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

A Meeting of Hildersham Parish Council

A meeting was held on Tuesday 14th July 2026 at Hildersham Village Hall

Present: Mark Logan, Darren Long, Rob Clay, David Mercer, Sarah Tunnicliff, County |& District Councillor Henry Batchelor, District Councillor John Batchelor, the Clerk and three members of the public

Meeting started at 7.30pm

23. Apologies were received and unanimously accepted by councillors from John & Henry Batchelor.

24. Councillors to declare any interests in the items to be discussed during the meeting? Has the Clerk granted any dispensations under section 33 (1) of the Localism Act and the basis is set out under section 33(2)? None were declared.

25. Open Forum for Parishioners to make comments or raise items. Mr & Mrs Clerk highlighted their planning application 26/02217/HFUL for Oakfield House explaining their plans for an extension to connect to the existing annexe. Jean Kelly was concerned about dogs fouling the Meadows. Darren Long volunteered to refresh the signs about removing dog poo. **Councillors unanimously agreed not to purchase further dog waste bins as existing waste bins could be used for dog waste and there would be an on-going cost to the council to empty nay new bins.**

26. Councillors unanimously approved the minutes from the last meetings including the Parish Meeting , AGM on 12th May & 17th June 2026.

27. Feedback on actions from the last meetings

a) Feedback on the grass cutting- an additional grass cut requested before fete which councillors agreed to on email. **Councillors unanimously formally agreed to this extra cut in July**.

There was positive feedback about the grass cutting regime being biodiverse with grass left uncut for biodiversity but the edge of verges cut.
b) The revarnishing of the benches and two notice boards had been completed.
c) Mark had contacted SSE about the high charges the council has received for streetlight power last year. **Action: Clerk** to query high price last year and request a refund.
d) Councillors to formally agreed to the new contract for 12 months with SSE. **<u>Councillors unanimously agreed to use SSE at lowere rate for the next years power supply.</u>**
e) Valuation of village hall by Mr Arkwright's for insurance purposes. **Action Mark Logan** to ask Mr Arkwright for an updated valuation for insurance purposes.

28. Matter raised by councillors and residents
a) Water supply for the allotments and possibly installing a metre to measure allotment usage separately to the bungalow and horse trough usage. Before any decision is made councillors agreed to await news from Pampisford Estates about whether there was a water leak.
b) Suggestion that electric socket be installed for Christmas tree light. **Action: Clerk** to ask her electricians about using power form a lamp post. **<u>Councillors unanimously felt that it was not likely to be worth the effort when lights could be powered by batteries quite economically.</u>**
c) Getting the trees on both greens reduced in size, plus the silver birch by the water pump. **Action: Clerk** to get prices from contractors and **Mark Logan** agreed to contact Pampisford Estates to explain the plan to trim the trees on land owned by the estate.
d) Back Road improvements using additional pot of money identified by Henry Batchelor. David Mercer was due to have a call with a Highway person about this on 28th July.
e) Update on requesting a 20-mph limit through Hildersham, via the Local Highway Initiative funds bid. Applications were closed for this year, therefore the council would need to apply in 2027.

29. Neighbourhood Plan (NP).
a) Update – a meeting of Linton planning committee was due on 15th July to discuss the report produced.

30 Finance
a) Authorisation of all payments on the financial statement dated 14.07.2026.
<u>Councillors unanimously authorised all the payments on the statement. Councillorsn unanaimously ed n proposed to donate £500 to support the</u>

SAVE (Save Abington Village Environment) campaign to stop the Grange Farm new town being built along the A1307.
b) The Clerk has applied to have Sarah Tunnicliffe added to the Lloyds account to authorise payments. Two councillors to be emailed to support this application.
c) Quote received from Utility to supply power for the streetlights. Do councillors wish to accept this quotation? Earlier in the meeting a supplier was discussed under item 27d.

31. Internal Auditors recommendation actions
a) Adopt 2025 Standing orders – forwarded to councillor too close to the meeting to be considered
b) Clerk had complete compliance form for pensions - c
c) Clerk reclaimed VAT to the sum of £430.
d) Adopt IT policy- still outstanding
e) Make website more accessible - **Mark Logan** to email website company for advice.
f) cash book to include powers used- Clerk to action
g) Reserve levels should be no more than 12 months – to be considered at budget time.
h) Internal control and monitoring- still outstanding
i) GDPR-unclear what's required. **Clerk** to ask internal auditor
j) Membership of Information Commissioner's Office needs renewal/payment - £52.00 **Councillors unanimously authorised the Clerk to renew ICI membership at £52.**

32. Open Forum for Parishioners to make comments or raise items
Resident highlighted that some wooden posts needed straightening. A councillors would do this

33. Items for the next meeting's agenda on 8th September 2026
Policies, NP, Back Road and S.A.V.E.

Meeting closed at 8.10pm

Agenda for the Hildersham Field Garden & Land Trust Management

1. **Maintenance of the new plantation**.

2. Allotments

a) Water supply to allotment plots currently unmetered and shared with (Pampisford Hall owned) bungalow. Discussed at council meeting under item 28a.
b) Request to create a pond on an allotment plot. Trustees agreed thar this was not a good idea.

3. South Holding
a) Update on pile of soil – the soil had been removed.

4. Recreation Ground
a) Any actions required on the plantation. Trustees were keen to obtain free trees.
b) Actions suggested from Play area? No actions required apart from graffiti needing painting over, which **Mark Logan** volunteered to do.

5. Finance
a) Income and payments made since start of new financial year, reported on the Financial Statement reviewed under item 30a.

Meeting closed at 8.15pm