



MINUTES OF THE HEMINGFORD ABBOTS

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING MINUTES

held on Wednesday 30th April 2025 at the Hemingford Abbots
Village Hall,

Hemingford Abbots PE28 9AH, 7 pm

Chair Marcus Whewell

Present: HAPC Cllrs Marcus Whewell, Rie Hargreaves, Eddie Halls, Shaun Reinson, Richard Chamberlain & HDC Councillor Sarah Conboy.
Representatives: Ted Burleigh (representing Hemingford Memorial Peace Field), Stuart Prosser (representing Hemingford Abbots Village Hall) and Duncan Jenkins, Toby Markham and Jeremy Handel (representing Moats Way Limited).
10 members of the public were present at the meeting.
Clerk: M. Blewett

1	<p><u>Introduction and Welcome by Marcus Whewell (Chair) of HAPC</u></p> <p><u>Hemingford Abbots Parish Council Chair's Report</u> Cllr Whewell read the annual Chair's Report (Appendix 1)</p>
2	<p><u>Apologies</u></p> <p>Apologies were received from Anne-Marie Farmer (Footpath Warden), Iain Muspratt (Hemingford Action Group) and HDC Councillors: Brett and Debbie Mickelburgh.</p>
3	<p><u>Minutes of the previous APM</u></p> <p>Resolved to approve the minutes of the last APM. Proposed by Cllr MW, seconded by Cllr SR, all in favour. The Minutes were duly signed by Cllr Whewell.</p>

4	<u>Acceptance of Accounts and Reports Received via email and hardcopy from:</u>
4.1	<u>Huntingdonshire District Council</u> Cllr Sarah Conboy presented an update on the various 'PLACE STRATEGY' work streams completed in 2024/25. The information provided can be found on most social media channels and on the HDC website.
4.2	<u>Footpath Warden</u> Anne-Marie Farmer emailed her report (Appendix 2).
4.3	<u>Hemingford Abbots Village Hal</u> Stuart Prosser, Chair of HAVH read the HAVH Report for 2024/25 (Appendix 3).
4.4	<u>Hemingford Pavilion (Hemingford Peace Memorial Field)</u> Ted Burleigh, Chair of the HPMF) read the HPMF Annual Report for 2024/25 (Appendix 4).
4.5	<u>Hemingford Action Group</u> – N/A.
4.6	<u>Moats Way Limited</u> Jeremy Handel, Toby Markham and Duncan Jenkins made a presentation on MWL's submission under the HDC'S Call for Sites. The presentation covered plans for the development of land South of the A1307. This development has progressed through the first stage of HDC's Strategic Housing Call for Sites. If full approval is granted by HDC, two new villages will be created, amounting to 4000 new homes being built. The villages will have existing access through the A1307 & A1198. More information is available at www.thelattenburys.co.uk Or by emailing: info@thelattenburys.co.uk
4.7	<u>Public/Open Forum</u> Members of the public raised questions on MWL's proposed development (4.6) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Drainage – A) This will be direct to the Anglian Water Cow Lane site (not through Hemingford Abbots or Grey. - Flooding – A) It is not expected that the development will cause flooding into H/Abbots or Grey. - Services (GPs/shops/Schools etc.) A) There will be infrastructure to meet the needs of the new villages. - Ownership of the land - A) MWL own circa 30% of the land and hold options on the remainder of the land.
	CHAIR'S SIGNATURE.....DATE.....
	There being no further business the meeting closed at 20.55

Appendix 1 HAPC's ANNUAL REPORT 2024/25



Hemingford Abbots Parish Council

Chairman's Report: April 2024 – March 2025

Introduction

The Parish Council has had another active 12 months. We submitted a further LHI bid for extending the 20mph zone along New Road and High Street, but this was unfortunately not successful (see below). We also engaged over an appeal to the Planning Inspector regarding a local application, which was cancelled on the first day of the hearing on technical grounds.

In February, we were invited by our MP, Ben Obese-Jecty (together with other parish councils) to engage with him in discussions regarding any issues that are exercising the parish – and I would like to publicly thank him for taking such a keen interest in the village.

