

HORSEHEATH PARISH COUNCIL

Email: clerk@horseheath-pc.gov.uk

13 The Green, Weston Colville,
CB21 5NT

Minutes from the meeting of Horseheath Parish Council at 7.30pm on Monday 13th July 2026 in the Village Hall. Meeting documents are available at

<http://www.horseheath-pc.gov.uk>

Present – John Howard, Harper Brown, Terry Mundy, Nichola Murray, and Jess Ashbridge (Clerk).

Agenda

- 1. Chairman's Welcome** – Cllr Howard welcomed those present.
- 2. To accept apologies and reasons for absence** – Apologies were received from Cllr Bunting **P: Cllr Murray, S: Cllr Brown, All in fav.** Apologies not received from Cllr Miles, and Cllr Hunt.
- 3. To approve minutes** – Minutes from the meetings of Annual Parish Council Meeting on 11th May were approved **P: Cllr Mundy, S: Cllr Murray, All in fav.**
- 4. To make any declarations of interest** – None.
- 5 Public Participation** – None.
- 6. District and County Council reports** – Appended
- 7 Status of planning applications at District Council** - None

8.1 Parish Safety Audit – Cllrs Brown and Bunting were thanked for carrying out the safety audit. Actions: request that Notice Boards were revarnished, signage on West Wickham road was still missing, and would be chased. Bus shelters on A1307 were in dire need of replacement. The Clerk would check that the defibrillators and MVAS were insured.

8.2 Asset Register – The asset register was approved.

8.3 Grass Cutting – None, grass cutting rebate had been received from CCC.

8.4 Horseheath Village Community Association (HVCA) – There had been problems with the drainage. There had been no formal request for funds.

8.5 Land Behind Village Hall – It was noted that the transfer of ownership of the patio area of the Village Hall from SCDC to HVCA would be completed in the next few months. It was hoped that the lease of the land behind Bakersfield Cottages, to the Parish Council, would be completed at the same time.

8.6 Glebelands – A determination was still awaited.

8.7 Bus shelters – Jack Bullimore would be chased, as there had been no movement on the dilapidated shelters on A1307.

8.8 Kingsway Solar – The application had been withdrawn from Planning Inspectorate (PINS). Kingsway had advised they would be resubmitting the application after making changes.

8.9 Website – Thanks were offered to Stuart Miller for his work with the archives on the website.

8.10 Grange Farm – The Clerk reported that the Save Abington Village Environment group (SAVE), were holding meetings with local Parish Councils that would be affected if the Grange Farm development of 6,000 houses north of Abington were to be included in the Local Plan. A meeting would be held of 20th July, Cllrs Bunting and Mundy would be attending. For further information <https://www.s-a-v-e.co.uk/>

8.11 Policies – Data Mapping, miscellaneous section was added to include reports from Officer's meetings etc. **P: Cllr Mundy, S: Cllr Brown, All in fav.** Risk Management Strategy **P: Cllr Brown, S: Cllr Mundy.**

9.1 Speedwatch & Moving Vehicle Activated Sign (MVAS) update – When placed outside the Red Lion there were battery issues, so would be reinstated. Haverhill Road almost 13k vehicles in June, over 400 a day, 30% speeding. West Wickham Road approximately 200 vehicles a day. Cllr Murray was thanked for her work.

9.2 Footpaths – Cllr Mundy would contact Streetly Estate.

10. Burial Ground – Hedge had been cut, wildflower seeds had been planted, but had struggled with the hot weather.

11. Risk Assessment – Defibrillators were rescue ready, lime tree Audley Way, and willow tree in Cardinals Green, had both been reported to Highways.

12. Finance

12.1. To Approve Payments – Age UK £1,500, SCDC election £105, payroll services £79.20 **P: Cllr Murray, S: Cllr Brown, All in fav.**

12.2 Quarterly Accounts – accounts received, add monies for playgrounds in reserves.

12.3 Annual Return 2025-26 – It was noted that the required documents were submitted to the external Auditors PKF Littlejohn before the deadline of 30th June.

