



PERRY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Perry Parish Council Meeting held at 1900 hours on Wednesday 8th July 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 Chris Jones (CJ), Sheila Brighton (SB), Kay Darby (KD), David Gent (DG), 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: six.

Clerk to the Council: Eugene Smith (ES).

26/48 Apologies

None.

26/49 Councillors' declarations of interest for items on the agenda

CJ declared a non-pecuniary interest regarding item 26/53.

26/50 Reports from District and County Councillors

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

26/51 Open forum for public participation

Michael Fletcher and Sam Gilliam from St Neots Museum delivered a presentation re the museum and its relationship with Perry.

No public issues raised.

26/52 Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the Perry Parish Council Meeting held on 10th June 2026 were **approved** as a correct record (proposed EA) and signed by the Chairman.

26/53 Grant application

CJ took no part in the discussion and did not vote.

It was **decided** (prop. EA) to provide a grant of £250 to St Neots Museum.

Action: ES to arrange payment

26/54 Clerk's report

Nothing to deliver.

26/55 Events Working Group update

Fay Wheatcroft provided an update, the garage sale will probably return to a September date next year plus an additional leaflet drop. The scarecrow competition will run in September, details in The Perry Hornet and a leaflet drop. The next group meeting will be on August 26th.

26/56 Gaynes Estate Working Group update

DG provided an update. There was another pedestrian accident this morning on The Drive. The MoJ has been informed.

26/57 Planters Working Group

PR provided an update. The new planters have been procured. Gradual replacement of the most dilapidated wooden planters will commence when the weather cools down. Volunteers required to help with replacement.

Action: ES to form a WhatsApp group, and ask on social media for volunteers.

26/58 Highways

The MVAS unit is awaiting one final component before deployment.

26/59 Grafham Water Centre barn development

It was **decided** (prop. EA) to support in principle the development of the barn-style building for potential use as a community space.

Action: ES to inform Grafham Water Centre.

26/60 Update on meetings and training attended

18th June: KD, Fay Wheatcroft and ES attended a Grafham Water User Group meeting.

30th June: ES attended a Community Resilience meeting run by Cambridgeshire Action with Communities in Rural England.

1st July: DG and ES attended a Local Government Reorganisation briefing run by Huntingdonshire District Council.

4th July: CJ attended a Chairmanship course run by Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Association of Local Councils.

26/61 IT Policy

The draft IT Policy for Perry Parish Council was **adopted** (prop. EA).

Action: ES to update policy and website.

26/62 Finance

The following authorised and regular payments for June 2026 were noted:

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

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

Eugene Smith (mileage, June and backdated to April): **£11.05**

HMRC (NIC contributions for June): **£65.97**

Grafham Water Sailability (Clubhouse use for June): **£30**

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

TerraCycle (pill recycling bins x 5): **£1,296**

Ask IT (laptop anti-virus protection for 2026-2027): **£35**

CAPALC (Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Association of Local Councils, internal auditor services 2025-2026): **£217.02**

Fay Wheatcroft (Remembrance displays netting): **£22.75**

Pat Reynolds (new Perry in Bloom planters): **£279.44**

BWP Creative (website hosting for 2026-2027): **£216**

Unity Trust Bank (service charge): **£7**

Lloyds Multipay card: **£8**

(SMARTY mobile phone fee June: **£5**

Monthly fees June: **£3**)

26/63 Agenda items for the next Perry Parish Council meeting (9th September 2026)

Additional items must be received by the clerk no later than Tuesday 1st September 2026.

Meeting closed at 2033 hours.

END OF MINUTES

APPENDIX ONE – COUNTY COUNCILLOR’S REPORT

Awaits

APPENDIX TWO – DISTRICT COUNCILLOR’S REPORT

Parish Council Update – July 2026

Inflatable Aquapark Hinchingsbrooke Country Park

The Council has announced the launch of a new inflatable aquapark attraction, due to open July 2026. The facility is to enhance the leisure provision and attract additional visitors to the park.

HDC also recognises that parking capacity at Hinchingsbrooke Country Park is a key concern for local residents, particularly during the busy summer months when visitor numbers are at their highest. To ensure the introduction of the aqua park does not place additional pressure on existing parking provisions, a temporary parking solution will be in place exclusively for aqua park customers throughout the 2026 season. This temporary facility will provide an additional 75 parking spaces and will be actively managed by stewards to ensure it is used solely by aqua park visitors.

WildFest Returns for a Second Year to Celebrate Huntingdonshire's Wildlife and Nature

HDC is delighted to be teaming up with Wild About Huntingdon to bring back WildFest, a free community event celebrating the incredible wildlife, green spaces and natural beauty found across Huntingdonshire.

Taking place as a free, one-day event, WildFest aims to bring together families, nature enthusiasts, local organisations and community groups for a day of outdoor activities, entertainment and wildlife-focused experiences.

Save the date for Sunday 26 July 2026 from 11am - 5pm at Riverside Park, Huntingdon.

Local Plan Briefing

Briefing on the Local Plan on the 7th July. The briefing provided important information on the development of the local plan, what shapes it, where we are now, and information on the evidence base that sits behind it including the approach to infrastructure and viability. The plan making systems and the process and timeline for the Local Plan were discussed. The response to public consultations has been the highest ever.

The timescale to have the Plan accepted under the existing legislation is to have everything submitted by December 31 2026. If for any reason, the deadline is not met, then HDC would have to start the whole process again under the new legislation.

Public Consultation Survey: Current vs Proposed Bus Network

A public engagement on proposed changes to bus services across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough opened on Tuesday 16 June and runs until 5pm on 28 July. Details are here: <https://cpca-yourvoice.co.uk/bus-network-review-engagement/> - The survey should take 3-5 minutes.

Local bus services are currently being reviewed to improve reliability, connectivity and value for money. The proposals have been developed following an independent review of bus routes currently funded by the Combined Authority.

Hinchingbrooke Hospital Consultation

Hinchingbrooke has just launched a public and community engagement initiative, inviting local people to help shape the design of the new Hinchingbrooke Hospital, a brand-new hospital that will transform care for our communities for decades to come.

The Trust is inviting feedback on three key areas:

- How patients, visitors and staff arrive at and move around the hospital site
- What the future care experience should feel like, including single rooms and digital technology
- How the wider hospital site can support community life and wellbeing

Details of the project website: [**Have Your Say Today - Hinchingbrooke Hospital North West Anglia NHS Foundation Trust - Commonplace where people can find out more**](#)

The engagement runs until 16th August 2026

END OF APPENDICES