

# HEMINGFORD ABBOTS PARISH COUNCIL

## DRAFT Minutes of the Full Meeting of the Parish Council

on Monday 28th April 2025. Venue: Hemingford Abbots Village Hall, High St,  
Hemingford Abbots, PE28 9AH.



Present: HAPC Councillors: Marcus Whewell, Richard Chamberlain, Eddie Halls,  
Shaun Reinson and Rie Hargreaves HDC: Councillor Sarah Conboy and CEO of HDC,  
Michelle Sacks

Parish Clerk: M. Blewett

Members of the Public: 5

2024-2025	Minutes	Meeting opened at 7 pm
1	<b><u>Public Participation</u></b> n/a	
2	<b><u>District and County Councillors</u></b> Cllr MW warmly welcomed the CEO of Huntingdonshire District Council, Michelle Sacks and HDC Cllr Sarah Conboy to the PC meeting. MS gave a general update on the White Paper for Devolution (pub. 16/12/24). The WP involves a full scale reorganisation of local authorities (HDC, CCC, South Cambs, Fenland etc.). District and County councils will cease to exist as they merge with other LAs, creating new unitary authorities. Town and Parish Councils are not affected. It is expected that by 3/4/28 there will be a new structure in Cambs and Peterborough. All Local Authorities included in the reorganisation are meeting bi-weekly. Everything is being looked at objectively (service provision/financial accounts etc.) The focus for the new UA will be future growth and prosperity within the area. Huntingdonshire DC will have to partner with another authority as there are not enough people living in our area for HDC to stand alone.  The Secretary of State has the authority to make decisions for LAs if a robust plan is not submitted by November 2025. It is in the best interests of all the leaders of the different LAs to work together and create an objective plan.  MS and Cllr SC invited questions on the LG reorganisation and mentioned that commonly asked questions and answers can be found on the HDC website.  A member of the public asked why HDC does not listen or act on feedback from the PC. MS responded that there are 71 PCs in the district and HDC must adhere to their policies. The Town and Parish Forum is organised to engage with PCS and TCs.  Cllr MW thanked CEO MS and Cllr SC for attending the meeting and for giving an update on the LG reorganisation.	
3	<b><u>Apologies for absence</u></b> None	
4	<b><u>Councillors' Declarations of Interest</u></b> None	
5	<b><u>Minutes of the previous meeting and Matters Arising</u></b> <b>Resolved to approve the minutes</b> from the Parish Council meeting held on the 24 <sup>th</sup> March 2025. Proposed by Cllr SR, seconded by Cllr RC, all in favour.	
6	<b><u>Planning Applications &amp; Appeals</u></b> <b>NEW (Property)</b> a) <b>25/00546/FUL</b> Land Adjacent Ridgeway Farm Rideaway Hemingford Abbots Proposal: Erection of 3 barns for storage of thatching materials with hardstanding for vehicles. HAPC is not against the development of the barns but <b>RESOLVED to recommend refusal of the application</b> for the following reasons: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a) The application did not provide information on the mitigation of the risk of fire;</li><li>b) The proximity to the junction onto/from Rideaway, particularly entry and egress to the site, and the increased risk of accidents occurring due to large vehicles needing to access the site 6 days a week;</li><li>c) The height of the barns will obscure the view when turning into the road from Rideaway (towards New Road).</li></ul>	

