

PERRY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Perry Parish Council Meeting held at 1900 hours on Wednesday 9th September 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), David Gent (DG), Nigel Noon (NN), Emma Prew (EP), Jo Shirreffs (JS). The meeting was quorate.

Members of the public: five.

Clerk to the Council: Eugene Smith (ES).

26/64 Apologies

The apologies received from parish councillors Sheila Brighton, Kay Derby and Pat Reynolds were **approved** (proposed EA, approved unanimously).

County Councillor Ian Gardener and District Councillor Stephen Cawley's apologies were **received**.

26/65 Councillors' declarations of interest for items on the agenda

EA declared a pecuniary interest regarding item 26/75.

26/66 Reports from County and District Councillors

District Councillor Stephen Cawley's report was circulated and is attached as appendix one.

26/67 Grant application

Item **deferred** to October's meeting (see also item 26/80).

26/68 Open forum for public participation

The condition of the book boxes in the bus shelter was raised.

Action: ES to look into alternatives.

26/69 Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the Perry Parish Council Meeting held on 8th July 2026 were **approved** as a correct record (prop. EA, app. unanimously) and signed by the Chairman.

26/70 Clerk's report

Attached as appendix two.

26/71 Events Working Group update

Fay Wheatcroft provided an update. The next group meeting will be on Wednesday October 21st, the next event is the scarecrow contest which runs from the 19th to 26th September. Group members met with the sailing club commodore to discuss potential future events. The autumn litter pick will be on Saturday October 17th, Remembrance Ceremony plus poppy displays in November, Jingle and Mingle Christmas event on Wednesday 16th December.

26/72 Gaynes Estate Working Group update

DG provided an update. The MoJ has said that all spending on the estate has been cut from above. DG will continue to inform them re accidents and the unsafe state of the pavements and roads.

26/73 Planters Working Group

Replacements will restart later in the year when the ground has softened.

26/74 Highways and green spaces

No-mow margins were discussed.

Action: ES to canvass opinion via newsletter and website.

26/75 Grass cutting contract

EA withdrew from the meeting and took no part in discussions or votes. CJ was chairman for this item.

- a) It was **decided** to waive item 5.8 of Perry Parish Council's Financial Regulations for this item (prop. CJ, app. unanimously).
- b) It was **decided** to award a three-year contract for grass cutting to Four Seasons (prop. CJ, app. unanimously).

Action: ES to liaise with Four Seasons and issue a new contract.

26/76 Crime and disorder

EA rejoined the meeting as chairman.

It was **decided** to ask ES to research crime reduction and community safety initiatives (prop. EA, app. unanimously).

Action: ES to research and report back at a future meeting.

26/77 Tebbutts Road car park

Plan paused by Huntingdonshire District Council before meeting commenced

26/78 Update on meetings and training attended

ES completed the following e-learning courses: Understanding Precepts, Home Working Essentials, Changing Behaviours.

26/79 Internal Auditor Appointment

It was **decided** to appoint CAPALC (Cambridgeshire And Peterborough Association of Local Councils) as independent internal auditors for the financial year 2026 – 2027 (prop. EA, app. unanimously). The council was satisfied that the service provided would be independent.

Action: ES to contact CAPALC.

26/80 Grant application decision

Item **deferred** to October's meeting.

26/81 Finance

- a) The following authorised and regular payments for July and August 2026 were **noted**:
- Eugene Smith** (clerk's salary for July and August): **confidential**
 - Eugene Smith** (working from home allowance for July and August): **£52**
 - HMRC** (NIC contributions for July and August): **£131.94**
 - Cambridgeshire Pension Fund** (pension contributions from PCC and ES for July and August): **Confidential**
 - Grafham Water Sailability** (Clubhouse use for July): **£30**
 - Antony Abbs** (Four Seasons cuts 7&8 and village maintenance work): **£480**
 - Chris Jones** (mileage for July's Chairmanship course): **£20**
 - St Neots Museum** (grant): **£250**
 - Huntingdonshire District Council** (election costs): **£162.58**
 - Fay Wheatcroft** (Perry in Bloom compost &c.): **£63.58**
 - Unity Trust Bank** (service charges for July and August): **£14**
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 - Lloyds Multipay card: £286.07**
(SMARTY mobile phone fees July and August: **£10**
B&M staples: **£1.50**
Cartridge Save printer toner: **£254.99**
Screwfix hazard tape: **£7.98**
Post Office Counters registered delivery to HDC: **£5.60**
Monthly fees July and August: **£6**)
- b) a grass cutting contributions payment of **£869**, received on 22nd July from Cambridgeshire County Council was **noted**.

