



PERRY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Perry Parish Council Meeting held at 1900 hours on Wednesday 11th February 2026 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), Emma Prew (EP), Jo Shirreffs (JS). The meeting was quorate.

County Councillor: Ian Gardener (IG).

Members of the public: five.

Clerk to the Council: Eugene Smith (ES).

25/118 Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillors Pat Reynolds and David Gent, and **approved** (proposed EA, approved unanimously).

District Councillor Stephen Cawley's apologies were **received**.

25/119 Councillors' declarations of interest for items on the agenda

None.

25/120 Report from County Councillor

IG delivered his report, which is attached as appendix one. Stephen Cawley's report is attached as appendix two.

25/121 Open forum for public participation

Ed Groome from Grafham Water Centre (GWC) updated the meeting on the following:

- GWC and Burwell will form the nascent Cambridgeshire Outdoors scheme
- GWC User Group meeting dates have been circulated
- The sign at the end of Ridgeway is still being tampered with
- Adult cycling courses across Cambridgeshire will be starting in March
- Another water safety event is being planned for 29th May

The condition of some of the planters was raised, these will be repaired or replaced once the new handyperson arrangements are confirmed.

SB raised the Wildlife Trust's departure from Anglian Water.

Complaints have been received re the flooding on the B661 outside the Water Treatment Works.

Actions: ES to publicise the sign issue, enquire with Anglian Water re the rationale for the Wildlife Trust's departure and contact the Treatment Works re the flooding.

25/122 Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the Perry Parish Council Annual Meeting held on 10th December 2025 were **approved** as a correct record (prop. EA, app. unanimously) and signed by EA.

25/123 Clerk's report

Attached as appendix three.

25/124 Update from the Events Working Party

Fay Wheatcroft provided an update, the Christmas event was very well received and will be held again this year on Wednesday 16th December. Next litter pick Saturday April 25th, the garage sale will be held in June, a scarecrow competition and possibly excess fruit and vegetable swap / pressing in September, autumn litter pick Saturday October 17th, Remembrance Ceremony Sunday 8th November.

25/125 Gaynes Estate Working Group update

ES provided an update, the first stretch of road has been surveyed and details sent to the new contact at the Ministry of Justice who was very positive and appreciative. There is no money for repairs this financial year.

25/126 Newsletter Name

The council **voted** (by ballot) for "The Perry Hornet".

Action: ES to notify entrants.

25/127 Highways – 20 mph zone(s)

The council **decided** not to apply for any 20mph zones this year, and wait for data from the MVAS unit.

25/128 Update on meetings and training attended

Councillor David Gent attended a new councillor training course on January 10th. He, along with councillors Pat Reynolds and EA attended the November recital at HMP Littlehey. EA attended a parish council round table meeting hosted by Ben Obese-Jecty MP on 16th January in Grafham.

25/129 Finance

- a) it was **decided** to appoint CAPALC (Cambridgeshire And Peterborough Association of Local Councils) as internal auditors for the financial year ending 31st March 2026.

Action: ES to arrange with CAPALC.

- b) The bank reconciliation for Quarter Three 2025 was **noted**.

- c) The following payments for November 2025 were **noted**:

Eugene Smith (clerk's salary for December and January): **confidential**

HMRC (NIC contribution for November): **£65.97***

Cambridgeshire Pension Fund (pension contributions from PCC and ES): **Confidential***

Grafham Water Sailability (Clubhouse use for November* and December): **£30**

CAPALC (training courses): **£165***

ASK IT (new laptop setup): **£75**

Andy Bent (Christmas musicians): **£250**

The Christmas Decorators (Christmas tree 2025): **£2,592**

Unity Trust Bank (service charge December and January): **£12**

Lloyds Multipay card: £16

(SMARTY mobile phone fee November and December: **£10**

Monthly fee November and December: **£6**)

Items marked * were mistakenly included in December 2025's agenda for noting.

25/130 Agenda items for the next Perry Parish Council meeting (11th March 2026)

NN raised the possibility of the council mending potholes in a similar way to the current grass cutting contributions.

