

PERRY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Perry Parish Council Meeting held at 1900 hours on Wednesday 14th October 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.

DRAFT

Present:

Parish Councillors: Chairman Eleanor Abbs (EA), Vice-Chairman Chris Jones (CJ), Kay Darby (KD), David Gent (DG), Nigel Noon (NN), Pat Reynolds (PR), Jo Shirreffs (JS). The meeting was quorate.

Members of the public: four.

Clerk to the Council: Eugene Smith (ES).

26/83 Apologies

The apologies received from parish councillors Sheila Brighton and Emma Prew were **approved** (proposed EA, approved unanimously).

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

26/84 Councillors' declarations of interest for items on the agenda

None.

26/85 Reports from County and District Councillors

County Councillor Ian Gardener's and District Councillor Stephen Cawley's reports were circulated and are attached as appendices one and two respectively.

26/86 Open forum for public participation

The excessive mud on the B661 outside the Water Treatment Works was discussed.

Action: ES to ask Anglian Water how long the works will continue and could they clear up the mud.

26/87 Grant application

Item **deferred** to a future meeting (see also item 26/98).

26/88 Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the Perry Parish Council Meeting held on 9th September 2026 were **approved** as a correct record (prop. EA, app. unanimously) and signed by the Chairman.

26/89 Clerk's report

Attached as appendix three.

26/90 Events Working Group update

Fay Wheatcroft provided an update. The next group meeting will be on Wednesday October 21st at 1900 hours in The Wheatsheaf. The autumn litter pick will be on Saturday October 17th at 1100 hours, meeting by the bus stop. Remembrance Ceremony plus poppy displays in November, Jingle and Mingle Christmas event on Wednesday 16th December.

26/91 Gaynes Estate Working Group update

DG provided an update. A subcontractor repaired part of the pathway where one accident happened, but not the other areas.. He is awaiting a response from the Ministry of Justice. He has also reported a permanently illuminated street light.

26/92 Planters Working Group

PR provided an update. He, Fay Wheatcroft and Pauline Butcher have replaced three more planters, leaving three small and two large to be installed on Saturday 17th October. It was agreed to wait until spring 2027 before installing any more.
EA thanked PR and all concerned for their hard work.

26/93 Highways and green spaces

a) Responsibility for pathway between Grafham Water Centre and Rose Croft.
PR reported on the overgrown pathway and the vegetation encroaching onto the B661 pathway.

Action: ES to write to the relevant parties.

b) Crocus planting offer from the Rotary Club of Kimbolton Castle.
It was decided to request limited crocus bulbs for planters and around the village sign.

Action: ES to contact the Rotary Club of Kimbolton Castle.

26/94 Potential development of bus shelter

It was agreed to investigate options for development.

Action: ES to research and report back.

26/95 Planning permission consultation

The proposal for 3 Moat Lane (ref. 26/01174/HHFUL) was **recommended for approval** (prop. EA, app. unanimously).

Action: ES to notify Huntingdonshire District Council.

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26/96 Update on meetings and training attended

JS and Fay Wheatcroft attended the quarterly Grafham Water Centre Users meeting.

ES attended the CAPALC (Cambridgeshire And Peterborough Association of Local Councils) annual conference on 18th September and their Planning System training course on 5th October. He also attended the ACRE (Action with Communities in Rural England) AGM on 7th October.

26/97 Council policies

The council's draft Training and Development Policy was **approved** (prop. EA, app. unanimously

Action: ES to update documents.

26/98 Grant application decision

Item **deferred** to a future meeting.

26/99 Finance

The following authorised and regular payments for October 2026 were **noted**:

Eugene Smith (clerk's salary for September)**: confidential**
Eugene Smith (working from home allowance for September)**: £26**
Eugene Smith (mileage for September)**: £10.45**
HMRC (NIC contributions for September)**: £65.97**
Cambridgeshire Pension Fund (pension contributions from PCC and ES for September)**: Confidential**
Grafham Water Sailability (Clubhouse use for September)**: £30**
Cambridgeshire And Peterborough Association of Local Councils (Annual conference and Planning System training course)**: £120**
PKF Littlejohn (Limited Assurance Review of AGAR for 2025-2026)**: £252**
Unity Trust Bank (service charges for September)**: £7**

Lloyds Multipay card: £79.08
(SMARTY mobile phone fee September: **£5**
Viking Office UK Limited [printer paper, pens and envelopes]: **£71.08**
Monthly fee September: **£3)**

26/100 Agenda items for the next Perry Parish Council meeting (11th November 2026)

KD raised the Chichester Way hedge, NN raised a potentially unsafe tree on the walkway from Welby Close to Chichester Way – ES to action both.

Additional items must be received by the clerk no later than Monday 2nd November 2026.

Meeting closed at 2001 hours.

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END OF MINUTES

APPENDIX ONE – COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

County Council Report October 26

Local Government Reorganisation

The Government has announced that a review has been ordered into the plans for Local government reorganisation, following legal advice, to ensure that it is robust and aligns with the new government's priorities. As a result, reorganisation in Essex, Hampshire. Norfolk and Suffolk have also been withdrawn. Cambridgeshire & Peterborough are included in this review process.

We don't yet know how long this review will take, but there will be no Shadow Elections to Proposed New Unitary authorities in May 2027. The elections to existing authorities like Fenland, East Cambs and Peterborough will be held next year.

