

Helmdon Local History Group - AGM

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 21 October 2025 at 7:50pm in the Reading Room, 20 Church Street, Helmdon.

Apologies: Two members sent apologies

1. Welcome

Chair Danny Moody welcomed members and guests to the meeting.

2. Minutes

It was proposed and seconded that the minutes of the Helmdon Local History Group AGM of 15 October 2024 be accepted.

3. Matters arising

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

4. To receive a report from the Chair

Danny Moody summarised the previous year's open meetings. In February, Ross Vicar's talk "The Parish and the Poor" gave an insight into how support for the poor developed over time. In June we had three well attended walking history tours around Helmdon - Ross Vicars leading the Church Street tour, Mike Barnes the Great Central Railway station tour and Danny Moody the houses and farming aspects along Wappenham Road. Due to the positive feedback, we will be running history walking tours again in the coming year.

Danny briefly explained the organisation of the Group Committee; having regular meetings to arrange events and to organise history research projects. Another very large project is to convert the Helmdon History website into a more accessible format which will need external funding. To date we have not found a source of funds. A suggestion from the floor was to try HS2.

Sadly, two committee members passed away during the year; Cec Harrold a founding committee member and, more recently, Judy Cairns who was actively involved in a wide range of history research within the village. Both will be greatly missed.

Finally, the Chair thanked the committee members and concluded that Helmdon Local History Group has had a good year.

5. Treasurer's report

Mike Barnes advised that income for year was £460.00 and expenses were £202.91. Brought forward was £766.17 meaning that balance at year end is £1023.26. Full details are available to view online.

6. To elect the officers of the Group.

The meeting proposed and approved the election of the following to serve until our next AGM in 2026:

Chair – Danny Moody

Treasurer – Bill Elkington

Secretary – Richard Farquharson

Committee members: Ross Vicars, Audrey Forgham, Faye Holloway and John Plunkett.

7. Proposed amendments to the constitution

The Chair read through the details of a new cessation clause. This was proposed and approved by the members.

Three further amendments were detailed; i) to renumber the constitution clauses, ii) to amend the subscription year to start on the day after the AGM, iii) to update wording to reflect the previously agreed group name. These three amendments were then proposed and approved by members.

Details of changes to the constitution are available online.

8. Future plans

Talk or Event - Tuesday 03 February 2026 - details to be decided. [Changed to 10 February 2026 at committee meeting on 12 November 2025]

Event - Tuesday 09 June 2026 - History Walking Tours in Helmdon.

Several research projects are available for any group member wish to get involved, either individually or as part of a team.

One ongoing project is to capture villager's reminiscences. By recording a conversation on a mobile phone, the process can be simple and informal. The Chair asked members whether they might know someone to have a reminiscence conversation with.

For more information regarding research projects please contact any committee member.

9. Members questions

Ross Vicars described the organisation and contents of the history resources cupboard in the Reading Room.

The AGM ended at 8:07pm

After the AGM, Danny Moody presented an illustrated talk "**What has the Parish Council ever done for us?** – Discover the dramas, disputes and decisions that lie hidden in 130 years of council archives".