Action: ES to make enquiries re feasibility.

Other items must be received by the clerk no later than Monday 2nd March 2026.

Meeting closed at 2035 hours.

END OF MINUTES

Cllr Ian Gardener

Monthly Report February 26

Local Government Reorganisation

The government has commenced its statutory consultation on LGR in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. The consultation runs for 7 weeks until 23.59 on 26 March 2026. Residents and stakeholder organisations such as Parish Councils can submit their views online at :

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/local-government-reorganisation-in-cambridgeshire-and-peterborough>

Free computers, Wi-Fi and internet access to enable people to complete the consultation will be available at Cambridgeshire Libraries, where support will be on hand to help people get online. Printed versions of the consultation will also be made available at all libraries.

The 4 Options put forward by Government for consultation are Option A, which is for 2 unitaries, made up as follows -

Option A – Unitary 1 - Peterboro City, Huntingdonshire & Fenland

Unitary 2 – Cambridge City, South Cambs and East Cambs

Option B - which is made up for 2 unitaries, -

Unitary 1 – Peterboro City, Huntingdonshire, Fenland and East Cambs

Unitary 2 – Cambridge City & South Cambs

Option D - which would split Cambridgeshire & Peterborough into 3 unitary councils which are :

Unitary 1 – Greater Peterborough - Peterborough City & North Hunts including the Kimbolton Ward which includes Barham & Woolley

Unitary 2 - Mid Cambs – Fenland, East Cambs and South Hunts including St Neots, Godmanchester, St Ives, Ramsey & Great Staughton Ward

Unitary 3 – Cambridge – Cambridge City & South Cambs

Proposal D sees Huntingdonshire split in two

Option E - has been submitted by Huntingdonshire DC which would also be 3 Unitaries with Huntingdonshire as a Unitary Authority in its own right. This was unanimously supported by the Conservative Opposition on the District Council

Unitary 1 – Huntingdonshire

Unitary 2 – Peterborough City, Fenland & East Cambs

Unitary 3 - Cambridge City & South Cambs

Government will then announce its proposal for LGR in Cambridgeshire/ Peterborough in July 2026. With the necessary legislation being put before Parliament to approve in Autumn 26 recess

With Elections to the new Shadow unitary Authorities taking place in May 27. The new Unitary Authorities will take over running all services on 1 April 28.

BUSINESS PLAN & BUDGET PROPOSALS 26-27 to 28-29

Cambridgeshire County Council presented its Business Plan and Budget Proposals for 26-27 at today's meeting of the Full Council.

The Councils Budget for 26/27 includes a maximum Council Tax Rise of 4.99% for the CC proportion of your Council Tax, which includes a 2% Social Care increase. The cost therefore for a Band D property is £1,785.42

Within the budget there is an additional £20m of Capital investment on highways maintenance, which will include resurfacing, preventative treatments, upgrades to bridges. Footpaths and cycle routes. This would create a total investment of £58m for 26/27 as recommended by the draft asset management strategy. The Conservative amendment was to put an additional 1 million into pothole repairs, but this was rejected by the administration

Other proposals include a draft lane rental scheme to improve the management and coordination of streetworks, this will be subject to consultation and the decision-making process. This will allow the CC to charge companies for the time that roadworks occupy the highway and will hopefully reduce disruption on County roads. This is planned for implementation in 27/28 along with changes to enforcement of car parking to include Bank Holidays.

The Fire Authorities precept will rise by £4.95 for a Band D Property to £92.16

Highways

A New Highways reporting system went live on 22nd September

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

All Highways defects should be reported on the County Councils Highways Report It tool so that all faults are logged and can be processed according to severity.

Highways defects include potholes, blocked gullies, flooding, trees, overgrown hedges, obscured signs etc

LHI Bids for 26/27 have now closed. Feasibility studies will be undertaken between Feb and May 26 on the bids. With the panel meetings and decision date to be confirmed.

20mph scheme applications will open on 26 January 26 and close on 27th March 26. With the prioritization programme being undertaken between April and July 26. With the successful schemes going for approval at the October 26 Committee meeting.