Maintenance continues to be a significant issue affecting the parish, especially around flooding and the poor state of the roads – over which we are engaging with the relevant authorities on a continual basis.

Chair and Vice Chair

Since Zoe Ryall stepped down in May 2024, we have not had a volunteer for Vice-Chair for the Council. We also continue to post two vacancies for the position of parish councillor, and we would welcome any applications for these positions.

Parish Councillors

The Parish Council is made up of volunteers who donate their time to representing the village and protecting their amenity. I am sure that you will want to join me in thanking them all for their hard work and commitment, and in particular those who agreed to join in the last 12 months.

The Clerk and Meetings

Maxine Blewett continues to perform excellently as our Clerk, guiding us through the complicated world of local council administration.

Over the last 12 months we held 13 meetings (10 ordinary, 3 extraordinary), and continued with our programme of visiting other neighbouring Parish Councils to encourage positive relationships and identify ways we might work together. Also, since last May six neighbouring councils have been meeting informally on a quarterly basis to share useful information, and we acted together to apply pressure and help resolve the sluice gates at Saint Ives (for which £2m has now been allocated to allow the necessary repairs).

County and District Councillors

Our three District Councillors have been excellent, particularly Brett and Debbie Mickelburgh who came along to join us on the recent litter pick in March. The District Councillors have also undertaken in their own time the quarterly ‘Meet your Councillor’ sessions, which I know are greatly valued and appreciated by parishioners.

Community Groups

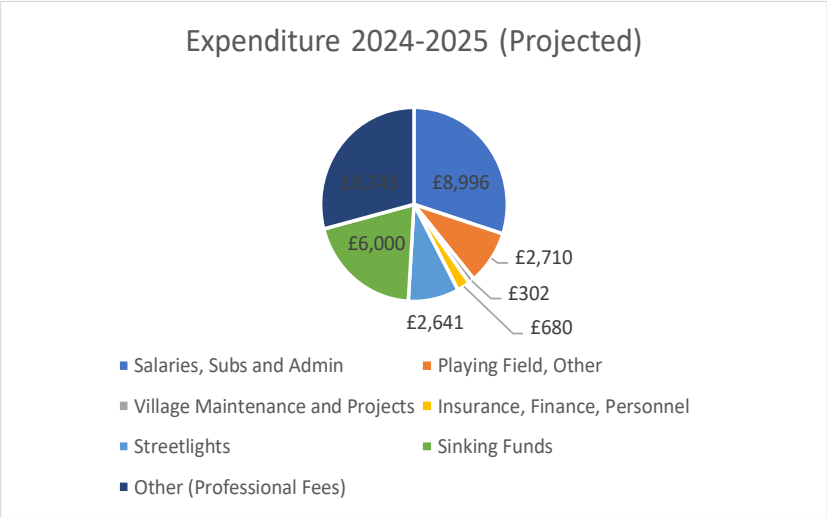
On behalf of the Council, I want to offer our sincere thanks to all the many members of the community who contribute to the running of the parish. This includes Ted Burleigh (representing the Trustees of the Peace Memorial Playing Field), Ken Martin (regular inspections of the village playing field), Anne-Marie Farmer (our footpath warden), and Sue Henderson (distribution of the Parish magazine). I also want to thank the large number of parishioners who help keep the village tidy, including participating in the recent litter pick. We are very grateful to you all!

Finances

Across the year the Parish Council had an income of £33,513 and spent £24,072, allowing us to continue to build up our sinking funds for the streetlights and the playing equipment. Our insurance renewal (£1,100) was slightly late and so will fall into 2025/26 payments, creating a slightly higher surplus than was expected.

Our largest item of exceptional expenditure was legal assistance (£8,743) over various planning applications, and related representation at the Planning Appeal held last August.

Our Annual Governance and Accountability Return will be submitted to the external auditor, PK Littlejohn following our Internal Audit, which is taking place mid-May, and following approval of the figures and accounting systems at our Annual Parish Council meeting to be held at the end of May. It is planned that the documents will be available for public inspection from the beginning of July.



