



PERRY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Perry Parish Council Meeting held at 1900 hours on Wednesday 9th July 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), Kay Darby (KD), Nigel Noon (NN), Emma Prew (EP), Pat Reynolds (PR). The meeting was quorate.

County Councillor: Ian Gardener (IG).

District Councillor: Stephen Cawley (SC).

Members of the public: six.

Clerk to the Council: Eugene Smith (ES).

25/44 Apologies

The apologies received from Vice Chairman Sheila Brighton and councillors Chris Jones and Jo Shirreffs were **approved** (proposed EA, approved unanimously).

25/45 Councillors' declarations of interest for items on the agenda

None.

25/46 Reports from County and District Councillors

IG and SC delivered their reports, which are attached as appendices one and two respectively. See also item 25/50/b.

25/47 Open forum for public participation

See item 25/50/b.

PR raised issues with wheelchair access through the barriers on the footpath connecting Rosecroft and the B661.

Action: ES to contact Cambridgeshire County Council to see what can be done.

25/48 Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the Perry Parish Council Annual Meeting held on 11th June 2025 were **approved** as a correct record (prop. EA, app. unanimously) and signed by EA.

25/49

Clerk's report

Attached as appendix three.

25/50

Highways and green spaces

a) Chichester Way line painting
No updates.

b) Highway obstructions

It was **decided** to take no action beyond providing appropriate contact details.

Various areas of overgrown vegetation were identified throughout the meeting.

Action: KD and ES to collate areas, ES to contact owners / arrange pruning as appropriate.

25/51

Publications

NN suggested Little Staughton's newsletter as a template.

Action: ES to research.

25/52

Planning permission consultation

Proposal: Variation of Condition 2 (approved plans) of 24/01701/FUL for the construction of 3no. dwellings and alterations to existing vehicular access

Site Address: Land Adjacent 26 West Perry, Perry

Reference: 25/01070/S73

Approval was **recommended** (prop. EA, app. unanimously).

Action: ES to inform Huntingdonshire District Council.

25/53

Update on meetings and training attended

ES has requested that Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Association of Local Councils hold new councillor training sessions in this district, and they have agreed to run some in autumn.

25/54

Events Working Party

Fay Wheatcroft provided an update, including the following dates:

Saturday 13th September – garage sale

Saturday 4th October – litter pick (starting at the later time of 1100 hours)

Sunday 9th November – Remembrance ceremony

Wednesday 17th December – Christmas event.

25/55 Finance

The following authorised and regular payments for June 2025 were **noted**:

Eugene Smith (clerk's salary for June): **confidential**
Eugene Smith (working from home allowance for June): **£26.00**
Colin Beesley (handyman's wages for June): **confidential**
HMRC (May income tax): **£207.54**
ASK IT (Antivirus renewal 2025 – 2026): **£22.20**
Grafham Water Sailability (clubhouse use June): **£30**
HMRC (June income tax): **£207.54**
Unity Trust Bank (service charge): **£6**

Lloyds Multipay card: £8
(SMARTY mobile phone fee May: **£5**
Monthly fee May: **£3**)

25/56 Appointment of a parish councillor

David Gent was appointed as a councillor of Perry Parish Council (prop. EA, app. unanimously).

Action: ES to arrange paperwork completion etc.

25/57 Agenda items for the Annual Perry Parish Council meeting (10th September 2025)

NN suggested a scheme of gardening assistance.

Action: ES to research and create a proposal for September's meeting.

Additional items must be received by the clerk no later than Monday 1st September 2025.

Meeting closed at 1955 hours.

END OF MINUTES

APPENDIX ONE – REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR IAN GARDENER

Parish Council County Council Report – July 2025

Following the County Council Elections the Council is now Liberal Democrat controlled, the make up of the authority is: - Liberal Democrat 31, Conservative 10, Reform 10, Labour 5, Green 3 and Independents 2 Councillors.

Following the election I will sit on the following Committees, for the ensuing year.

Highways and Transportation – Conservative Spokesman

Planning

Staffing and Appeals

Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Fire Authority.

Following the Government's decision to proceed with Local Government Reorganisation, the Leaders of the Seven Authorities within Cambridgeshire have come up with 3 proposals for 2 Unitary Authorities, which will undertake all services currently provided by the County & District Councils.

Each proposal sees different groupings of Local Authorities, which are based on District council boundaries and Peterborough City.

The proposals are –

Proposal A

Unitary 1 – Peterborough City, Huntingdonshire and Fenland.

Unitary 2 – Cambridge City, East Cambridgeshire and South Cambridgeshire.

Proposal B

Unitary 1 – Peterborough City, Huntingdonshire, Fenland and East Cambridgeshire.

Unitary 2 – Cambridge City and South Cambridgeshire.

