

Helmdon Local History Group

Minutes of Helmdon Local History Group (HLHG) Committee Meeting 10 September 2025, at 1 Cross Lane, Helmdon.

The meeting opened at 7:30pm

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

Apologies: Faye Holloway (FH)

1. Minutes of Committee Meeting held on 06 August 2025.

The minutes of the meeting held on 06 May 2025 were approved as a true and correct record of the meeting.

Re item 10.2 Churchyard Row Marker proposal, DM has spoken to the proposer. It was agreed to pursue this issue outside HLHG.

Re item 10.3 Priory Farm. RV has identified articles that refer to it as Copes Manor and Netherbury.

2. Website project contacts appeal and contacts follow up.

DM advised that, of those suggested as having fund-raising expertise, one gave a negative response while we await a response from others.

RF advised that a Helmdon Local History Group Facebook page has been created with a post requesting fund-raising assistance. A similar post has been added to the Helmdon Villagers Facebook group.

The do-it-yourself A.I. approach to website conversion was discussed further. It was agreed that we should initially consider converting some of the most visited pages. At present, tools exist to process individual webpages but none that claim to handle whole websites.

Action:

Committee members to monitor developments in website conversion tools.

RF to update, or add comments to, social media posts as applicable.

3. Funding symposium on 25 September in Northampton.

There were no offers to attend the symposium.

Action:

RF to seek any related information

4. Changes to Metro Bank Current Account.

It was agreed not to make any changes to our banking arrangements following the introduction of a monthly charge.

5. To suggest a revised dissolution clause for the HLHG constitution, to be proposed at the AGM on Tuesday 21 October 2025.

5.1. DM proposed a revised clause which was agreed by the committee.

5.2. The constitution clauses need to be renumbered.

5.3. Subscription year to be amended to start on the day after the AGM.

Action:

Constitution amendments to be proposed to members at the AGM on 21 October 2025

6. To suggest other AGM agenda items

It was agreed that the “next open meeting” agenda item should include details of all events that are currently being planned. Currently this includes

Talk or event – Tuesday 03 February 2026

History Walk – Tuesday 09 June 2026

Methods to improve engagement with group members and the wider public were discussed. Suggestions included projects that involve more people.

See also agenda item 10 below.

Action:

DM to request reminiscences and encourage other participation as part of the Chairman’s report.

RF to ensure new activities are promoted on social media.

7. To agree on a name for the talk, and topics covered, following the AGM.

It is regretted that a farming-related talk or event is not feasible. Instead, a talk entitled “What has the Parish Council ever done for us” was proposed. A strapline was not decided but should imply a light-hearted look back at Parish Council records.

Action:

DM to decide strapline and find suitable images. DM to prepare the talk.

MB or delegate to create poster for the AGM and talk.

RV & FH to access archive items for display during the AGM and talk.

8. Event Preparation Chart for AGM and talk

The printed event preparation chart was updated for completed action items. Open items were discussed.

Action:

FH to organise refreshments for the AGM and talk.

RF to keep the event preparation chart up to date.

9. To consider purchase of archive boxes for HLHG materials.

The committee agreed to reimburse RV for the sample archive boxes and acid-free paper already purchased. The committee authorised purchase of two more boxes.

Action:

RV to purchase two more boxes.

RF to provide blank A5 labels.

10. Reminiscences

How to encourage people to provide reminiscences was discussed. It was decided that best results may be where we select pairs of people that are well known to each other. One could act as interviewer while the other provides the reminiscence.

See also agenda item 6 above.

Action:

Committee members to write to potential pairings.

11. Date of next committee meeting

The next committee meeting will take place at 19:30 on Wednesday 12 November 2025 at AF's.

12. Any other business (A.O.B.)

12.1 Pictures for the display area in the Reading Room

RV provided examples of suitable photos.

Action: RV to determine number of pictures that could be displayed and then get a price guide for framing.

The meeting closed at 9pm