



PERRY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Perry Parish Council Meeting held at 1900 hours on Wednesday 10th September 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), David Gent (DG), Chris Jones (CJ), Nigel Noon (NN), Emma Prew (EP), Pat Reynolds (PR), Jo Shirreffs (JS). The meeting was quorate.

County Councillor: Ian Gardener (IG).

District Councillor: Stephen Cawley (SC).

Members of the public: five.

Clerk to the Council: Eugene Smith (ES).

25/58 Apologies

None.

25/59 Councillors' declarations of interest for items on the agenda

CJ declared a non-pecuniary interest regarding item 25/63.

25/60 Reports from County and District Councillors

IG and SC delivered their reports, which are attached as appendices one and two respectively.

25/61 Open forum for public participation

Nothing raised.

25/62 Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the Perry Parish Council Annual Meeting held on 9th July 2025 were **approved** as a correct record (prop. EA, app. unanimously) and signed by EA.

25/63 St Neots Museum presentation

25/64 Clerk's report

Attached as appendix three.

Action: ES to invite GWC representatives to October's meeting regarding access to the centre.

25/65 Summer event 2026

To be further discussed at the Events Group meeting on October 7th.

25/66 Highways and green spaces

a) Pavement obstructions clearance service

Action: Carried over to October's agenda for further discussion. ES to draft procedure etc.

b) Additional bins

Action: ES to contact Anglian Water re additional bins on their paths.

c) Chichester Way line painting
No update.

25/67 Publications

NN suggested Little Staughton's newsletter as a template.

Action: ES to create rough draft(s) for next meeting.

25/68 Update on meetings and training attended

ES attended a meeting in July in Alconbury re the Brampton Cross development. He undertook Society of Local Council Clerks training courses on Cultural Change, Toxic Situations, Maintaining Professional Boundaries and Making Writing Grab Attention.

25/69 Events Working Party

Fay Wheatcroft provided an update, including the following event 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.

The weekend of November 29/30th sees the Grafham Water Centre Craft Fair, where the Perry WI will be providing a tea and cake stall.

25/70 Finance

a) Budget reallocation

The reallocation of budgeted funds was **approved** (prop. EA, app. unanimous).

b) Budget monitoring

The budget monitoring document for April – June 2025 was **noted**.

c) Bank reconciliation

The bank reconciliation for Quarter One 2025 was **noted**.

d) The following authorised and regular payments for July and August 2025 were **noted**:

Eugene Smith (clerk's salary for July and August): **confidential**

Eugene Smith (working from home allowance for July and August): **£52**

Colin Beesley (handyman's wages for July and August): **confidential**

SLCC Enterprises (9 x training courses): **£324**

Antony Abbs (Four Seasons cuts 3-6): **£880**

Defib Warehouse (defib carry case): **£85.14**

CAPALC (internal audit 24-25): **£289.60**

Greg Hall Electrical (defib cabinet installation): **£130**

Helen Oddy (Perry in Bloom): **£22.99**

Cartridge Save (printer toner): **£270.47**

Pauline Butcher (Perry in Bloom): **£16.20**

Unity Trust Bank (service charges July and August): **£12**

Lloyds Multipay card: **£412.36**

(Wifi Booster: **£25.58**

SMARTY mobile phone fee June and July: **£10**

Bin bags: **£9.99**

Dog waste bags: **£54.32**

Monthly fee June and July: **£6**

*Cable lock: **£11.98**

*Wheelie bin: **£58**

*Zero Waste Box: **£216**

Nameplate holders: **£15.99**

*Gloves: **£4.50)**

*pill packaging recycling

e) Payment received

The payment of £849.04 received on 04/07/2025 from Cambridgeshire County Council for grass cutting contributions was **noted**.

25/71 Agenda items for the Annual Perry Parish Council meeting (8th October 2025)

Items must be received by the clerk no later than Monday 29th September 2025.