26/82 Agenda items for the next Perry Parish Council meeting (14th October 2026)

Additional items must be received by the clerk no later than Monday 5th October 2026.

Meeting closed at 2012 hours.

END OF MINUTES

APPENDIX ONE – DISTRICT COUNCILLOR’S REPORT

Parish Council Update – August/September 2026

Food Waste Collection Proves a Success

Five months after the launch of weekly food waste collections, HDC reported that residents had diverted around **1,500 tonnes of food waste** from general rubbish. The waste is processed into renewable energy and fertiliser rather than going to landfill. The council has also launched a publicity campaign explaining what can be recycled through food waste caddies.

<https://www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk/bins-waste/food-waste/>

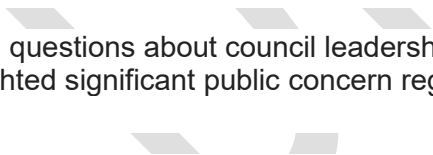
Dog Control Consultation Opens

A new Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) consultation has been launched on dog control measures across Huntingdonshire. Residents are being invited to comment on how dogs should be managed in public spaces.

<https://www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk/consultations/pspo-dog-control-public-consultation/>

Extraordinary Council Meeting: Leadership Challenge

An Extraordinary Council meeting was held on 1 September following a motion of no confidence in Council Leader. Much of the debate centred on the Capital & Centric regeneration consultation and concerns over governance, accountability, communications and project oversight.

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- Raised questions about council leadership and governance.
 - Highlighted significant public concern regarding regeneration proposals.

Capital & Centric Regeneration Debate Continues

At the Full Council meeting on 9 September, councillors will consider a motion regarding regeneration projects involving Capital & Centric and key sites in St Neots, Huntingdon and St Ives. The motion calls for greater transparency regarding spending, deliverables and future decisions, and proposes ending further work under the current arrangements if considered necessary.

Affected sites include:

- Tebbutts Road car park, St Neots
- Princes Street bus station and car park, Huntingdon

- Former cattle market square and gatehouse, St Ives

Local Plan to 2046 Moves Forward

Council will consider the Pre-Submission Local Plan to 2046 together with supporting sustainability and consultation documents at the meeting on 9 September. The Local Plan will guide decisions on housing growth, employment land, infrastructure and the protection of the environment across the district up to 2046.

If Council supports the Plan, it will then go forward for further, final consultation before submission to Planning Inspectorate by 31 December 2026.

Why it matters

- Will shape where homes and jobs are located.
- Influences roads, schools, health services and community facilities.
- Affects towns and villages throughout Huntingdonshire.

Community Chest Grant Scheme

The Community Chest Grant Scheme is inviting applications from community groups and organisations that can help Huntingdonshire District Council deliver the priorities set out in its Corporate Plan 2023 - 2028.

Projects should contribute to one or more of the following priorities:

- Improving quality of life and wellbeing for everyone
- Keeping people out of crisis
- Supporting people in crisis
- Reducing carbon emissions.

Community groups and organisations seeking financial support to deliver projects that address these priorities are encouraged to apply from 3 July 2026.

The Community Chest Grant Scheme provides an opportunity for local organisations to make a positive difference in their communities while supporting the Council's strategic objectives.

<https://www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk/media/3uamuvru/community-chest-funding-criteria.pdf>

Any questions: crm_communitydevelopment@huntingdonshire.gov.uk

Parking Strategy

Huntingdonshire District Council has now brought forward its draft **Parking Strategy**, which was reviewed by the Overview & Scrutiny Panel on 2 September. The strategy sets out a clearer, evidence-based approach to how parking will be managed across the district — including future investment in car parks, improved signage and technology, and a stronger focus on supporting town-centre vitality. Importantly, it also reflects feedback from residents and businesses gathered through earlier engagement phases. Once finalised by Cabinet, the strategy will guide how parking provision is planned, maintained and improved over the coming years, ensuring it remains safe, accessible and responsive to local needs.

APPENDIX TWO - CLERK'S REPORT

- The Local Government Reorganisation for Cambridgeshire has been paused pending review.
- MVAS final components have been acquired. The rogue post will be moved by the county council.
- Anglian Water are proposing to close the B661 from the junction with Crow Spinney Lane towards Buckden, for three weeks from 18th October. Diversion will be via Great Staughton. Anglian Water will be sending letters to residents. A representative has been invited to October's meeting.

END OF APPENDICES

DRAFT