LHI Project

HAPC submitted an application to extend the 20mph zone down High Street to the Pavilion and approximately 100m down New Road to the entrance to the village. Unfortunately, this was unsuccessful, with only 8 of 101 bids approved due to limited funds. However, the white lines at the entrance to New Road were repainted, and we continue to seek alternative ways to make this junction safer.

Village Projects and Maintenance

Streetlights

The Parish Council continues to build up the street-light sinking fund. We had to repair one light near the entrance to the village, and further repairs to other lights are underway. I appreciate that some of these have taken longer than expected, but spare parts are becoming increasingly difficult to source, and we are also reliant on our outside contractor to undertake the work.

Drains, Flooding, and Roads

Work continues to try to resolve the various drainage and flooding issues across the village, including visiting Eastfield House to review the work being done by Cambridgeshire County Council to map the various watercourses and ditches (the current mapping is more than 100 years of out date).

We also understand that appropriate funds have been set aside for an investigation of the condition of the various pipework across the centre of the village, to be completed in the next 12 months. However, this sum does not seem to include funding for significant repair work.

The Parish Council is also continuing to engage with CCC Highways Department to try to resolve the poor state of the roads, especially on Rideaway close to the bridge over the A1037. We have just learned that the work will be completed in June (and involve a road closure).

Dave Cook has been busy repairing various gates around the parish, and we have recently rubbed down and revarnished the benches on the playing field as well as making various repairs to the playground equipment.

Playing Field

Last year, the field hosted an event organised by the Flower Festival Committee to say 'Thank You' to everyone who gave their time so graciously to support the flower festival. We were also very pleased to grant permission for the Committee to use this again as part of this year's event.

Marcus Whewell

Chairman

Hemingford Abbots Footpath Warden Report April 2025

This report covers the period from the last report in January 2023 to date.

During this period my husband and I have walked all the footpaths as illustrated in our village leaflet 'Public Rights of Way in and around the Hemingfords', including paths 9 and 10 which are our most distant from the village. The building of the new A14 rerouted the paths beyond the new A14 and according to Cambridge County Council website footpath 9 has been reallocated to Hemingford Grey and appears as their footpath 13. These changes mean that during 2025 it would be appropriate to update our leaflet and website.

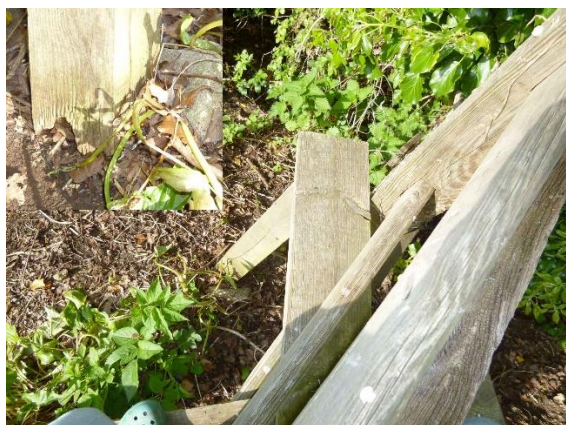
Footpath updates:

Footpath 1: This footpath runs from New Road to the A1307, although the stretch from where it branched to become footpath 6 towards the A1307 is difficult to identify and does not appear to be used much.



Footpath 2: This path runs across Chapmans field along the river to Hemingford Grey footpath 12. The gate at the Quiet Waters end has been repaired recently by the addition of a capping bar to the top of the gate (Photo 1). The other two gates along this path have been replaced and are in good order.

Footpath 3: This path branches from footpath 2 and runs down to the sharp bends near The Pavilion. The gate has one damaged cross bar (Photo 2 and insert) that will need repairing at but the gate remains safe and usable at present.



Footpath 4: This foot path remains the most challenging to maintain due to the overgrowth of weeds and nettles along the length of the path from the end of Common Lane through the pony field. This path is little used which makes keeping it clear problematic. The stile at the Common Lane end (Photo 3) is becoming unsafe because one of the upright legs is rotting (Photo 3 insert) and should be repaired.

