



# PERRY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Perry Parish Council Meeting held at 1900 hours on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2024 at the Grafham Water Sailability Clubhouse.

## Present:

**Parish Councillors:** Chairman Sheila Brighton (Vice Chairman as of item 24/18 - SB), Vice Chairman Eleanor Abbs (Chairman as of item 24/17 - EA), Kay Darby (KD), Chris Jones (CJ), Nigel Noon (NN), Emma Prew (EP). The meeting was quorate.

**County Councillor:** Ian Gardener (IG).

**District Councillor:** Stephen Cawley (SC).

**Members of the public:** three.

**Clerk to the Council:** Eugene Smith (ES).

## 24/16 Apologies

Councillor Jo Shirreff's apologies were approved (proposed SB, approved unanimously).

## 24/17 Election of Chairman for 2024 – 2025

Eleanor Abbs was elected Chairman of the Perry Parish Council for the year 2024 – 2025 (prop. SB, app. unanimous). Her declaration of acceptance of office was signed and witnessed by ES.

## 24/18 Election of Vice-Chairman for 2024 - 2025

Sheila Brighton was elected Vice-Chairman of the Perry Parish Council for the year 2024 – 2025 (prop. SB, app. unanimous).

## 24/19 Reports from County and District Councillors

Reports attached as appendix one (IG) and appendix two (SC).

## 24/20 Councillors' declarations of interest for items on the agenda

CJ declared an interest regarding item 24/31.

## 24/21 Open forum for public participation

**Action:** ES to add Roundhouse Drive biodiversity grass area to June's agenda.

**24/22 Minutes of the previous meeting**

The minutes of the Perry Parish Council meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2024 were **approved** as a correct record (prop. EA, app. unanimously) and signed by the Chairman.

**24/23 Minutes of Annual Parish Meeting**

The minutes of the Perry Annual Parish Meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2024 were **approved** as a correct record (prop. EA, app. unanimously) and signed by the Chairman.

**24/24 Clerk's report**

Attached as appendix three.

**24/25 Parish / village matters**

a) HMP Littlehey developments

No updates.

b) Remembrance statue

Floral supplements to be discussed at June's meeting.

**Action:** ES to add to next agenda.

c) D-Day 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary

It was **decided** to purchase an appropriate wreath to be placed at the village Remembrance statue.

**Action:** ES to research and purchase.

d) Christmas tree

It was decided to hire a Christmas tree to be placed near the Wheatsheaf public house as in previous years.

**Actions:** ES to contact pub management and obtain a quote from The Christmas Decorators.

e) Perry in Bloom

It was **agreed** to raise the allowance for each planter by £5 for 2024 – 2025 (prop. EA, app. unanimously).

**Action:** ES to inform participants.

**24/26 Communal garden bins**

SC advised that communal bins must be stored on council land. It is therefore currently not possible to pursue this any further, but will be reviewed at the PPC meeting in February 2025.

## 24/27 Highways

### a) Crow Spinney Lane

It was **agreed** to request yellow line painting and enforcement from the Ministry of Justice.

**Action:** ES to contact MoJ.

### b) Chichester Way damage to grass verges.

It was decided to wait and see what action the Cambridgeshire County Council line-painting department takes, and make a future decision accordingly.

**Action:** ES to add to future agenda(s) as appropriate.

## 24/28 Update on meetings and training attended

ES has attended module one of a Microsoft Excel introductory course run by the Society of Local Council Clerks.

## 24/29 Events Working Party

Christine Halsall provided an update on the Perry Festival and Family Fun Day.

## 24/30 Annual administration

### a) Standing Orders

It was **agreed** to adopt Standing Orders for 2024 – 2025 (prop. EA, app. unanimously).

### b) Financial Regulations

It was **agreed** to adopt Financial Regulations for 2024 – 2025 (prop. EA, app. unanimously).

### c) Asset register

The current Perry Parish Council asset register was **reviewed** and **noted**.

### d) Insurance arrangements

ES provided a verbal report, stating that Hiscox Insurance had provided an renewal invitation at an acceptable rate.

### e) Council policies

The Perry Parish Council polices regarding complaints, Freedom of Information, press and employment were **reviewed** and **noted**.

### f) The current council subscriptions to other bodies were **noted**.

- g) The terms of reference for the Events Working Party were reviewed and noted.

**24/31 Section 137 donations**

The following donations under s 137 of the Local Government Act 1972 were **agreed** (prop. EA, approved unanimously excepting CJ as per item 24/20):

St Neots Museum: £150

Life and Diaries magazine: £250

It was decided to make no donations at present to the following:

Grafham Water First Responder Scheme

Adventures Away from Home Fund.

**Actions:** ES to inform the above, contact Grafham Water Centre regarding Grafham Water Lions potential funding, with Magpas air ambulance to be reviewed following the Perry Festival.

**24/32 Finance**

- a) The following authorised and regular payments were **noted**, and the payment schedule signed by EA.