Meeting closed at 2050 hours.

END OF MINUTES

APPENDIX ONE – REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR IAN GARDENER

Cllr Ian Gardener – Alconbury & Kimbolton Division

Monthly Report September 25

Local Government Reorganisation

The County Council has launched an engagement survey open to residents, businesses, town and parish councils, other public sector bodies and the community and voluntary sector across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. This builds upon an initial, shared engagement survey undertaken with the other 6 councils, the results of which will be shared later this week.

The purpose of this second phase engagement survey is to better inform the public and stakeholders and to help raise greater understanding about what Local Government Reorganisation means. This will also seek specific feedback on 1 of the 3 currently preferred options being developed by councils, known as Option A.

Option A is currently the preferred Option of the County Council's Lib Dem Administration and the development of this is being led by this authority. The survey that will be launched also recognises that there are two other Options being developed, but specific views on these proposals are not being invited. Importantly, all three options being developed propose the replacement of the seven current councils with two new unitary councils covering the whole of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough between them.

Option A specifically proposes creating two new unitaries, one geographically covering the North (built around the footprints of Huntingdonshire, Fenland and Peterborough City) and one covering the South (built around the footprints of East and South Cambridgeshire and Cambridge City). In all three options being developed, the County Council would cease, and its functions and services would be disaggregated into the two new Councils.

It has been revealed that the Labour Government's Ministry of Housing,

Communities and Local Government failed to undertake its own analysis of the financial implications of the ongoing local government reorganisation, relying instead on analysis by consultants PwC.

Fresh analysis of those figures shows that replacing the two-tier system with 58 new unitary councils with populations as low as 300,000 could end up costing 850 million over 5 years and deliver no long-term savings.

Highways

A New Highways reporting system to go live on 22nd September

The County Council will be transitioning from Insight to Aurora between Thursday 18 and Monday 22 September. To complete essential data migration activities, Insight, our current system, will be taken offline on Thursday 18 September. As a result, Report It will also be

unavailable from this date, meaning customers will not be able to log issues or defects online during this period. We will be updating our website and sending out separate communications regarding this nearer the time.

Report It will be back online from Monday 22 September.

The new system known as Aurora introduces several improvements that will enhance the customer experience

- . Customer reports are automatically directed to the correct Officer or Team based on geospatial areas and case types, ensuring they are handled by the right person first time.

- . All Highways Maintenance Officers are now equipped with tablets, allowing them to inspect defects, raise work orders, and update customers directly while on-site.

- . New workflows automatically escalate reports that are not progressed within agreed service level timescales, helping to prevent delays and improve response times.

- . Performance dashboards provide Officers and Managers with visibility of all reports in their area, along with upcoming tasks (e.g., scheduled inspections), ensuring no cases are overlooked.

- . Officers can send updates directly from the system, meaning customers receive regular progress updates on their reports.

- . Reports can be managed dynamically by officers whilst in the field, and customer reports can be loaded into inspection routes so they can be reviewed at the same time.

. The system will task officers will inspecting completed work and identifying any defects. If defects are identified these will be flagged to our contractor and corrected.

From the 1st September the Highways Maintenance Teams are being reorganised across Cambridgeshire. The new head of Highway Maintenance and Management will be Andrew Tatt, reporting to him will be an Area Manager North who will cover Hunts and Fenland. In Hunts there will be a Senior Highways Maintenance Officer, Richard Kingston, who will be Parishes first port of call for Highways issues. He will be assisted by 6 Highways Maintenance Officers who will cover Huntingdonshire.

There will also be a Structures Manager covering bridges etc and a Cyclical Maintenance Manager, who will oversee the Tree Officer, Drainage & Winter Maintenance Officer, Surfacing and pavements Officer and Green Infrastructure Manager, under whom will be the Rights of Way Officer.

Public Health

Free NHS health checks from Healthy You

Residents aged 40 to 74 in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough may be eligible for a free health check.