In addition, the 5 bar metal gate (Photo 4) into the farmers field remains in poor repair. This path suffers from fly tipping at the A1307 end.

Footpath 5: This is the bridleway across Hemingford Meadow and is in good repair. In early 2025 my husband and I cleared the build-up of rubbish, soil and plants along both sides of the bridge over the backwater.

Footpath 6: This is a very short path between Hemingford Abbots footpath 1 and Hemingford Grey footpath 2.



Footpath 7: This path runs from Houghton lock to the sluice and is well used. This footpath merges with Godmanchester footpath 4 after the sluice. The gates at either ends of the stretch over the sluice are in good repair.

Footpath 8: This path runs in the opposite direction from footpath 7 along the river from the lock.

Footpath 9: As mentioned above this bridleway has been renamed as Hemingford Grey footpath 13.

Footpath 10: This path is a bridleway and starts after the track leading from Gore Tree Lane crosses the new A14. This path ends at the A1198 and is our most distant path from the village.

Summary:

On the whole our footpaths remain in good order.

Unfortunately littering along our paths continues to be an issue although it is my impression that littering is not as bad as it was during and immediately after Covid. I would like to thank everyone who, throughout the year, litter picks when they are using our paths. This is a great help and is much appreciated.

If time permits this year I will revised out footpath map to reflect the changes made by the Cambridge County Council and try to illustrate more clearly where our footpaths run. Many of our footpaths appear to end abruptly but 'unofficial' paths have sprung up since Covid and these paths are well used and make walking in our parish more interesting. Updating the footpath content on the Village website remains an ambition.

Anne-Marie Farmer
Footpath Warden

Hemingford Abbots Village Hall Annual Report. 31 December 2024

30th April 2025 Chairmans report

Activities

During the year to December 2024 the village hall was well used. Many groups and individual hirers have made good use of the hall throughout the year and have been very complimentary about the hall and its facilities.

We had lots of our old friends using the hall but also plenty of newcomers. The hall was in use for most days of the week, but we have plenty of room in the evenings and weekends for new bookings.

The Hall will be advertised more widely in 2025, and we will be creating our own web site. We had lots of our long-term customers back including the art groups, keep fit group, the lunch club, the bridge club, WI, GOBA and the First Aid trainer. Children's parties were on the increase with lots of fun for the children, some parties had a bouncy castle with an ice cream man on standby. We had two very successful wedding receptions held at the hall.

We had two quiz evenings run by the hall which were very successful. They were both a sellout and raised valuable funds for the hall. By popular demand we will keep the quiz evenings going in 2025. We had a very successful music and entertainment night, and we hope to repeat that in 2025.

We have refurbished and replanted in the front garden, and we have added two sculptures (at no cost to the hall). I trust the changes meet your approval.

For health and safety, the hall was kept up to date on all legislation and monthly testing. We are pleased to report that we had no reportable accidents in 2024.

We have introduced the 200 Club to the villagers as another way of raising funds which has been well received. The first £200 prize was given out in December for the November draw and by the April draw which is paid at the start of May 2025 we will have paid out £1200 to the members.

Finances

We had a very expensive year in 2024 with a lot of maintenance required including a treatment of the main hall floor costing £4000.

Due to the increase of all costs to the hall including utilities, maintenance, outside contractors, as well as one off expense such as the carpark lighting, we have had to utilise some of our reserves to cover last year's expenditure.

It has been necessary to increase the hourly hiring rates for the first time in nearly 10 years. It was introduced from January 2025 and so far, has been well received by all.

The charges are still below that of other similar facilities in the area.

We were very grateful for several donations made to the hall during the year including £900 from the proceeds of the safari supper.

The final accounts show a loss of £3,332 and reserves at the end of 2024 are lower than 2023 but are still a healthy total of £29,772. With the price increase and fundraising schemes such as the 200 Club happening in 2025, reserves are expected to remain at a safe level.

Committee

The committee are all volunteers, and we have Jenny Desborough as our only employee. I am very pleased to say we have retained the same committee members.

