

# Helmdon Local History Group

## **Minutes of Helmdon Local History Group (HLHG) Committee Meeting 06 August 2025 at 1 Cross Lane, Helmdon.**

**Present:** Danny Moody - Chair (DM), Mike Barnes (MB), Audrey Forgham (AF), Richard Farquharson (RF), Faye Holloway (FH), Ross Vicars (RV)

**Apologies:** None

This committee meeting was additional to that indicated at item 6 of 14<sup>th</sup> May 2025 meeting.

### **1. Minutes of Committee Meeting held on 14 May 2025**

The minutes of the meeting held on 14 May 2025 were approved as a true and correct record of the meeting.

### **2. Website project response after rejection by The National Lottery Community Fund.**

We are disappointed that The National Lottery Community Fund thought our small group offered less community support than required to receive their funding.

We are currently aware of other funding opportunities:

- Heritage Lottery - here we have already completed a pre-assessment
- W.N.C. Community Grant – this is limited to £10K

The do-it-yourself A.I. approach, mentioned at the last meeting, was briefly discussed but no further decisions were made.

Various potential contacts with fund-raising experience were discussed. We also need to establish the amount of funding to be requested.

**Action:**

**DM** to follow up with potential contacts

**RF** to make general appeal on social media.

### **3. Review of History Walks event, 10 June 2025.**

Feedback from attendees, and the fact that many returned to the Reading Room after the event, show that the event was well received. Refreshments were perfect for this type of event. Income from the event covered the costs, showing that day-membership is very important to Helmdon Local History Group (HLHG). Event insurance was effective and at a small cost.

It was decided to run a repeat event in June 2026 using the same structure as before, but refreshment costs may be higher than the previous £1.40 per person. Walk leaders may revise style of handouts based on previous experience.

It will be necessary to publicise the repeat event well in advance including at the AGM. This may encourage day-members to join HLHG. Publicity for the AGM should indicate that the formal part will only take a short time.

**Action:**

**MB** to document the refreshments offered at the June event.

**RF** to prepare publicity for the 2025 AGM

4. **Speaker at HLHG AGM on Tuesday 14 October 2025. [revised to 21 Oct at 19:45]**

DM suggested farming as a possible subject since most of his history walks revolved around farm buildings. Several speakers were suggested.

AF suggested the subject of "Trials and Tribulations of Helmdon". This was previously mentioned as a joke, but it might be a realistic opportunity to cover topics such as diaries or minutes, crime stories or ghost stories.

The Northamptonshire Forum, may have good leads for speakers.

AF suggested a final option if no speaker is found, this would be to show the film: Helmdon 1999, a record of a year in the life of a village.

It was agreed to revise the date of the AGM plus talk to 21 October 2025.

**Action:**

**DM** to speak to contacts re possible farming speakers.

**RV** to speak to contact who may have relevant stories.

**RF** to update Reading Room booking to new AGM date.

5. **Listing of books held in the library.**

RV has made, and will manage, a listing of all books

RV suggests that top section of cupboard should be open for all to access. It was also suggested that the history resources cupboard should be open during group meetings. Some reference materials may be available to view only within the Reading Room.

If anyone wishes to donate history materials, they must contact RV first to determine whether it is suitable. If not suitable and not wanted by the donor, it should be publicised to other committee members for personal consideration.

**Action:**

**RV** to generate forms to be used when taking and returning books. Copies of forms to be available within the cupboard, with instructions if applicable.

**FH** to pass cupboard key to **RV**.

DM might be able to source a duplicate cupboard key, on request.

6. **To consider the purchase of archive boxes for HLHG materials.**

The committee agreed in principle.

**Action:**

**RV** to investigate what is needed.

## 7. Reminiscences

Some names were suggested, including retired committee members. Reminiscences could be of one event or much more.

**Action:**

**RF** to add item to agenda of the next meeting.

## 8. Cessation paragraph for HLHG constitution specifying how any remaining funds would be distributed.

Cessation terms are already included in the draft version of the constitution.

**Action:**

**DM** to locate and review the approved constitution.

## 9. Date of next committee meeting

The next committee meeting will take place at 19:30 on Wednesday 10 September 2025 at AF's.

## 10. Any other business (A.O.B.)

### 10.1 Pictures for the open hanging-display area

AF has two pictures that may be suitable.

RV has aerial views showing the two railways.

### 10.2 Churchyard row markers

It was agreed that the proposed soft-wood marker posts were unsuitable and may represent a safety risk. The committee suggests that good maps within the church should allow anyone to easily locate the general area of any grave or memorial.

**Action:**

**DM** to speak to proposal originator

**MB** to look for an earlier and better scale map.

### 10.3 Priory Farm

RV has found a 1791 article on gamekeepers which references Priory Farm / Netherbury.

The meeting closed at 21:30