussed under item 15.iii. It was agreed each Councillor will inspect the play area on a fortnightly basis, while there are some problems to monitor.
- ii. Cllr Astor advised that a small team of volunteers has dismantled the wooden play tower, however there are still some wooden posts to be removed from the ground. The slide is now in storage for reuse on the new embankment slide. It was hoped the project would be completed by the end of July but harvest has started early, so the project is temporarily on hold. Costs are not yet known, however, in addition to the steel post there will need to be new grass matting purchased to cover the mound of earth, to help prevent erosion. Some of the current mats might be suitable for re-use too. Cllr Astor asked whether the purchases can take place between meetings, i.e. ahead of October. The Clerk confirmed that as the project has been fully discussed and approved by the Parish Council, the items are essential and have been agreed upon, and the funds are already reserved, the purchases will be possible ahead of October. They will need to be formally approved and minuted retrospectively at the October meeting.
- iii. The Clerk shared information on recent anti-social behaviour in the play area. There are now only two tent pegs in use for the goal netting, but the ground is too hard to add new pegs. Smashed glass has been found in the centre of the goal and has been carefully removed. Rubble and stones that were located at the edge of the playing field for the embankment slide project have been thrown across the play area, which will not only impact the cutting of the grass, it could cause damage to the Estate's mower. And finally, empty beer bottles have been found left on the grass close to the bench and bin. The Clerk will continue to do spot checks in addition to the weekly visits by the Estate's gardeners and the fortnightly visits by Councillors, to ensure the area remains clear of issues and safe for play.

All

16. PUBLIC ACCESS DEFIBRILLATOR

- i. The Clerk has received the updated record book and has recorded the information on The Circuit.
- ii. The Clerk has placed new batteries in the light that is located inside the cabinet.

17. WEBSITE

- i. The Clerk advised there has been no progress yet with training a new volunteer for uploading Parish Council documents to the website. Cllr Astor commented that the newly co-opted member, Dr Smith, has an advanced technical background and might be useful for this and future tasks relating to the website. Dr Smith agreed to help and the Clerk will update the Webmaster accordingly.

Clerk

18. CLIMATE ACTION

- i. There have been no new CAG meetings since the last minutes were shared in June. Cllr Astor has recently hosted a community talk on soil health, which was very well attended by people from a wide area, and has also resulted in the formation of a new composting group. It was

also considered beneficial to learn how much Hatley Park Estate and other local landowners are doing to help the environment and to tackle issues relating to climate change.

District Cllr Heather Williams joined the meeting.

(Climate action continued)

The Swift breakfast event was well attended, with 40-50 swifts being counted. A National Emergency Briefing film was shown to CAG members and the general public at the Eco Hub.

The Chair invited District Cllr William to share her report, which included:

- Local Plan – approved by SCDC and Cambridge City, with an 8 week public consultation due during the summer.
- Local Government Reorganisation – of the 21 areas, 19 have had boundaries confirmed. SCDC is one of the two exceptions. SCDC is challenging how the elections can take place as timetabled because they are prevented from establishing committees until the boundaries are known.
- Motion for AI technology under bin lorries to report highways issues – this was not approved by Council due to the bin lorries being owned SCDC and the County Council being responsible for road maintenance.
- Harvest – reminder of the importance of driving with extra caution, by not overtaking tractors without clear sight ahead, and parking sensibly so as not to obstruct fire engines who may need to attend field or combine fires.
- Community Infrastructure Levy – Greater Cambridge Partnership is proposing to use CIL to fund the gap for local transport needs, but a better policy is needed for the South Cambs area.
- Neighbourhood Plans – Heydon is of a similar population size to Hatley and is a good example of a successful Neighbourhood Plan for smaller parishes.
- Zero Carbon Grants – The deadline for applications is 24th July.

Cllr Williams agreed to send details of Steeple Morden's EV car charging project and the link to the grant Zero Carbon Grants application to the Chair to help with researching a possible EV Charging Point for Hatley. Cllr Astor gave details for 4 field fires that have occurred in the area, also stressing the important of keeping areas clear for access by the fire service. Cllr Williams asked the Parish Councillors to consider sharing her Facebook post which addresses the need for caution when overtaking tractors. The Chair thanked Cllr Williams for her report and also acknowledged her recent 10 mile charity walk.

District Cllr Heather Williams left the meeting.

19. COMMUNITY EVENTS

Cllr Astor gave a brief update on the recent community BBQ event, which went reasonably well, being attended by the usual people, including some children. Dr Smith commented that the turnout was disappointing compared to the 'what events shall we do?' event that took place in May. It was noted that the quiz nights have generally been successful over the years and the Chair agreed to contact the organiser of the BBQ event to see what other events can be diarised for the coming months.

20. CORRESPONDENCE

- i. Request for signage in East Hatley to address the increasing amount of dog poo on the track close to Parkers Farm. The Clerk advised

that some paper posters have been placed along the track by a resident and it was suggested that there have been improvements already. Cllr Nickerson suggested that new posters would be useful along Baulk Lane as the originals have faded, which the Clerk will action. The Clerk advised that dog walkers continue to use the play area bin incorrectly for filled dog poo bags and that maybe better signage is required in the area. It was agreed to also monitor the play area more closely and consider any necessary action at the next meeting.

Clerk

- ii. The Clerk shared details provided by SCDC's Housing Help team and will place a poster in the Village Hall, to help advertise their services.

21. CHURCHES

- i. A report was received ahead of the meeting for St Denis' Church. The key points to note were:
 - Bat counting event to be held on 21st or 22nd August, all welcome
 - Scything work will start on Thursday 23rd July.
 - The Big Butterfly count continues until 9th August.Reverend Hilary Young reminded all that regulations must be adhered to before placing monuments in the graveyard. A sign will be placed in the area to inform people to contact the diocese for permission.
- ii. Cllr Astor provided an update from a recent meeting held at Hatley St George Church, which has enabled a report on the fabric of the building and the findings of damp and blocked drains. Grants are available to help maintain and improve the building but a community group of volunteers is required to take this forward. Cllr Astor stressed the importance of looking after the building for both its historical significance as well its religious purpose. Cllr Astor is considering hosting a community event inside the church to allow people appreciate the interior features and to encourage interest in the church building once again. Reverend Hilary Young explained that a community group would be formally appointed by the Parochial Church Council and they would then be in a position to work with their chosen architect to plan the necessary works and apply for funding.

22. NEXT MEETING TIME AND DATE

7.00pm on Tuesday 20th October 2026. Cllr Astor provided notice in advance of his absence from the October meeting.

An elector spoke in reference to the planning application in East Hatley (see minute 11.i.). He asked the Parish Council to record that in his opinion the application is 'ridiculous'.

23. MEETING CLOSURE

The meeting closed at 8.53PM.