

Helmdon Local History Group

Minutes of Helmdon Local History Group, Committee Meeting, 14 January 2026 held at 20 Wappenham Road, Helmdon.

The meeting opened at 7:30pm

Present: Danny Moody - Chair (DM), Audrey Forgham (AF), Richard Farquharson (RF), Ross Vicars (RV), Bill Elkington (BE).

Apologies: Faye Holloway (FH) and John Plunkett (JP).

1. Minutes of Committee Meeting 12 November 2025.

The minutes were approved as a true and correct record of the meeting.

2. Website project.

DM has continued testing using "Replit" to process 100 webpages. Option to output to text has been used. Option to output to WordPress may be tested next. Other options seen may be useful in the future.

The existing Helmdon History website has a range of page structures. Maybe we should just initially concentrate on the format used on the most popular pages, such as documents and articles, leaving the message boards and image-based pages for later review.

BM mentioned a similar website conversion issues with the Benefice website and also suggested that we contact a local website author.

It was agreed that we should apply to HS2/EKFB for a smaller amount, say £6.25K, for an initial project to work on a limited set of pages.

Action: DM & BE to review the application process, then **DM** to start the application.

3. Talk on Tuesday 10 February 2026.

The committee reviewed and updated the Event Preparation document. This document has now been passed to DM to progress further.

RV stated that the library archive should be open during the evening, and that a catalogue should be made available to attendees.

Action:

DM to create poster by 19 January 2026.

FH or delegate to print posters mainly A5 size, with some A4 for noticeboards.

RF to email poster to all supporters and post the same on website and Facebook.

RV to create catalogue of archive contents for attendees.

RF & RV to review AV requirements well in advance of the event.

RF to pass Reading Room door and cupboard key to DM.

4. History Walks Tuesday 09 June 2026.

DM and RV will be walk leaders as before, but an alternative leader may be required for the Top Station guided walk.

Action: RV to contact the previous walk leader re availability.

5. Speaker for Tuesday 20 October 2026

It has been confirmed that an organiser is arranging discussions with a group of local farmers. Speaker's availability has also been confirmed.

6. Reminiscences.

No new reminiscences have been received, possibly because people worry about putting personal information into the public domain. It was reiterated that a reminiscence need only cover a limited topic.

Action: DM to contact a local builder.

7. Constitution update.

RF presented the updated constitution. A couple of issues were resolved to ensure that future AGM Agendas align with constitution requirements.

Action: RF to publish the updated Constitution document.

8. Membership list and mailing list.

RF advised the names known to be full-members for 2025-2026. AF queried whether we had details of all previous event attendees. RF advised that most details are included in the year-end accounts.

Action:

RF to email all supporters re membership costs and payment details.

RF to review names on earlier accounts to check whether any are missing from our mailing list.

RF/BE to find October 2025 AGM attendees list as this may have additional names.

9. Bank account signatories

Requirements and transaction methods briefly discussed.

Action:

RF to print AGM Minutes for DM to sign.

BE to visit bank with signed AGM Minutes and ID to achieve signatory status.

BE to change address of bank account.

10. Date of next committee meeting

The next committee meeting will take place at 19:30 on Wednesday 29 April 2026 at RV's, in preparation for History Walks in June.

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

- 11.1** RV presented expenses £180.79 which were approved by the committee and passed to BE for reimbursement.

The meeting closed at 8:38pm