Stay Steady on your Feet

The County Council has launched a free online assessment tool to stay steady on your feet.

Falls are one of the most common causes of injury in older people and from the age of 65 the likelihood of a fall increases.

The free Steady on your feet online assessment tool is designed to help older people understand their risk of falling and take the necessary steps to stay strong, safe and steady.

It only takes a few minutes to complete and creates a personalised action plan to share with family, friends or healthcare professionals.

A full marketing pack is available to help spread the word in your Parish, please contact campaigns@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Bus Services – West Huntingdonshire

Following the Combined Authority's (Mayor) recent consultation on Bus Services, it has been decided that there will be no changes currently to the 400 & 401 services. However further engagement will take place to provide more strategic and usable services to serve and enhance the offering for the communities to the West of Huntingdon, either side of the A14.

The proposed future change that could affect West Hunts is the proposal to extend the existing 28 Bus service from Bedford to Kimbolton onto Huntingdon. The service would be extended from Kimbolton to Huntingdon via Stonely, Gt Staughton, Perry, Grafham, Ellington, Hinchingbrooke Hospital and the service would be a 2 hourly service.

Other potential changes is the proposal for a peak time service between Kettering and Huntingdon serving Spaldwick & Easton.

As well as an off peak shopper service currently served by the 401 route, serving Woolley, Barham, Buckworth, Alconbury Weston, Upton, Hamerton, Steeple Gidding, Little Gidding, Great Gidding, Old Weston, Leighton Bromswold, Spaldwick, Easton & Brampton

As far as I am aware there is no proposal to alter the 150 service from Tilbrook to St Neots.

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Help shape the future of support for unpaid carers in Cambridgeshire

Unpaid carers across Cambridgeshire are being invited to share their experiences to help shape the future of support services in the county.

The County council is keen to hear from people who provide care for family members, friends or neighbours as well as young adult carers and others with experience of caring.

These insights will help ensure future services reflect the needs of carers and the people they support.

A series of workshops will take place between September 26 and March 27, which will give participants the opportunity to develop future service priorities and how those services are delivered.

To register your interest and find out more contact:
Commissioning.FPTeam@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Cllr Ian Gardener

Alconbury & Kimbolton Division

APPENDIX TWO – DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Parish Council Update – October 2026

Huntingdonshire Local Plan to 2046: Final Public Consultation

Huntingdonshire District Council (HDC) has launched its final public consultation on the **Pre-Submission Local Plan to 2046** before it is formally submitted to the Planning Inspectorate by 31 December 2026. Once adopted, this crucial document will shape future decisions on local housing, infrastructure, employment, and environmental protection across the district.

Because this is the final stage of engagement, HDC is specifically seeking feedback on whether the proposed plan is **legally compliant** and meets the official **tests of 'soundness'**. All registered comments will be passed directly to the Planning Inspectorate to inform the independent examination.

- **Consultation Window:** Wednesday 16 September until **11:59 pm on Wednesday 28 October 2026**.
- **How to Participate:** Residents, businesses, and community groups can review the plan and submit their representations online via the HDC website.

https://consult.huntingdonshire.gov.uk/kse/

HDC and **Defence Intelligence** have reached the first major milestone of **Project FAIRFAX**.

- **The Collaboration Hub:** A new joint facility has officially opened inside the secure perimeter at **RAF Wyton**. This space brings together the military, HDC, and four core industry partners (**CGI**, **CDS Defence & Security**, **MAIAR**, and **Vantor**).

- **Strategic Focus:** The Hub operates as a dedicated technology development lab. It aims to accelerate innovative advancements into active military operations while establishing the area as a world-leading hub for geospatial and defence intelligence.
- **Community Impact:** Beyond its defence role, the project is designed to stimulate the local economy. It will create long-term high-skilled employment opportunities and host educational **STEM outreach initiatives** for local schools and students.

Residents can read the full press release directly via https://www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk/news/project-fairfax-takes-first-major-step-forward-with-launch-of-raf-wyton-collaboration-hub/

Helping Hand Support:

HD's Offering a Helping Hand webpage brings together information on financial support, benefits checks, Council Tax Support, food banks, energy-saving advice and low-cost leisure opportunities to help residents manage cost of living pressures. Residents are encouraged to check their eligibility for available support and access local assistance services.

https://www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk/people-communities/helping-hand/

The HDC Economic Development Team is offering two fully funded marketing support programmes for small independent businesses in Huntingdonshire that have been trading for at least 12 months.

The programmes, aimed at helping businesses improve their marketing, attract new customers and strengthen their digital presence, include the Small Business Marketing Reset (starting November 2026) and the Digital Marketing Power-Up Programme (starting January 2027).

Applications close on 14 October 2026:

Businesses can complete the **Expression of Interest form** here: V1 Fully Funded Digital Skills Training Programme for Huntingdonshire Small Businesses – Fill in form

Any questions, please contact **Amy Kelley** at **Economic.Development@huntingdonshire.gov.uk**

APPENDIX THREE – CLERK'S REPORT

- The crime prevention initiatives from September's meeting will be presented at a later date
- The external audit has been completed, thanks to Councillor Noon for holding the public audit materials for inspection at the village shop

END OF APPENDICES