**Eugene Smith** (clerk's salary for April): **confidential**

**Eugene Smith** (working from home allowance for April): **£26.00**

**Eugene Smith** (dog waste bags): **£5.50**

**Eugene Smith** (postage): **£3.80**

**Colin Beesley** (handyman's wages for April): **confidential**

**Oasis printing** (summer event flyers and posters): **£83.64**

**HMRC** (March income tax): **£36.80**

**HMRC** (April income tax): **£36.80**

**LGS** (payroll 2023-2024): **£127.80**

**ASK IT** (LiveDrive Cloud Backup 2024 – 2025): **£20.00**

**Grafham Water Sailability** (use of Clubhouse 03/04/2024): **£30**

**Unity Trust Bank** (service charge): **£18.00**

- b) A credit of **£19,846.00** (precept) received from Huntingdonshire District Council on 26/04/2024 was **noted**.

**24/33 Agenda items for the next Perry Parish Council meeting (12<sup>th</sup> June 2024)**

Additional items must be received by the clerk no later than Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2024.

**24/34 Motion to exclude the public and the press**

That the public (including representatives of the press) be excluded during the consideration of the remaining item (23/36) because it is likely, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings, that if members of the public were present during the item(s) there would be disclosure to them of exempt information of Category 1 & 2 Part 1 Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).

The motion was **approved** (prop. EA, app. unanimously).

#### **24/35 Handyman wage review**

The proposed changes were **approved** (prop. EA, app. unanimously).

**Action:** ES to inform the handyman.

**Meeting closed at 2050 hours.**

### **END OF MINUTES**

**Appendix one to follow.**

#### **APPENDIX TWO – DISTRICT COUNCILLOR’S REPORT**

Annual Report from District Councillor - Great Staughton Ward (Hail Weston, Gt Staughton, Perry, Grafham, Ellington parishes) This year has been another one full of event. For a second year running, the Joint Administration raised our Council Tax by the maximum amount allowable without recourse to a referendum, a move opposed by the Conservative Group. They have also increased charges for chargeable services – another move opposed by the Conservative Group. In addition, the Joint Administration made the biggest reduction in HDC services in a generation through the removal of the Garden Waste bin free collection and the introduction of the Garden Waste subscription scheme on April 1 this year. At this relatively early stage, just over 40% of households in the district have subscribed. Most other charges across the board are also increasing. In terms of staffing, last year, HDC recruited a new Chief Executive and Director of Place, and we are about to embark on the recruitment of a new Finance Director. A pay agreement has been reached with staff for 2024, avoiding possible industrial action threatened last year. Staff turnover remains low, although the Planning department remains under pressure. In terms of planning, several outstanding planning matters in the ward have been resolved, although some may yet be appealed, and some still require work from the HDC Planning team The single biggest planning issue for the ward is the proposed East Park Solar Farm proposals. I was able to join the public meeting organised by Gt Staughton PC, and remain in touch with the Planning Officer leading the work, and keep the PC’s informed, working closely with my County Council colleague. HDC continues on the work to review and update the Local Plan, and through 2023 the Call for Sites process began. This has brought forward many proposals, but they are all a long way from being considered, and I will keep close to the process to ensure the PCs within the ward are aware of any potential issues. The coming year promises to just as busy as the Council embarks on the introducing the new Places Strategy, continuing to deliver its Environment Strategy, and working on a new Staffing Strategy, as well as continuing to progress the Local Plan work. I serve on the Overview & Scrutiny panel for Performance & Growth, holding the

Joint Administration to account on finances, strategy and growth. I ensure that the voice of the Great Staughton ward is heard, especially at a time when rural wards can sometimes be overlooked by the Joint Administration. I also continue to serve on the Employment Committee, responsible for HR and staff matters, and on the Senior Officers' Panel, responsible for recruitment of senior officers. I continue to enjoy the regular meetings of all 5 parish councils in the ward, as well as meeting residents and helping them where I can, understanding the local issues better. I have also had the privilege of attending Remembrance ceremonies in Grafham and Perry, and being invited to join with Perry Baptist Church in marking the Coronation. Finally, I want to mention a new initiative this year which kicked off on 25 April - Huntingdonshire Day. HDC will consider applications to support community events up to £1,000, or 20% of the total event cost, whichever is lower. Community events are defined as lasting for less than four days. In order to be eligible, they must be free to attend, free to take part and open to everyone. All criteria for Community Chest funding also applies. I am encouraging local groups, fete committees, and Parish Councils alike within the ward to consider applying.

<https://www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk/media/3uamuvru/community-chest-fundingcriteria.pdf>

Stephen Cawley District Councillor, Great Staughton Ward Huntingdonshire District Council  
April 2024

### **APPENDIX THREE – CLERK'S REPORT**

- Anglian Water are recruiting volunteers for the Visitor Centre, specifically in the areas of gardening and letter-picking. There is a poster in the village noticeboard and details on their website.
- A series of sessions in the HDC Active Lifestyles scheme will be held at Grafham Water Centre later this year on Friday afternoons, sign up via the clerk.
- The book exchange will go live on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2024.
- Crow Spinney Lane potholes have been looked into and filled in.

**END OF APPENDICES**