The County Council is currently preparing its Asset Management Strategy which will set out the approach to managing and maintaining each asset to secure best value, safety and asset longevity going forward. It is expected to present the final plan to committee in Spring 26 ie the March, Highways & Transportation Committee meeting.

Flooding

The CC has launched a New Flood Kit Grant to improve flooding resilience for our communities. The Grant is available to Community Flood Action Groups or Parish Councils, these kits are designed to help purchase essential items that support local response to flooding events.

Grants of up to £1000 are available to help local groups respond effectively to flooding and protect homes.

Go to the CCC website and type in Flood Kit Grant which will take you to the application form. Grants are on a first come first served basis, so the earlier you apply the better your chance of being successful.

Cllr Ian Gardener – CCC Alconbury & Kimbolton Division including Catworth.

APPENDIX TWO – REPORT FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLOR STEPHEN CAWLEY

Parish Council Update – February 2026

Elections May 2026

On Thursday 18th December 2025 the Minister of State for Local Government and Homelessness wrote to Leaders of councils with elections in May 2026 where proposals for reorganisation have been submitted and decisions not yet taken to set out views on the postponement of local elections. These councils have been asked to consider if delaying the election could release essential capacity to deliver LGR in their area to allow reorganisation to progress effectively.

Huntingdonshire District Council (HDC) has agreed to ask government that the May 2026 local elections should go ahead as scheduled.

The decision was made at a Special Meeting of Full Council on Wednesday 14 January 2026, following a request from the government for councils involved in local government reorganisation proposals to provide their views on whether elections should be postponed.

While Huntingdonshire is currently preparing for potential changes to local government structures, councillors agreed that holding elections in May 2026 is important to maintain democratic accountability and ensure residents continue to have an active voice in decisions affecting their communities.

Food Waste Collection

Food waste caddies are on their way from 12th January, with weekly collections starting from 30th March. Food waste collection is set out in national legislation and not just a local decision. Councils across England are legally required to collect food waste separately from all households and businesses. The aim is to make recycling easier,

more consistent, and available to everyone, no matter where they live.

For more information, please visit: <https://www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk/bins-waste/food-waste/>

Residents will receive their food caddies by 28 March

Public consultation opens on Local Government Reorganisation in Cambridgeshire

Residents across Huntingdonshire are being invited to have their say on proposals for Local Government Reorganisation, as a public consultation officially launched on 5 February

The consultation seeks views on how local councils could be structured in the future to deliver services more effectively and respond to the needs of communities. The proposed changes aim to create a more streamlined, efficient system that supports better decision-making and value for money.

Most members of Huntingdonshire District Council voted for option E as they felt it was the best choice for all of Cambridgeshire and for Huntingdonshire.

The consultation will run until 26 March 2026 and residents can share their views online at:

<https://consult.communities.gov.uk/local-government-reorganisation/cambridgeshire-and-peterborough/>

<https://www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk/council-democracy/meetings-and-decision-making/local-government-reorganisation>

Local Plan to 2046 Update: Preferred Options Consultation

The Preferred Options Draft Local Plan to 2046 consultation closed on 17 December 2025. Comments received from stakeholders and statutory consultees will be processed, and reviewed and further technical evidence will be gathered to inform the Proposed Submission Local Plan

HDC anticipates consulting on this in summer 2026 - For more information, please see our updated webpages. You can view the responses to our Preferred Options draft Local Plan to 2046 and Sustainability Appraisal on our online consultation portal.

- Email of thanks received from former handyman Colin Beesley re his retirement gift
- Anglian Water has begun planting trees on the western side of the reservoir to form Rory's Wood, a 35-acre woodland. Remaining planting dates currently February: 12th 13th 26th 27th (28th tbc) Tbc March: 5th 6th 7th 12th 13th 19th 20th. More details, including how to volunteer or donate can be found here: [Rory's Wood 2025 | Support Forest Restoration Today – Creating Nature's Corridors](#)
- The May District Council elections are going ahead
- The parish council's objections to the East Park Solar project have been submitted

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