	Proposed by Cllr RH, seconded by Cllr RC, all in favour.
b)	<p><b><u>23/00627/OUT</u></b> Land Between Houghton Grange And The How Houghton Road Houghton. Proposal: Outline planning permission with all matters reserved for the construction of up to 120 homes (Use Class C3) with associated public open space, landscaping, play areas, surface water attenuation, roads, car parking, pedestrian and cycle routes, utility infrastructure and associated works. HAPC to respond by 29/4/25.</p> <p><b>Resolved to recommend refusal</b> of this outline planning proposal for the same reasons given in our original response:</p> <p>This outline planning application as the development is not in accordance with HDCs Local Plan. The Plan acknowledged development on the site but not on the scale and size in the application with a resultant loss of openness between Houghton and Wyton and St Ives, exacerbated by building close to, rather than away from, the A1123. HAPC is also concerned about the potential overflow of polluted surface water from the site into the river, which is stated by CCC on the HDC portal as a reason for refusal. This is especially relevant to Hemingford Abbots as any damage to the health of the river would directly affect the parish. Proposed by Cllr RC, seconded by Cllr SR, all in favour.</p>
	<b><u>NOTED: APPROVED (Property and Trees)</u></b>
c)	<b><u>25/00307/HHFUL</u></b> Oaks Corner 37A Common Lane Hemingford Abbots Huntingdon PE28 9AW Proposal Erection of two storey rear extension to dwelling.
d)	<b><u>25/00008/TREE</u></b> 63 Common Lane Hemingford Abbots Huntingdon PE28 9AW. Proposal: Walnut (T6) 022/92 - Prune damaged branch 750mm back to undamaged bark and lateral branch, prune dead wood and reduce length of adjacent limb by 3.5-4m - Reduce colonisation of bacteria/fungi, pockets of decay and further risk of branches falling from damaged branch and reduce the risk of injury from limb failure.
e)	<b><u>25/00316/TRCA</u></b> 2 River Meadow Hemingford Abbots Huntingdon PE28 9AY   T1 Douglas Fir - Crown lift to 5m and reduce by 2.5m (height & lateral reduction), removal of dead wood and broken suspended branches. HAPC have not been asked to comment.
	<b><u>NOTED NEW (TREES)</u></b>
f)	<b><u>25/00618/TRCA</u></b> 49 Common Lane Hemingford Abbots Huntingdon PE28 9AW. Magnolia - After flowering, reduce Eastern side of tree by 1 metre to balance tree. The Eastern aspect is twice the width of the Western. Trim some upward growing shoots by 75cm to restore the shape of the crown. <b>HAPC has not been asked to comment on the application.</b>
g)	<b><u>25/00497/TRCA</u></b> 11 Common Lane Hemingford Abbots Huntingdon PE28 9AN. Proposal Sycamore T1 - Reduce height from 10m to 3m - Pollard tree by driveway, poor specimen Sycamore T2 - Reduce height from 10m to 3m - Pollard tree by driveway, poor specimen Sycamore T3- Reduce height from 10m to 3m - Pollard tree by driveway, poor specimen Silver Birch T4 - Fell to ground - Diseased/dying and poses risk to houses if it falls over in storm. Plane T5 - Fell to ground and replace with magnolia or flowering Cherry. <b>HAPC has not been asked to comment on this application.</b>
7	<b><u>Finances</u></b>
a)	<b>Resolved to approve the invoices for April</b> (salaries, standing orders and DDMs for payment as listed at the end of the agenda). Proposed by Cllr RH, seconded by Cllr EH, all in favour.
b)	<b>Resolved to approve and accept</b> the Q4 bank reconciliation and end of year Budget Report. Proposed by Cllr RC, seconded by Cllr SR, all in favour.
c)	<b>Noted: that the renewal of HAPC'S Insurance</b> with Zurich Ltd. for the period 01/04/2025 - 31/03/2026 was unable to be paid in March (from the 2024-25 budget). The amount paid was £1131.47.
8	<b><u>Playing Field</u></b>
	<b>Noted:</b>
a)	SafePlay Playground Services Ltd. have completed the repairs to the play equipment and Wetpour surfaces. An invoice for £1080 exc. VAT is presented for payment in this month's payment schedule. Dave Cook has stained the benches in the playing field and in other locations of the village. DC reported that one of the benches in the playing field was not fit for purpose due to severe decay in the legs and base. The bench was donated by the 'x family' and, in an attempt to trace the family, Cllr MW has put a call out via social media. The bench has been labelled 'do not use'.
b)	<b>Resolved to replace the decayed bench within the next 2 months.</b> Clerk to provide quotes at the next PC meeting. Proposed by Cllr EH, seconded by Cllr MW, all in favour.
c)	<b>Resolved for the Clerk to follow up with the organisers of the Flower Festival</b> on progress made with risk assessment of the event (to include putting in plans to allow dogs on the playing field (see below)).
	<i>It was agreed that dogs will be allowed on the playing field subject to the agreed terms below. Also, a full risk assessment needs to be carried out for insurance purposes:</i>

d)	<p>-Owners are to be asked to keep dogs on leads at all times and to clear up after their dogs (with the poo bags provided);</p> <p>-Temporary dog waste bins must be provided by the FF organisers and placed around the perimeter of the playing field. The FF organisers will arrange for the removal of the waste bins at the end of the FF weekend;</p> <p>-The play equipment area is to be fenced off from dogs.</p> <p>-Someone is appointed to inspect the field after the event to ensure it is clean for children.</p> <p>Proposed by Cllr MW, seconded by Cllr RH, all in favour.</p> <p><b>Resolved to agree to an extra grass cut and general tidy-up of the playing field</b> the week before the Flower Festival. Clerk to make arrangements with Bradgate Ground Maintenance and Dave Cook, and to inform the organisers of the FF.</p> <p>Proposed by Cllr RH, seconded by Cllr EH, all in favour.</p>
9	<p><b><u>Noted Correspondence Received</u></b></p> <p>Email: CCC - notification from Highways that repairs to the potholes along Rideaway up to the slip road on the A1307 heading north.</p>
10	<p><b><u>Matters for future consideration</u></b></p> <p>N/A</p>
11	<p><b><u>Closure of the Meeting</u></b></p> <p>8.05 pm</p>
12	<p><b><u>Date of the next Parish Council Meeting:</u></b></p> <p><b>Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2025 at 7 pm in the Village Hall, High Street, Hemingford Abbots PE28 9AH.</b></p>

## Payments for April (7a)

BACS ✓	4000 Staff Costs				
BACS ✓	4020 HMRC				
BACS ✓	4060 Working from home allowance	4 weeks	£ 16.00		£ 16.00
BACS ✓	4300 Dave Cook	Painting and staining benches, inc. all materials	£ 100.00		£ 100.00
	4215 Safeplay Playground Services Ltd.	Repairs to flat swings and play surfaces	1080.00	£ 216.00	1296
			£ 1,829.60	£ 216.00	£ 2,045.60
DDM	4250 Yu Energy Direct Debit Mandage	March's supply of electricity	£ 12.78	£ 0.64	£ 13.42
DDM	4250 Yu Energy Direct Debit Mandage	March's supply of electricity	£ 149.32	£ 7.47	£ 156.79
			£ 1,991.70	£ 216.00	£ 2,215.81