An NHS health check is a free check-up delivered by health professionals to help lower the risk of developing serious health conditions. They are designed to spot early signs of stroke, kidney disease, heart disease, type 2 diabetes and dementia. The health check takes around 20 to 30 minutes to complete.

You can get a health check at several different locations across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough this September and October - see the full list of locations on the Healthy You website. To book, call 0333 005 0093, text 'healthyu' to 60777, or complete the online form.

Foster Carers in Cambridgeshire

Thinking about fostering? Cambridgeshire is currently seeing a shortage of foster carers, and Cambridgeshire County Council is appealing for residents to come forward to help reduce the numbers of children waiting from homes.

Get in touch to find out more about becoming a foster carer - call 0800 052 0078 or visit the CCC website, Fostering and Adoption page. You can keep up to date with news and events on our Facebook and Instagram channels.

If you have any questions, please contact me via email : ian.gardener@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Cllr Ian Gardener – Alconbury & Kimbolton Division

APPENDIX TWO – REPORT FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLOR STEPHEN CAWLEY

Parish Council Update – September 2025
CIL Funding Round 2: 2025-2026

The first CIL funding round of 25/26 closed on 15th August. Decisions on those applications will be made at HDC Cabinet in October and applicants will be advised out outcomes, and next steps after Cabinet on 16th September.

CIL Funding round 2

Opening date: 27th October 2025
Closing date: 19th December 2025
Outcomes: Decisions will be issued March 2026

https://mcusercontent.com/c12c267f6eb236cbf6c4c1a8a/files/82e3bbff-4b6a-1b94-7d84-b7ee8abfaeb9/CIL_Funding_Round_2.pdf

Civil Parking Enforcement

HDC team commenced patrols for Civil Enforcement in Huntingdonshire beginning 4 August with the team issuing over 250 on-street warning notices. The following week saw another busy week with a further 167 warning notice issued.

The team have been met with a great reception from the public both in person whilst out patrolling, and with written thanks sent in from residents. The range of positive feedback and thanks received has come from residents who have struggled to access resident permit bays, members of the public who find disabled bays occupied by vehicles without badges, and general thanks from members of the public who have struggled with access due to problem parking.

In the ward so far visited Perry and Great Staughton.

Food Waste Collections

HDC pleased to announce the introduction of weekly food waste collections, launching in April 2026

From March 2026, all residents will receive a:

- 7-litre grey kitchen caddy
- 23-litre external grey food waste unit

These will be provided free of charge.

Residents can place any food waste, including raw or cooked meat and bones, dairy, eggshells, tea bags, coffee grounds, vegetables and fruit, into their kitchen caddy before transferring it to the external food waste unit for weekly collection.

Further information about the service will follow later in the year. In the meantime, if you have any questions, please email wasteminimisation@huntingdonshire.gov.uk

APPENDIX THREE - CLERK'S REPORT

- Handyman Colin Beesley is leaving this month
- Work on the buffer zones is due to start this week
- A letter of thanks has been sent to HDC's Operations Department thanking the team for the quick clearance of August's fly-tipping in Chichester Way
- The pill packaging recycling scheme garnered a wheelie bin and a half of packs
- GWC raised the issue of the signs at Chichester Way / Ridgeway being tampered with, which resulted in an ambulance going the wrong way
- Simone from Anglian Water – Harbour View café is changing to a coffee shop, the launch date has been moved back to mid September. Concerned residents are encouraged to speak to her and the staff. There is a triathlon on Saturday 13th September, early morning to midday
- HMP Littlehey's Release on Temporary Licence pilot scheme continues with 10 prisoners working in the prison grounds and no incidents or intelligence to report. The review paperwork is now with the relevant ministers. The possibility of extending the prisoner boundary to include some of the old farm buildings is being looked into, this is in its real infancy and no decisions have been made

END OF APPENDICES