

2026 PERRY ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

Held on Wednesday 13th May 2026 at 1900 hours.

The meeting was chaired by Eleanor Abbs, Chairman of Perry Parish Council.

Present were two members of the public, and county, district and parish councillors.

1) County Councillor **Ian Gardener** delivered the following report:

Parish Council - Annual County Council Report – April/May 2026

Following the County Council Elections Last May the Council is now Liberal Democrat controlled, the makeup of the authority currently is: - Liberal Democrat 32, Conservative 10, Reform 8, Labour 5, Green 3 and Independents 2 Councillors and one vacancy following the conviction of a Reform Councillor. There will now be a By Election in the Roman Bank & Peckover Division.

I am on the following Committees

Highways and Transportation – Conservative Spokesman

Planning

Staffing and Appeals

Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Fire Authority.

The Lib Dem Administration decided again to put up your County Council proportion of the council Tax by the maximum amount 4.99%, which includes a 2% Social care increase. The cost therefore for a Band D property this year is £ 1785.42.

Following the Government's decision to proceed with Local Government Reorganisation, four proposals were put to Government

2 of which were for 2 Unitary authorities which 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.

And a further 2 for 3 Unitary authorities which are -

Proposal D

Unitary 1 – Greater Peterborough – Peterborough City & North Hunts including Kimbolton

Unitary 2 – Mid Cambs – Fenland, East Cambs and South Hunts including St Neots and Gt Staughton.

Unitary 3 – Cambridge – Cambridge City & South Cambs

Proposal E

Unitary 1 – Huntingdonshire

Unitary 2 – Peterborough City, Fenland & East Cambs

Unitary 3 – Cambridge City & South Cambs

I have supported Option E as it is the only option where Huntingdonshire has control of the services across the area.

The Government consultation period on the 4 options has now closed. The Government will announce its proposal for LGR in Cambridgeshire & Peterborough towards the end of July 2026. With the necessary legislation being put before Parliament to approve in Autumn 26

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

The Government also notes that it has a very ambitious timetable for LGR in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. Shadow elections for the New Unitary authorities will take place in May 2027 with the new Local Government structure coming into effect on 01 April 2028.

The existing Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority could become an established Mayoral Strategic Authority under LGR.

The Mayoral powers would cover –

Transport & Local infrastructure, Skills and Employment support, Housing & Strategic Planning, Economic Development and Regeneration, Environment & Net Zero, Health & Wellbeing and Public Service Reform and Public Safety.

The Bill will empower Mayoral Strategic Authorities to take on Police & Crime Commissioner Functions and Fire & Rescue Authority Functions.

From May 2027 the next Mayoral elections will be by Supplementary Vote, this system was in place up to the 2021 Elections. Under this system voters are allowed to select a second preference candidate. If no candidate gains a majority of First Preference Votes, then the two candidates with the highest number of first preference votes enter a runoff, (with all other candidates are eliminated) in which their second preference votes are added to their totals to determine the winner.

I will continue to support the Parishes LHI Bids going forward.

I am delighted to see that the 40mph Buffer Zones have been installed, hopefully this will help in reducing the speed of traffic through the village.

The Grafham to Brampton Quietway, the road is due to be patched and all potholes filled on 19th May. Following which the road will be surface dressed and then the Quietway signs, murals on the road, bollards and signage on the Railway bridge will be completed. Once a date is known for this work I will inform the PC.

The B645 outside the Kimbolton Prep School will be closed for **7 weeks from July 13th** to allow for the complete rebuild of the culvert, which is more severely damaged than originally thought.

The designated diversion route is the B660 from Kimbolton to JCT 16 A14, then the A14 to the B663 JCT at Keyston, then follow the B663 through, Keyston and Raunds to Chelveston and then the B645 back to Tilbrook.

I have chased the Highways Department regarding the large number of potholes across my division, consequently the Area Highways Maintenance Manager is now visiting all 25 Villages in my Division with me. When we visit, potholes are marked for repair and immediately put on the system for repair. Those that require a 5 day repair is being actioned accordingly. Patching works is also being ordered at the same time. I am pleased to note that all the potholes marked have been repaired. The two outside the Grafham Mander Car Park are a temporary the permanent repair should be done in the next 6 weeks.

Please report the following road defects on the County Council website via the Report It tool, Potholes, Blocked Gullies, Vegetation obscuring signs, flooding, trees, overgrown hedges etc

We also have a new Local highways Officer starting shortly after his training period. After which I will be meeting with him regularly to keep on top of Highways issues.

Firstly, I would like to say its been a pleasure to work with the Parish Council over the last 12 months and my congratulations go to all those returning Councillors.

Cllr Ian Gardener

Alconbury & Kimbolton Division

District Councillor **Stephen Cawley** delivered the following report:

Awaits

2) Perry Parish Council Chairman **Eleanor Abbs** delivered the following report:

Thank you all for coming.

It has been a busy year for Perry. Straight away I would like to thank the Events Group, who have been the driving force behind the year's activities. It was decided not to hold a summer event like 2024's. While this was a great success, it involved a phenomenal amount of work from all involved, almost all of whom were volunteers. It was also rather expensive, so this year there will be a series of smaller events for the whole village to enjoy.

As well as the community litter picks, last year saw the now regular Remembrance Ceremony, which was both dignified and moving, thanks in no small part to the hard work of the WI.

There was also a Christmas celebration, complete with brass band. My thanks to Ann Jackson for organising the musicians. Thanks also to the staff at The Wheatsheaf for all their help, and finally to Fay Wheatcroft for her skill in running the group.

The council has also established the Gaynes Estate Working Group, which is proving to be an efficient liaison with the Ministry of Justice.

Liaising and working in partnership have been to the fore this year, with new contacts established at the pub, and the continuing good relationships with the Water Centre, Simone at Anglian Water, and our County Councillor Ian, and recently re-elected District Councillor Stephen. Our thanks to all of these for making the council's work so much easier.

Other developments have seen the final issue of Life and Diaries, and the introduction of The Perry Hornet newsletter. The pill packaging recycling bin has proved to be a popular and much-needed resource.

The Perry in Bloom planters continue to brighten up our lovely village, grateful thanks to everyone involved. The new Planters Working Group will be dealing with the less functional of the current boxes.

We said goodbye to our council handyman Colin Beesley, who has worked so hard to keep Perry looking great. He's now enjoying a well-deserved retirement in the not so distant village of Great Staughton.

Over 75% of parish councils in the district still have vacancies, so I am delighted that Perry Parish Council now has a full complement of elected councillors. My thanks to each and every one of them for all their work and help over the past year. Special thanks to Sheila Brighton, who is stepping down as Vice Chairman, although thankfully remaining as a councillor. Sheila's time as both Chairman and Vice Chairman has been a real asset to the council, and she really helped with my transition to Chairman. Finally, I would like to extend my gratitude to our ever-wonderful clerk Eugene. His thought, knowledge and wisdom keep this village moving forward. Whilst we councillors make the decisions, it is Eugene who makes things happen. Without his hard work, dedication and very efficient work ethic, the wheels would most definitely fall off. On behalf of the whole of Perry, thank you Eugene (cries of "hear hear").

As for what's happening in the village this year – watch this space!

3) Nothing was raised in the public forum.

Meeting closed at 19:23 hours.