HELMDON PARISH COUNCIL

COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of an Ordinary Meeting of Helmdon Parish Council held in the Helmdon Reading Room, Church Street, Helmdon on **Wednesday 28th October 2026** at 7:30 pm.

Present: Cllrs Moody (Chair), Hart, Plunkett, Minshall, Marchant, Shepherd, Fitton, Sparrow, Fitzroy-Ezzy and the Clerk
In Attendance: 4 members of the public and Unitary Councillor Eastwood

625. Apologies for absence - None
626. Declarations of Interest - None
627. Approval and signature of the minutes of 23rd September 2026 – RESOLVED to approve and sign
628. Matters arising from the minutes

a. Update on road safety scheme grant application – Awaiting highways response regarding appropriate positioning for a new speed indicator sign.

b. Update on responses to B4525 crash – Noted report from Northamptonshire Police regarding a review of the accident data from the last 5 years. There appears to be some confusion about whether the latest crash resulted in a fatality, Cllr Minshall received news from the Police that there was no Fatality and will request clarification from Cllr Eastwood regarding source of information that appears to be incorrect. The Parish Council noted that there have been two collisions recently, however neither of these have been in the fatal or serious injury categories that the police/highways use. This doesn't mean that the collisions are not serious to those involved, however WNC/highways act based on evidence, and this doesn't support any changes at present in their view. Cllr Richard Butler has yet to respond to correspondence from residents. Helmdon Parish Council has been attempting to engage with WNC on the crossroads, however the solutions wanted are not deliverable at the moment. HPC plans to work with Highways in a constructive way. **RESOLVED** that the Parish Council will contact Cllr Richard Butler to request a response. **RESOLVED** to determine which contact in WNC is responsible for highways safety/reviews of junctions and request that they view the crossroads and assess potential solutions, providing reasoning. Cllr Hart is meeting Helen Howard next week and will ask about who to contact.

c. Update on communications with Land Registry regarding registration of the Station Road land – Regarding transfer of Land from Amplius to HPC, previously, there was an issue on the TP1 document which appeared to prohibit sale of the land to a third party, this stalled the Land registry application. The Land registry closed the application and returned the original deeds, however the deeds have not been received. Neither of the previous Clerks have these. This should not be an issue as electronic copies are available. Cllr Hart requested visibility of anything said regarding the application from the Land registry to determine reason for decline. **RESOLVED** to determine previous issues and resubmit application to the Land Registry.

d. **Update on the review of the Tree Works against schedule of works –** Review completed, some small issues identified so the Clerk is to contact the contractor to request that the final parts of the work are completed.

e. **Update on communication with Silverstone Circuit regarding traffic management –** Response received, they are currently in the planning process for next year, we should receive an update in the New Year. The main requirements are that we are included in communications and potentially included in the Local Community area.

f. **Update on plans for guest speaker(s) at the Annual General Meeting –** NFRS Fire Safety Team presentation has been confirmed as an hour (45mins plus Q&A), they could reduce it to 30mins if required but would much prefer an hour. Material Change have not yet been approached. Cllr Minshall to contact Material Change to see if they are available and potentially review a separate event for the fire safety, giving time for the full presentation.

629. Open Forum (15min max, 3 mins per person) – Unitary Councillor Eastwood noted that the matter of the B4525 is being looked into by Sarah Bool. Her data suggests 73 incidences in the last 2 years, 9 major and 0 deaths. The Priory Fields Planning application cannot go to committee or delegation without some more documents. It is still unclear whether it will be committee or delegation decision. A Member of the public noted that more publicity about the defibrillator could be helpful to make sure that people are aware of how to use it.

630. To receive an update from the Parish Plan Working Group – Noted that the next meeting is 16th November 2026 to discuss various projects.

631. To receive an update on the current ownership and maintenance of the defibrillator and the role of the defibrillator monitor – Cllr Plunkett has spoken with a potential volunteer, Pippa who has agreed to regularly check it. Contact details to be passed on to Clerk. **RESOLVED** to appoint Pippa as the defibrillator monitor, Clerk to send role description including details of checks required. Do it for Defib is the charity that currently owns and maintains the defibrillator and has offered to pass the defibrillator to the Council, passing over the maintenance. **RESOLVED** to take on the defibrillator in principle. Once agreed, Clerk will need to add to asset register and organise Wayleave agreement with the owner of the property that the defibrillator is on.

632. To discuss the current lack of Full Fibre Broadband network in Helmdon and the previous CityFibre proposal – Recent removal of fibre ducting from street was noted on 1st October 2026. Up until this point, HPC was under the impression that CityFibre was planning to roll out fibre to the village. After enquiries, it appears that CityFibre has been descoped within the government scheme (project gigabit) on the grounds that there is commercial activity in the area. No commercial activity can be identified, therefore Cllr Moody has contacted relevant authorities to request an explanation. It is confirmed that there will be no CityFibre rollout in Helmdon, the main concern is now alternative options. Single Mode networks made a representation to the council back in June 2025, this would be a narrow commercial build and infrastructure . At the time, HPC did not support or obstruct Single Mode. HPC must support solution for the whole parish, including outlying residences and farms. Any commercial activity may discourage the government investment that would benefit the whole Parish. Tove Valley Broadband (TVB) provides broadband for approximately 70 houses in the village. **RESOLVED** to maintain pressure on Government for re-allocation, approach TVB to determine whether expansion of their fibre could be a possibility. Further update to be provided in the next meeting on 25th November, awaiting further responses. Update to be posted on Facebook.

