

Haslingfield Parish Council Minutes - Draft

Annual Parish Meeting – 18 May 2026

Attendees: Parish Cllrs Liz Hales (LH) – Chairman; William Harrold (WH); Ann O'Brien (AO'B); Diana Offord (DO); Andrew Tipler (AT); Lise Jackson – Parish Clerk. 22 members of the public attended.

1. **Welcome from the Parish Council Chairman** – Liz Hales welcomed all attendees.
2. **Apologies for absence** – Apologies received from Cllrs Andrew Gillies, Steve Jones, David Revell and James Roberts.
3. **Approve minutes of Annual Parish Meeting held 19 May 2025** – All agreed
4. **Reports from Village Groups** – Speakers from 19 village groups gave reports about their groups. The groups include: All Saints Church, Bell Ringing, Beavers, Brownies, Community Car Scheme, Cricket, Haslingfield and Harlton Eco Group, Haslingfield Allotment and Gardeners Association, Haslingfield Choir, Haslingfield Little Theatre, Haslingfield Lawn Tennis Association, Haslingfield Methodist Church, Luncheon Club, Pop up Coffee, Neighbourhood Watch, Scarecrow Festival, The Connections Bus, Village Society and Haslingfield United Charities. Written reports were received from Haslingfield Primary School, Home Gardeners' Facebook Group and Stich 'n Knit. Written reports from the above groups will be available on the Parish Council website.
5. **Badcock Recreation Ground Trust Chairman's Report** – Badcock Recreation Ground Trust Chairman Jenny Jullien presented the report for the previous year.

The Trustees meet every couple of months, the meetings are split into two, all the regular users are invited to attend and present their concerns or ideas, the second section is for the Trustees, Administrator, and the Caretaker. At this section we discuss anything raised by the users' group and then go onto discussing the managing of the hall.

Personnel

March, we were delighted to appoint Judith Brammar as the Caretaker and in November We were pleased to welcome Parish Councillor Steve Jones as a Trustee but were sorry to announce that both Tony Adcock and Terry Baker resigned as Trustees. They were both thanked for their contributions.

Improvements and or new initiatives

At the beginning of the year a decision was made to buy new curtains and blinds for the Hall; the cost would be shared between the Parish Council and the Badcock Trust. These were installed in the summer.

In July, the first of the Village Hall Markets took place, and although we did not get the number and range of stalls that were promised, it did seem to be a popular event. Since then, it has gone from strength to strength, and we are extremely fortunate to have Catherine Huntington to manage the markets, who works tirelessly to get the number and range of stalls needed to make it a success.

Finance

2025 proved to be another successful year. Income increased by approximately £6k, which included a grant from the Parish Council of £2.5k, £460 from the Village Hall Market and an overall increase in hire hall income. Expenditure increased by about £5k which was our contribution to the cost of the curtains and blinds. There were also savings in running costs, both gas expenditure and waste disposal.

Plans for the 2026.

The Trustees continue to discuss improving the village hall, and money has been

Haslingfield Parish Council Minutes - Draft

Annual Parish Meeting – 18 May 2026

allocated to replace the hard standing at the side of the hall as it is deemed to be unsafe and also to move the bins from the car park to the front of the hall and create hard standing for them. During 2025 Ann O'Brien a lot of her time investigating Energy Saving projects for the Hall, and money has been granted from the Parish Council to investigate further.

Thank you

And lastly my thanks go to the Trustees for the time and effort they contribute and to the rest of the team Michaela Joycroft, Judith Brammar and Miriam Ade-Kunle. And to the Parish Councillors for their continued help and support.

6. Haslingfield Parish Council Chairman's Report – Parish Council Chairman Liz Hales presented the report for the previous year.

2025-26 has been another busy year for Haslingfield Parish Council, particularly in relation to the demands of numerous consultations and dealing with the proposed East West Rail development. As with the previous year we have benefitted from an almost full complement of councillors and have achieved a full quorum at all our meetings as well as ensuring active representations on SCRG, the Badcock Trust, United Charities, and HAGA and attendance at relevant training events. We were sorry to lose Clive Blower and Ruth Hatfield; both of whom had made a major contribution to our work, but have welcomed three new members: William Harold, Robin Perry and Richard Ellis.

Following are a list of some of the key areas of work. (These are arranged alphabetically, not in terms of importance).

Allotments

The HAGA (Haslingfield Allotments and Gardeners Association) Committee who manage the allotments on behalf of the Parish Council have presented their own report. They have worked hard this year with the goal of achieving full occupancy and appropriate maintenance of all plots and the surrounding grass paths. It is worth noting that in February we finally formalised Parish ownership of this area of land with the Land Registry.

Consultations and Updated Legislation

The number of consultations appears to increase each year and over the last 12 months we had 16 to complete. Those that we focussed most attention on were the SCDC Local Plan, the proposal for a new Cambridge Development Corporation and the latest EWR Consultation. The latter 2 raise our concerns over critical decision making with long term impacts on our village that can be signed off by Central Government outside the control of our elected representatives.

Of equal importance for our understanding is the Planning and Infrastructure Act, implemented this year, whose goal is to accelerate housing delivery by streamlining consent processes for critical infrastructure.

East West Rail

The threat of the proposed EWR Co. line has been a dominant concern for our parish, and we have benefited from the presence of 2 parish councillors whose work has been focussed on challenging this proposal. This year we took a lead in formalising our joint work with 14 other South Cambridge Parish Councils, whose residents have similar concerns, through the creation of the South Cambridge Rail Group (SCRG). We maintain our regular meetings with representatives of EWR Co., the Leader of the SCDC, Bridget Smith, the Joint Director of Greater Cambridge shared planning, Stephen Kelly and our local MP, Pippa Heylings.

