

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

Minutes for the meeting of Hildersham Parish Council held on Tuesday 13th January 2026, at the Hildersham Village Hall

Present: Mark Logan, Darren Long, Tom Barton-Owen, David Mercer, County & District Councillor Henry Batchelor, District Councillor John Batchelor, one member of the public and the Clerk.

Meeting started at 7.30pm

62. Open Forum - Parishioners can raise any matters of concern- none were raised.

63. Apologies were received and accepted from Rob Clay.

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

65. Councillors unanimously approved the minutes of the last meeting on 11th November 2025.

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

The District Council met and agreed not to defer the 2026 elections, which would be followed by further elections in 2027. The new Unity Authority would come into force in April 2027. The process would require the Government to decide the structure the councils would be made up of, which would be followed by a local consultation, with a final decision made by the government in July 2026. Before this, shadow/joint committees within SCDC & CCC will run the business.

Parish Council elections would be held in May 2026.

67. Report from County Councillor and District Councillor Henry Batchelor – a monthly report had been circulated to councillors

A public meeting with a presentation from the planning team about the proposed development called Grange Farm (which had been included in the draft Local Plan) was held on 14th January at Abington Institute. Parishioners were urged to complete the consultation about this proposed development which closed on 30th January. This site had been considered not viable for previous planning applications and could neighbour the proposed biggest solar powered farm in Europe. The site also neighbours the Roamn Road. A further local consultation about the Kingsway Solar Farm was underway to consider local changes to the proposed plan.

68. Select a grass contractor for 2026

a) Councillors reconsider the three quotations received from three local grass contractors to cut the grass and verges in the growing season 2026. We had asked the contractor who seemed to offer best value for money to cut the verges in November/December, but when he arrived the current contractor was undertaking his second verge cut of the year. A positive reference

had been received from a local council. **Councillors unanimously selected ML Partnership to cut the verges and grassed area in the village in 2026.** A resident requested that the verges in Blench Lane be cut once the cow parsley had finished flowering.
Councillors to agree a cutting programme, which the Clerk would send to the new contractor.

69. Feedback on actions from the last meeting

- a) Update on getting a new Blench Lane Road sign with 'no through road' symbol. Still no news.
- b) Clearing land behind the water pump. **Action Clerk:** to ask new contractor to quote to clear this area
- c) Getting a gov.uk email address. Nextnorth can assist with this. Nextnorth advised Mark Logan that it could be done but was unlikely to be worth the cost; **councillors accepted this advice.**
- e) New quote requested to vanish the 4 benches and two noticeboards. The bench on Walnut Green needs repairing too. Do councillors want this work done? **Councillors unanimously agreed to accept the new quotes to revarnish the two noticeboards and 4 benches including repairing the bench on grass opposite the pub, and only repairing the bench at the allotments.**
- g) The light opposite the village hall being on all day has been reported a second time as remaining on all day, but now seems to be working correctly.

70. New items requested by councillors

- a) Does the council want to respond to the consultation about Grange Farm. The Council to send a response to the consultation about Grange Farm development.
- b) A new application has been made for Highway Initiative Scheme funding to improve safety on near and at the Back crossroads.
- c) The editor of the Abington and Hildersham news is holding a meeting in Jan about the magazine structure and is looking for feedback. Mark has offered dates but will be away when it is arranged, the Clerk volunteered to attend for an hour on that Tuesday.

71. Precept request for 2026-27

Councillors completed the precept form to be sent to SCDC.

72. Neighbourhood Plan.

- a) Update - Mark Logan to contact Linton Parish Council to try to get work progressing.

73. Finance

- a) **Councillors unanimously authorised all the payments on the financial statement dated 13.01.2026.**

The Clerk advised councillors that she had made progressing chasing up grass cutting rebates from SCDC.

74. Open Forum for Parishioners to make comments or raise items - Jean Kelly asked that the grass contractor be advised that when the grass was cut biodiversity should be considered.

After consideration during the later Trust meeting, Mark Logan suggested that the village verges be cut along the outside verges only and that a big cut be done at the end of the season, with the cow parsley left to flower on Blench Lane and once this was over this area would be cut.

2. Allotments

75. Items for the next meeting's agenda on 10th March 2026 - Darren would not be able to attend the March meeting.

The meeting closed at 8.15pm

Agenda for the Hildersham Land Management

This meeting followed the Parish Council meeting starting at 8.15pm

Present: Mark Logan, Darren Long, Tom Barton-Owen, David Mercer, no members of the public and the Clerk.

1.Maintenance of the new plantation

Mark Logan volunteered to cut the plantation. After consideration Mark Logan suggested that the village verges be cut along the outside verges and that a big cut be done at the end of the season, with the cow parsley left to flower on Blench Lane and once this was over this area would be cut.

2. Allotments

- a) A flowering tree had been applied for by Mark Logan; it comes with a plaque to commemorate those that have died during covid. It was unanimously agreed that it would be planted in the play area.
- b) Shrubs are growing from the bungalow garden into the plot neighbouring it and they are 2 metres wide. Quote obtained to cut the hedge at the back of the bungalow - £150.00. However David Mercer thought that it had already been cut back. Mark would check if it still needed cutting back.
- c) Mark Logan would ask the contactor the cost to cut back the main allotment hedge
- d) Clerk to advise Mark Logan which plot had been offered to existing allotment as a second plot.
- e) Two allotment plots looked abandoned – **Clerk** to contact the tenants to ask if they still wanted the plots.

3.South Holding

- a) Update on the pile of soil on the Flourish boundary with the South Holding- has it been removed. No one had checked.

4. Recreation Ground

a) A request has been made to plant a commemorative plant a tree for Lynn Hartland on the recreation ground, which councillors unanimously agreed to . A location opposite the new wood planted, where it can be seen from the footpath, and in line with existing oak and ash trees has been suggested.

b) Councillors considered installing bat boxes but were concerned that the specialist maintenance required made it too challenging.

5.Finance

a) Update on payments made from the account and the balances were detail in the main Parish Council financial statement councillors received. No expenditure made for several months.

Meeting ended at 8.35pm