



# PERRY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Perry Parish Council Meeting held at 1900 hours on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2025 at the Grafham Water Sailability Clubhouse.

*Please note that minutes are formal records of official acts and decisions. They are not verbatim reports of discussions or decision-making processes.*

## **Present:**

**Parish Councillors:** Chairman Eleanor Abbs (EA), Vice Chairman Sheila Brighton (SB), Kay Darby (KD), Chris Jones (CJ), Nigel Noon (NN). The meeting was quorate.

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

**Members of the public:** six.

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

## **24/145 Apologies**

Apologies from Parish Councillors Emma Prew and Jo Shirreffs were **approved** (proposed EA, approved unanimously).

County Councillor Ian Gardener's apologies were received.

## **24/146 Councillors' declarations of interest for items on the agenda**

None.

## **24/147 Report from District Councillor**

SC delivered his report, which is attached as appendix one.

## **24/148 Guest speaker from Anglian Water**

Park Manager Simone Tauber provided updates and answered questions.

## **24/149 Open forum for public participation**

Ed Groome from Grafham Water Centre provided an update on the forthcoming crafts market on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> May.

## **24/150 Minutes of the previous meeting**

The minutes of the Perry Parish Council meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> February 2025 were **approved** as a correct record (prop. EA, app. unanimously) and signed by the Chairman.

**24/151 Clerk's report**

Attached as appendix two.

**24/152 Events Working Party**

Fay Wheatcroft provided updates, including on the community litter pick (Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> April).

**24/153 Highways and green spaces**

- a) Chichester Way line painting  
No updates, believed to be imminent.
- b) Woodland Trust tree planting initiative  
Any potential spaces identified to be fed back at next meeting.

**24/154 20mph zone(s)**

It was **decided** not to submit an application this year (prop. EA, app. unanimously).

**24/155 Publications**

To be retained as a standing item.

**24/156 Staffing Committee**

- a) the terms of reference for Perry Parish Council's Staffing committee were **approved** (prop. EA, app. unanimously).
- b) the membership of said committee, namely Eleanor Abbs (parish council chairman), Sheila Brighton (parish council vice chairman), Chris Jones (parish councillor) and Eugene Smith (parish council clerk) was **approved** (prop. EA, app. unanimously).
- c) the initial 2025 – 2026 meeting date for said committee was **set** as following April's parish council meeting (see item 24/158) (prop. EA, app. unanimously).

**24/157 Council administration**

- a) Perry Parish Council's Disciplinary Policy was **approved** (prop. EA, app. unanimously).
- b) Perry Parish Council's Grievance Policy was **approved** (prop. EA, app. unanimously).
- c) the amendment to Perry Parish Council's Financial Regulations item 6.4 was **approved** (prop. EA, app. unanimously).

**Actions:** ES to publish policies on website and amend Financial Regulations.

**24/158 Meeting dates 2025 – 2026**

The following dates for ordinary meetings of Perry Parish Council – April 9th, May 14th (annual meeting of the parish council), June 11th, July 9th, September 10th, October 8th, November 12th, December 10th, February 11th, March 11<sup>th</sup> – were **approved** (prop. EA, app. unanimously).

**24/159 Update on meetings and training attended**

KD updated the meeting on her visit to HMP Littlehey, accompanied by councillor Jo Shirreffs and a village resident.

**24/160 Finance**

a) The following authorised and regular payments were **noted**.

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

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

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

**HMRC** (February income tax): **£159.20**

**Unity Trust Bank** (service charge): **£6.00**

EA **signed** the payment schedule.

**24/161 Appointment of a parish councillor**

In accordance with the Local Government Act 1972, s.16A(1), Pat Reynolds was **appointed** as a councillor of Perry Parish Council (prop. EA, app. unanimously).

**Action:** ES to facilitate.

**24/162 Agenda items for the next Perry Parish Council meeting (9<sup>th</sup> April 2025)**

None.

Additional items must be received by the clerk no later than Monday 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025.

**Meeting closed at 2026 hours.**

**END OF MINUTES**

**APPENDIX ONE – REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR**

Parish Council Update – March 2025

Garden Waste Subscription 2025

Subscriptions for Garden Waste Collection Service are now open for the upcoming service year, which will run from 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026. The cost per year is £57.50 for one garden waste bin and £30 per additional bin (up to a maximum of 3 additional bins).

To ensure your garden waste collections continue seamlessly from 1 April 2025, residents are encouraged to renew their subscription as soon as possible.

New subscribers: If you have not used the garden waste service before, you can sign up for the service for the period from 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026, using the Garden Waste Subscription Form (online)

Returning subscribers (card payments): If you subscribed last year (2024- 2025) using a card payment, you will need to renew your subscription for 2025-2026, using the Garden Waste Subscription Form (online)

Returning subscribers (Direct Debit): If you signed up last year via Direct Debit, this would automatically renew each year. You do not need to sign up again.

#### Budget 2025/2026

At last Full Council meeting, the budget for next year accepted (opposed by Conservatives who proposed amendments to make savings – rejected)

Council Tax increased by maximum amount without recourse to local referendum

#### Economic Growth Strategy Refresh

HDC has commissioned PRD and Volterra (consultants) to undertake a refresh of the Council's Economic Growth Strategy. Members of the consultant team will be joining a member workshop on 11th March to explain how the refresh will be undertaken and the key factors that will influence future economic growth.

#### Devolution White Paper

Peterborough City Council is included. Constituent councils include all Districts, Unitary and the County. Other public sector colleagues (Health, Police and Fire) are included in discussions.

We are in Wave 2 and must have final plan submitted by the autumn, although initial plans need to be ready by March.

CCC elections and Mayoral elections will go ahead in 2025. HDC elections in 2026 – unknown at this stage.

The process continues with an extraordinary Full Council meeting on 19 March to consider HDC's response and proposal to be submitted by 21 March.

#### Tilted Balance

Because Central Government has upped housing targets across England, for the first time HDC finds its development pipeline below the 5 years land target and is in tilted balance. This means there could be a presumption in favour of sustainable development on any proposal brought forward. Local / Neighbourhood / Village Plans however still have an influence.

### **APPENDIX TWO – CLERK'S REPORT**

- Cambridgeshire County Council have submitted the Traffic Regulation Order for the 40mph buffer zones, processing is currently taking around seven months.
- If anyone thinks they have spotted a potential ransom strip, please let me know.
- The pill packaging recycling scheme is being processed.

### **END OF APPENDICES**