Haslingfield Parish Council Minutes - Draft

Annual Parish Meeting – 18 May 2026

We have also had our first meeting with the Mayor, Paul Bristow, and a meeting with the Transport Minister in London, Lord Hendy, originally scheduled for March has been rescheduled for June. Our Clerk has taken on the role of Administrator for this group; separately funded by the SCRG.

The Eco Group

The Haslingfield and Harlton Eco group have presented a separate report but we congratulate them on their activities over the last 12 months; particularly in relation to their Environmental Appraisal and Biodiversity Enhanced Report of the village, work on the Wellhouse Meadow, engagement and involvement in the nature recovery project 'From the Ground Up', working in partnership with Friends of the Rhee who are carrying out water testing and their numerous community events.

Funding Support

Over the last 12 months grant applications from Little Owls, All Saints Church, and Haslingfield and Harlton Eco Group; on behalf of Friends of the Rhee have all been agreed on.

Grounds Maintenance

Our contract for grounds maintenance is currently held by Nurture Landscape on a rolling renewable three year contract, of which we are now in year two.

Memorials

Following several requests for trees and benches to be installed in memory of a loved one, the Council compiled and adopted a policy on Memorials around the Village. This includes installation of memorial benches, and the planting of trees and spring bulbs. A Memorial Map containing the details of the donor and the person to be remembered is currently under construction and can be viewed on the Council website.

Neighbourhood Plan

In July 2025 the Government announced it will no longer be providing Locality Grants and formal work on producing a Neighbourhood Plan has been put on hold. However work has continued in response to a number of the key issues raised. The first being the need for affordable housing; with a housing needs survey carried out on our behalf in February by ACRE; the results of which are to be published shortly. In relation to issues of Building Design and Sustainability, our initial focus has been on the village hall, for which ACRE carried out a free energy audit. Following on from this we have been to exploring more sustainable lighting and improved insulation options. Finally, but not least, in response to concerns about climate change and our natural environment, the Eco group has played a key role in developing a strategy for nature recovery and increasing the biodiversity of our parish.

Planning Applications

Over the last 12 months the PC has dealt with 28 planning applications; 15 of which we supported and on 2 we had no comments to make. We made objections to 11 applications, clearly outlining our objections in the context of material considerations, in compliance with the requirements of Greater Cambridge Planning. We are frustrated that, in relation to 6 of these, planning permission was granted and we received no feedback in relation to how our concerns were assessed and overruled.

Recreation Ground, Playground Area and Skate Park

Accessing contracts for managing equipment updates and renewing the wet pour surface in the playground area has been time consuming. However this was completed in the most

Haslingfield Parish Council Minutes - Draft

Annual Parish Meeting – 18 May 2026

critical area and funding is to be agreed for the remaining work to be done as soon as possible. We were dismayed at the damage caused by a fire lit in the skate park bin last summer and Phase 2 of the skate park development is on hold awaiting sufficient councillor availability, as well as support and drive from the Village Community

Roads and Transport

The state of our roads has been one of the top concerns for villagers. As a Parish Council this is not our direct responsibility but we have made every effort to support parishioners; advising them on reporting faults, doing so ourselves and asking our District and County Councillors push this up their agendas. Safety is also on our agenda and our bid for a wider area of restricted parking around the school has been accepted, but the work will not start on this until 2027 and our request for renewal of the white lines on Haslingfield Road alongside the allotment has still not been acted on. Following a village consultation we have also put in a bid for a 20 mph speed limit throughout the village. For safety reasons we are replacing our two Motor Vehicle Activation Signs for those with solar batteries and are awaiting costings to implement this. Unfortunately there has been an inadequate response from parishioners to get our Speed Watch work up and running again this year.

Trees and Hedges

Tree replacements have taken place in Wellhouse Meadow, a Memorial Tree has been planted on the side of the village green in memory of those who died and those who provided support throughout the Covid Pandemic and at Christmas time the council purchased a tree for the village green. Acacia have been awarded the contract for the three yearly tree survey to be carried out in the next couple of months.

Youth Work

You will have heard the report on the weekly Connections Bus, and we have received good reviews from parents whose children attend.

In conclusion I would like to thank all councillors for their hard work this year and in recognition of the key role that our Clerk, Lise Jackson, has provided in steering us in the right direction, we put her name forward for the NALC Clerk of the Year award.

7. Haslingfield Parish Council finances

Parish Clerk Lise Jackson gave a financial update to the meeting. The PC spent very close to its budget in the financial year 2025-26. The precept increased in 2026-27 by 1.57%. The largest expense to the Parish Council in this year as repair to the surface (wetpour) in the playground. The PC holds reserves, some earmarked for particular projects, such as the repair of the Wellhouse wall and repair of the playground and the playground surface. The general reserves (£149K) is the amount recommended to keep for eventualities.

- 8. Reports from County and District Councillors** – Written reports from the County and District Councillors were received and are available on the Parish Council website. District Councillor Lisa Redrup explained about the new food bins that will be delivered to residents later in the year.
- 9. Open Forum** – Issues resulting from car parking in the village, specifically around the Recreation Ground, Cantelupe Road and at All Saints Church, were raised, as well as speeding. A member of the public thanked the Parish Council for their work. Everyone thanked Little Owls for providing refreshments.

Issued by the Parish Clerk: Lise Jackson

20 May 2026