633. To receive a report on Church Street Community Speed Watch initiative – In 8 hours of CSW there were 158 cars and only 1 car was speeding. CSW only runs March-Oct so will not be any more this year. **RESOLVED** to note report and thank Cllr Minshall and volunteers. CSW to be continued next year, dependent on volunteers. Clerk to obtain quotes for speed awareness area signs for entrance of village.

634. To approve repairs/maintenance highlighted in the September assets check

a. Repair of lamp post on Lukes close, damage to base – Quote requested from Eon, awaiting response.

b. Varnishing of reading room notice board – Cllr Moody to find correspondence regarding Reading Room Committee's previous request to paint noticeboard.

c. Replacement of the back panel of the noticeboard by the Green – Clerk to contact Luke no Further and Chris Mount to request quotes for replacement of the back panel.

635. To consider arrangements for the Remembrance Service to be held on Sunday 8th November – There will be a Church Service led by the Church, procession down Church street followed by service at the War Memorial. There is no Clergy available for the War Memorial service, they requested that the Chair lead the service. HPC will organise the service, including chairs as agreed in previous meeting. The service be a slightly shorter and focus more on acts of remembrance, wreath laying and reading of the names, rather than a religious service. Girl Guides attendance to be confirmed, a bugler has been organised by Paul the Churchwarden and American Service Personal will attend. The Fat Landlord will be open afterwards for coffee ect. Cllr Minshall and Sparrow to organise the chairs. PA system to be determined. Cllr Moody to liaise with Paul from the Church and once details confirmed, promote the service.

636. "*There's absolutely nothing here for nobody it's a boring place to live*" – discuss – The Parish Plan Working Group survey is to identify and try to meet resident's needs. The recent community engagement exercise did not have a high uptake, therefore potentially didn't reach the whole community. Therefore, it would be good to assess whether all sections of the community have been reached. The post also highlighted lack of access to the park during school hours. Noted that there are many events held in the Reading Room, and it could be helpful to publicise different events more. **RESOLVED** for Parish Council to ask the Parish Plan working group to re-analyse the data from young parents. If there were no comments from this area, decide whether to do some targeted community engagement with young parents. Remind people that they need to engage in order to make changes.

637. To receive the draft policy to address parking on council-owned land – Add 'Including but not limited to' to section 3 exceptions. Amend section 4 from small claims to 'the courts' **RESOLVED** to adopt the policy subject to changes to wording. Once amendments made, copies to be delivered to houses neighbouring council land by hand along with a covering letter by Cllr Moody and Minshall.

638. To agree to seek quotes for a one-off tidy of areas of land owned by the council – Areas could do with a hard pruning to get on top of maintenance with a plan for volunteers to handle tidying next year. **RESOLVED** to obtain some local quotes. Cllr Minshall to prepare a list of work required. If the works cost less than £500, the Clerk has delegated authority to instruct the works.

639. **To consider any updates related to the proposed Priory Field development. –** No updates apart from some new documents, unlikely to have any update before Christmas.

640. Finance:

a. To note the bank balances of £400.70 & £47,351.52 as at 22nd October 2026

b. To note and approve receipts and payments:

Payments made since the last meeting using delegated powers/Direct Debits:

Date	Payment Type	Payee	Invoice No	Description	Amount
30/09/2026		Unity Bank		Account Fee	£7.00
28/09/2026	DD	Conrad Energy	00234210	Streetlighting August 2026	£57.66
30/09/2026	BACS	Clear Insurance	LCO01676	Yearly Insurance Renewal	£906.41
06/10/2026	BACS	HP	GBP000153366	Clerk Laptop	£725.70

Invoices to be Paid:

Payee	Invoice No	Description	Amount
Clerk		Staff Costs October	£716.28
HMRC		Tax and NI September	£210.60
R&G Grounds	123114	Grass Cutting September	£417.43
Shield Maintenance	10862	Dog Bins September	£46.80
Northants CALC	INV-5610	New Clerks Course	£270.00
EON	6018823290	Annual Streetlighting Maintenance Fee	£316.80
Helmdon Reading Room	544	Room Hire Jul-Sept 2026	£87.50
Parish Online	34UG0360014	Annual Fee	£45.00

Receipts:

Date	Received from	Description	Amount
28/09/2026	WNC	Second Precept	£16,309.00
02/10/2026	CCLA	Interest	£95.14

RESOLVED to note and approve.

Meeting closed @ 21:24

Signed Dated