Proposal C

Unitary 1 – Peterborough City, East Cambridgeshire and Fenland

Unitary 2 – Cambridge City, Huntingdonshire and South Cambridgeshire

Business Plans for all three proposals are currently being drawn up. The financial viability of each proposal must be met in order to meet government's requirements.

It is recognised that each option has different strengths and different implications for services, our local communities and businesses.

Consultation on Local Government reorganisation has begun it is anticipated that residents, businesses and other stakeholders across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough will be asked to express their views on the future of Local Government more broadly and not just the three options identified above and lasts to 20th July.

The final decision as to which proposal if any, becomes the governments preferred option, is that of the government.

Regarding Perry's successful LHI Bid for Buffer Zones. I can confirm the order has been placed and that it's anticipated that the work will be carried out within this quarter.

The County Council is going to designate the Grafham to Brampton Road as a Quietway. It has been agreed to keep the road open to all road users – cars, cyclists, pedestrians and horse riders and not to close the road to vehicular traffic. The proposed speed limit for the Quietway will be 20mph.

Cllr Ian Gardener

Alconbury & Kimbolton Division

APPENDIX TWO – REPORT FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLOR STEPHEN CAWLEY

Parish Council Update – July 2025

Expiry of Postal Votes and Reapplication Process

Following a change to the law as part of the Elections Act, postal votes can no longer apply indefinitely. They now expire after a maximum period of three years.

Postal voters can still register to vote by post for a particular poll, but they can no longer hold a postal vote for longer than three years.

Due to the timing of the reapplication legislation, around 16,500 Huntingdonshire postal votes are due to expire at the end of January 2026.

It is vital that we ensure voters respond to the communications and engage with the process to prevent electors being disenfranchised due to the new requirements

https://mcusercontent.com/c12c267f6eb236cbf6c4c1a8a/files/d0d97e3c-4a27-d12e-9029-d823522560d0/Expiry_of_postal_votes_and_reapplication_process.pdf

Council Reorganisation

11 June Council leaders announced they have identified three preferred options for creating new unitary councils across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.

The announcement has been made in response to a national government requirement to replace the current district, county and city councils with simpler unitary councils, instead of two tiers of local government.

Proposal A – North-West/South East Option

- Unitary 1: Peterborough City Council, Huntingdonshire and Fenland District Councils - along with County Council functions.
- Unitary 2: Cambridge City Council, East Cambridgeshire and South Cambridgeshire District Councils - along with County Council functions.

Proposal B – North/South Option

- Unitary 1: Peterborough City Council, East Cambridgeshire, Fenland and Huntingdonshire District Councils - along with County Council functions.
- Unitary 2: Cambridge City Council and South Cambridgeshire District - along with County Council functions.

Proposal C – East/West Option

- Unitary 1: Peterborough City Council, East Cambridgeshire and Fenland District Councils - along with County Council functions.
- Unitary 2: Cambridge City Council, Huntingdonshire and South Cambridgeshire District Councils - along with County Council functions.

<https://www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk/news/three-options-announced-for-council-reorganisation-plans/>

Consultation online until 20 July – encourage as many residents to give their opinions.

<https://can-campaigns.co.uk/local-councils-in-cambridgeshire-and-peterborough-are-changing/>

Food Collection Service

Following the government's amendment of the Environment Act in November 2021 and the introduction of Simpler Recycling requirements in May 2024, all Councils in England—unless granted transitional arrangements—are required to implement a separate, weekly food waste collection service for households by 31 March 2026.

More details: https://mcusercontent.com/c12c267f6eb236cbf6c4c1a8a/files/4b2b6066-01c4-c315-8c81-4068659ed7a4/Weekly_Food_Waste_Collections_Members_Update_June_2025.pdf

Street Pride Team

In April 2025, the HDC Street Pride Team was launched as part of the Council's strategy to improve areas that need extra care, ensuring they contribute to the vibrancy of our district's economy and quality of life.

So far, the team have visited Stonely, Kimbolton, Tilbrook, Stow Longa, Spaldwick, Catworth, Ellington, Keyston, Grafham, Perry, Great Staughton, Hail Weston and some areas of St Neots and Huntingdon.

They will get to every town and village so if you have any areas you wish to bring to their attention or any other queries about what the team are doing please contact them CRM_Ops@huntingdonshire.gov.uk

APPENDIX THREE - CLERK'S REPORT

- The pill packaging recycling scheme will be piloted at the end of this month, households will be receiving a flyer soon, details also on the website and noticeboards. Thanks to the Perry Events Group for delivering these flyers.
- The new defibrillator cabinet will be installed over the summer, there is also a new case for the machine itself.
- Huntingdonshire District Council will be taking over parking enforcement from the police in August as Civil Parking Enforcement.

END OF APPENDICES