12.4 Saffron Building Society – September.

Receipts

Payment Date and Detail	Amount
26.05.2026 Burial Fees	£100

Payments since last meeting

Payment Date	Description	Payee	Amount
03.06.26	Insurance	Zurich	£873.60
29.06.26	Grass Cutting	ML Partnership	£385.50

Full transactions detailed in the accounts (in Meeting Documents)

12.5 Account Balances

- Unity Treasurer's account - £2,581.77 as of 8th July.
- Unity Instant Access Savings Account - £46,958.65 as of 8th July.
- Village Sign Maintenance Fund - £6,391

Saffron Building Society Burial Ground Fund - £17,553.35 as of 31st December 2025

13. Matters for the Next Agenda – Glebelands, bus shelters.

Dates of Next Meetings: 7th September, 9th November.

14. Complaints - Under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 and in accordance with 3d pursuant to Standing Order 11, it was resolved that the Public are excluded from any discussion on this item as it concerns complaints **P: Cllr Mundy, S: Cllr Brown, All in fav.** The Monitoring Officer had received complaints; they had all been dismissed.

Cllr Howard closed the meeting at 20.33

District and County Councillor's Report – July 2026

Kingsway Solar

Last month we reported that the Kingsway Solar application had been submitted to the government's planning inspectorate (PINS) for assessment. PINS had to validate the application, where they make sure all the information is there for them to make a decision on it, before it was accepted. PINS replied to Kingsway with a list of changes that they'd need to make before it was in an acceptable state for examination – the letter stretched to some 11 pages! As a result of this, Kingsway withdrew the application with a view to making the required improvements and then resubmitting. So it looks like this hasn't gone away totally but does give those of us that are interested the 'summer off' reading and commenting on hundreds of technical documents. The positive thing from this process is that it demonstrates that the government are committed to scrutinising this proposal seriously, rather than waving it through.

Forest City

More good news (in our opinion) – you may have seen that Matthew Pennycook, the minister for Housing and Planning, recently announced in Parliament that the Forest City idea wasn't in the government's New Towns plan, meaning it currently doesn't have any mechanism for gaining approval. Given the size of the proposal, this wouldn't be able to go via the local councils, it would have to be a government led scheme, so now they have ruled this out for the time being, I know a lot of us are breathing a sigh of relief. Although, with anything relating to planning and development, nothing is impossible, so this may not be the last we've heard of it but it certainly is for the moment. The local authorities in our area had also jointly written to the government outlining why they think the plan is unsuitable and that they don't support it. This was pivotal as these are the local planning authorities in our area, so a joint letter from them all condemning the proposal was helpful. For clarity the authorities that penned the letter were – South Cambs District Council, Cambridgeshire County Council, East Cambs District Council and West Suffolk District Council. Suffolk County Council opted not to sign, the reasons for which we are unsure.

Local Plan

The District and City council's Local Plan is moving forward. The current status is that the Council are due to start another round of consultation on the final draft of the Plan. This is very important as it's the last opportunity for us to comment on the proposals before they're submitted to a government inspector for examination. The comments made at this stage will be seen by the inspector. The big-ticket item in our area is the Grange Farm new town proposal. Initially it was proposed to build a new 6000 house development to the north of Abington. There were over 1000 representations received on this proposal alone, so thank you to all those who engaged with the process. We will wait to see what changes, if any, the Council has made based on the feedback they received, although our view is that it's

unlikely that they will have removed the site from the Plan, they may have altered the layout/density etc. Whatever the final proposal is, please do use the opportunity to comment on it – positively or negatively – as it will be the largest settlement in our area, larger than Linton.

Local Government Reorganisation

At time of writing, we are expecting an imminent announcement from government outlining their preferred geographies for the new unitary authorities in Cambridgeshire. Once this announcement is made it'll be all hands-on deck for the local authorities to get themselves in order for the first elections of the new councils in May 2027.

DRAFT