

Hildersham Parish Council
Clerk: Mrs. PM Harper
17 Lewis Crescent, Great Abington, Cambridge CB21 6AG

A Meeting of Hildersham Parish Council was held on Tuesday 10th March 2026, at the Hildersham Village Hall

Present: Mark Logan, Tom Barton-Owen, Rob Clay, David Mercer, District Councillor John Batchelor, one parishioner and the Clerk.

Meeting started at 7.32pm

76. Open Forum - Parishioners can raise any matters of concern. No matters were raised.

77. Apologies were received and unanimously accepted from Darren Long and County & District Councillor Henry Batchelor.

78. Councillors to declare any interests in the items to be discussed during the meeting?
No interests were declared.

79. Councillors to consider unanimously approving the minutes of the last meeting on 13th January 2026.

80. Resignation of councillor, Tom Barton-Owen because he is leaving the village. As this vacancy arose within 2 months of councillor elections on 7th May, the council was advised not to fill the vacancy. The Clerk has advertised the vacancy on the notice board. Mark Logan thanked Tom on behalf of the council for all the work he had undertaken as a councillor

81. Report from District Councillor John Batchelor – a monthly report had been circulated to councillors

John explained that the council tax would increase by £5/year next year. He explained that the Development Corporation seemed keen to take on the responsibility for the District Council planning, particularly for bigger projects which would mean the District Council (democratically elected) would have no influence. However, this corporation could advance bigger planning projects as it has authority to influence utilities into taking action for strategic planning. However no final decision has been made yet.

The reorganisation of the District Council is into a Unitary authority with elections on 7th May to form a shadow authority.

82. Report from County Councillor and District Councillor Henry Batchelor – a monthly report had been circulated to councillors. No report from Henry in-person as he was not able to attend the meeting.

83. Feedback on actions from the last meeting

a) Update on getting a new Blench Lane Road sign with ‘no through road’ symbol. The new sign has been installed in front of the wall of Garden House and may not be clearly visible to larger lost traffic.

- b) Clearing land behind the water pump. The area had been cleared by ML Maintenance, but the water pump was no very visible. **Action: Mark Logan** to check the work done before the invoice is paid.
- c) Update on vanishing the 4 benches and two noticeboards, as well as the repairs required to the bench at the allotment and on the green opposite the pub. The two benches needing repairs should be worked on next week and the benches would be treated when the weather improved.
- d) The commemorative blossom tree and plaque to honour community volunteers and remember those affected by the Covid-19 pandemic had been planted in the play area by Jenny and Mark Logan.
- e) Mark received a quote to cut the allotment boundary hedge from JSB Agriculture for £300 plus VAT. **Councillors unanimously accepted the quote retrospectively (having agreed previously online).**
- f) Mark Logan had submitted the council's comments ||(after consulting councillors online) on the inclusion of Grange Farm (a new town along the A1307) in response to the consultation about the Draft Local Plan (which ended on 30th January).

84. New items requested by councillors and residents

- a) Need for the allotments to have a separate water supply to Pampisford Estates bungalow. Pampisford Estate had received a £1000 water bill for the bungalow and the allotment water supply, which was unprecedented. It was suspected that there was a water leak or the invoice was incorrect, but it was a good time to get a water metre installed for the allotment water supply. Mark Logan to ask if the invoice had been queried. Mark would investigate the cost of getting a water metre installed for the allotment water supply.
- b) Request for the speed limit to be reduced in Hildersham. Previous feedback on Hildersham's application for a 20mph speed limit in the village ranked Hildersham's priority as 72nd out of 76 applications, therefore councillors agreed not to submit another application this year.
- c) The editor of the Abington and Hildersham news cancelled the meeting about the magazine structure in January.
- d) Request for the council to consider biodiversity corridors in Hildersham (supported by SCDC & CCC). Link green spaces left with minimal intervention to allow nature to flourish. Jean suggested a corridor from the churchyard, via Towne Green (left mainly uncut until the summer), Blench Lane (minimal cutting. Until cow parsley finishes), the allotment area, via Lady's Grove through to Little Linton. Mark confirmed that the new grass contractor had been instructed to do this minimal cutting.
- e) Request for HPC to subsidise the lunches held at Abington Institute at cost of £25.00. **Councillors unanimously agreed to this £25 donation to subsidise Hildersham residents who attended these lunches.**

85. Neighbourhood Plan.

- a) Update. **Mark or Jean** would request an update on the NP from Linton PC.

Jean left the meeting.

86. Finance

- a) **Councillors unanimously agreed to authorise all the payments on the financial statement dated 10.03.2026. Councillors formally retrospectively agreed (having agreed online) to accept the quotation from JSB to cut the allotment hedge.**

b) The council's annual insurance is due for renewal before our next meeting. The payment will be required before our next meeting; therefore the Clerk asked for councillors to also review the policy when it is forwarded to them.

87. Open Forum for Parishioners to make comments or raise items. There were no members of the public to raise matters.

88. Items for the next meeting's agenda on 12th May 2026. First meeting after the 7th May election. Grass cutting and water supply to the allotment.

Meeting ended at 8.05pm

Agenda for the Hildersham Land Management

This meeting followed the Parish Council meeting

Present: Mark Logan, David Mercer, Rob Clay, Tom Barton-Owen and Paula Harper (secretary).

Started 8.05pm

1.Maintenance of the new plantation- action: ML Partnership to cut this area.

2. Allotments

a) A flowering tree with a plaque to commemorate those that have died and survived covid during covid had been planted by Mark & Jenny Logan in the play area.

b) Allotment hedge cut. **It was unanimously agreed by Trustees that the payment for the hedge cutting would come from the Trust account.**

c) Shrubs are growing from the bungalow garden into the plot neighbouring it which were 2 metres wide. These had been cut back and the problem resolved. Some allotments were tidier than others and one of the less maintained allotments had been surrendered. This meant that there were two vacant plots. **Action: Mark** to put up notice advertising vacant plots.

3.South Holding

a) Update on the pile of soil on the Flourish boundary with the South Holding- no one knew if it had been removed.

4. Recreation Ground

a) Any actions required here on the plantation? Discussed earlier in meeting.

b) Play area will be inspected in April.

5.Finance

a) Update on payments made from the account and the balances

Balances on the main Parish Council agenda above. No expenditure made for several months.

Meeting ended at 8.15pm