

Helmdon Local History Group

Minutes of Helmdon Local History Group, Committee Meeting, 29 April 2026 held at 20 Wappenham Road, Helmdon.

The meeting opened at 7:30pm

Present: Danny Moody - Chair (DM), Audrey Forgham (AF), Ross Vicars (RV), and John Plunkett (JP).

Apologies: Richard Farquharson (RF) and Bill Elkington (BE).

1. Resignation from committee of Faye Holloway

The committee noted Faye's resignation and recorded their thanks to her for her contribution since the group's inception. RV needs to retrieve some documents from Faye. It was agreed to leave the vacancy open until at least the AGM in October 2026.

2. Minutes of Committee Meeting ^{14 January} ~~12 November 2026~~ DM

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

3. Website project update.

DM has continued testing Replit and Manus to automate the conversion of HTML pages to CMS.

Another emerging option is to leave all the content as HTML and create an AI frontend for users to access the information on the website via natural language enquiries. There are pros and cons to this approach.

It was suggested that a team of people could be assembled if it was a case of laboriously converting and reformatting pages manually. DM to consider.

DM said that he would create a basic WordPress site that could be used for newly generated content.

Action: DM to consider whether a team of editors is required and to create a WordPress account.

4. Review of Ross Vicars' talk "Helmdon C17-C18" 10 February 2026.

The talk had been extremely well received with some excellent feedback from attendees. RV said that he had learned a lot by researching for the talk. RV said that in due course he will put the slides and speaker notes in a booklet for the HLHG library.

5. History library/Archive usage.

It was noted that there isn't yet a complete set of Helmdon Talkabouts. DM has a collection and will look to see how comprehensive it is. If there are gaps, it might be useful to put out a public appeal for specific issues.

6. History Walk Tuesday 09 June 2026, including walk-leaders availability for 7pm start.

RV said that he wouldn't be able to start his tour at 7pm, so the committee discussed moving the time or the date. DM to ask MB for his availability. Posters will be produced, including A5 versions for handouts.

7. **Updates, or preparation required, for talk on Tuesday 20 October 2026.**
DM will speak to Viv Watson for an update on progress.
8. **Inscriptions on Helmdon History website.**
The website contains a list of all burial and memorial inscriptions in the church, churchyard, and war memorials. The list needs keeping up to date as and when burials occur and the process for this was discussed. The basic information comes from the burial register, but the headstone inscriptions are read off manually. The important thing is that the list is kept up to date, but in due course it would be good to add the precise location of the grave and a photo of the headstone.
9. **Date of next committee meeting.**
The next HLHG committee meeting will take place on Wednesday 9 September 2026 at 7:30 p.m. at 20 Wappenham Road. [Note: The time was subsequently changed to 7:45 p.m.]
10. **Any Other Business.**
None.

The meeting closed at 8:27 p.m.

Moody
9/9/26