The committee did an outstanding job, and they deserve our thanks. Well done to you all.

For health and safety, the hall was kept up to date on all legislation and monthly testing. We are pleased to report that we had no reportable accidents in 2024.

The hall is in perfect condition to welcome our villagers and friends in 2025.

The Committee did an outstanding job in 2024, and they are continuing in 2025.

Members of the committee and their responsibilities.

Stuart Prosser	Chairman
Margaret Cloke	Treasurer
Catheryn Reed	Secretary
Beryl Lager	Health and Safety
Rie Hargreaves	Outside maintenance and landscaping.
Caroline Denny	200 Club, and other duties as required
Chris Nicol	Duties as required
Alan Touhy	Organisation of maintenance jobs
Jenny Desborough, employee	Bookings, Maintenance and Customer interface.
Matt Casey	Joined the committee in January 2025

Other significant contributors but not on the committee

Bob Penny	Invaluable help on IT.
David Bryant	Organizer for major evening events and resident chief.
Andrew Burton	Organizer for major events and resident DJ
Sam Cousins	Practical help and advice on various issues.

=====

James Stuart Prosser Chairman Hemingford Abbots Village Hall.

Report from the Representative of the Hemingford Abbots Parish Council on the Trustees Management Committee of the Hemingford Peace Memorial Field.

Presented at the AGM of the HAPC on 30 April, 2025

It has been another very busy year at the Pavilion with important improvements to the amenities and to the management of the facilities. Club contributions have been increased to keep up with increased costs and maintenance work on the pavilion building. The continued contribution by HAPC towards the upkeep of the Hemingford Pavilion and Playing Field is greatly appreciated.

During the year maintenance work to the Pavilion building and surrounding areas included amongst many other items, sanding and sealing the Hayward floor, repairs to fire doors, removal of an almost dead hedge by bowls green and replacement with a fence, improvements to front entrance with a raised bed and improvements to the rear carpark. The playing field itself is used a lot by the Cricket and Football Clubs and because of the unusually wet weather, the grass maintenance care has been increased to try to cope with the demand and fluctuating weather conditions.

Due to the increase in energy prices the Trustees have been investigating the cost and benefits of installing solar panels on the Squash Club roof. Several systems and different solar panels were considered and grant funding sort from various donors. After much deliberation, solar panels were finally installed on the Squash Club roof in February 2025. It is estimated that these solar panels will provide up to about 27% of the Pavilion's electrical energy use and have a life span of 25-30 years. Another major project has been carried out by the Tennis Club. They had for some time been considering replacing the existing old playing surface and also installing LED lights for playing after dark. This has finally all came together in the last few months and been completed successfully. It should be noted that as a consequence of this, the tennis courts are now open to public non-member use during certain hours of weekdays and weekends by paying a small fee.

Fund raising is underway to replace the children's old play park with a new modern Play Park. The cost is around £100,000 and so far half of this has been raised through grants, fund raising and donations. The Trustees would like to thank the HAPC for their contribution and support. It is expected that more grant funds can be attracted in the next few months and that work will begin in the autumn.

On the sporting side, the Bowls Club had a successful season and attracted many new players. The Football Club had another successful season. The Club merged with the Hemingford Colts and Seniors so that now there are 4 senior teams and 15 youth teams. Matches will be held at a variety of locations including the school, Daintree Green, St Ivo Centre and on Sundays at the Pavilion. The Cricket Club had a successful season and was looking stronger for 2025. The artificial pitch was working well. The Squash Club had 228 members and was in a healthy position. Various competitions had been arranged for 2024/5 and a youth tour in Portugal was planned for April 2025. The Gym maintained its numbers over the summer and these were now increasing. The Gym has been very busy.

During the year various activities and entertainment events were scheduled including Friday night barbecues with music, Family Fun Day, Village Sports Day and the Classic Car Show.

The Pavilion Picture films continue to be very popular with performances often sold out. Hall hire which is one of the main income streams has gone well during the year despite the rates being increased.

Ted Burleigh – 30 April 2025.