



Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting on Thursday 15th May 2025 at 19:30 in Hilton Methodist Church School Room

Present: Cllr P. Balicki (Chairman), Cllr R. Dulstone, Cllr R. Norton, Cllr C. Sarkies, Cllr S. Suckling, Cllr C. Wood, Nicola Webster (Clerk/RFO, Hilton Feast Week and Village Hall), Malcolm Lynn (Town Trust), Ken Attwood (HAT), Andy Bush (HAT) and 2 parishioners.

Meeting commenced 19:31

Welcome & Introduction

Cllr P. Balicki introduced himself and welcomed attendees to the Annual Parish Meeting.

Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr M. Stott

To Approve the Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 22nd April 2024

It was **RESOLVED** that these minutes were approved as a true record.

Annual Review of the Parish Council Business – Chairman’s Report for 2024/25

Report from the Chairman of Hilton Parish Council – Cllr Peter Balicki

This time last year we had a vacancy for one parish Councillor and we were pleased to welcome Christopher Wood to the council. I hope that you have enjoyed the year. As ever my thanks through the year go to all the Councillors and Nicola our Clerk, to the various committees and working groups, our Green Spaces Officer, Ian Stott, our maintenance contractors and village handyman for their input, guidance and support. Ian’s volunteer group have been out and about dealing with some tree felling and clearing fallen branches saving the Parish Council some money.

Our maintenance man Martin has been gradually taking on more tasks over the year and we think his work and enthusiasm are great. We have recently not renewed a contract with a contractor and we had a very informative walk around the village with Ian Stott, John Carter, Martin and Lissie to look at what is done, what we would like to be seen done and

Initials

Nicola Webster, Clerk, Hilton Parish Council
 10 Church End, Hilton, Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire, PE28 9NJ
 Email: clerk@hiltonparishcouncil.com
 www.hiltonparishcouncil.com

Initials

what we can afford to do. A schedule of works on a priority basis will be drawn up following that walk.

There is a tree on the Green that has been fenced off. This tree is infected with Chicken in the wood which is a disease that can mean a limb could fall off at any time and therefore the tree is fenced off. The PC are obtaining a full report on the tree and whether it should be felled for safety reasons. It is acknowledged that it is a magnificent tree and it would be sad to see it go. It would undoubtedly cost a lot to fell although some of that cost could be offset by selling the oak that is recovered. If the tree is deemed not to be unsafe then the PC would have to look at a different method of fencing it off.

The firework event was another success and the PC would like to thank Andy Jude for coming aboard using his professional experience to help put on a very impressive display. Hopefully he will be happy to be involved again in November 2025.

The beacon was lit on May 8 to commemorate VE Day, the event went well with approximately 30 parishioners attending.

The journal is well into its second year and it appears to be going from strength to strength. The sign on the Papworth Bypass advising HGV traffic to take the A1198 was installed and the application for a 20mph speed restriction through the village was approved. We are waiting for this to be put in place.

Once again I would like to thank everyone involved with The Parish Council again and we will now receive the reports from the Clerk and representatives of other groups within the village.

[Parish Council Financial Report for 2024/25](#)

Nicola Webster presented the accounts from 2024/25 in her role as Responsible Financial Officer. She noted that the accounts were unaudited.

[2024/25 Financial Year](#)

- Accounts are unaudited
- Precept amount increased to £36,980, which resulted in a band D tax amount of £81.38. According to MHCLG, the national average was £85.89.
- Fireworks income was highest on record.
- Fireworks expenditure was higher than the previous year as we used a different supplier, but the feedback on the display was excellent.
- Interest rate has increased so income was much higher than budgeted.
- Easement payments from County Broadband for the additional telegraph poles and ducting and £35,000 for the vehicular access to Manor Farm.
- The Maintenance Contract was overspent as the budget was set before the contract was renegotiated.
- The Council increased the hours for the Maintenance Person, which resulted in an increase in costs.
- There was a large amount of expenditure on Maintenance Materials, which has been underspent for many years.

Initials

Nicola Webster, Clerk, Hilton Parish Council
10 Church End, Hilton, Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire, PE28 9NJ
Email: clerk@hiltonparishcouncil.com
www.hiltonparishcouncil.com

Initials

- Expenditure on utilities was higher, due to the new utilities contract, but less than budgeted.
- The Council spent £2,351 on the electrical condition report and remedial works to the Pavilion. Hilton Feast Week CIC contributed £774 for the new electrical box under the Holm Oak.
- There was a slight overspend on the website, but this was due to the Council renewing the domain for 9 years.
- Continued expenditure against the Health Inequalities Grant for the cricket courses.
- The general reserves was £19,536, which is around the agreed 50% of precept.

2024/25 Financial Year

- Precept agreed for £39,826, which is an increase of £2,846 or 7.7%. The tax base has decreased to 453.3 (from 454.4) so the band D contribution is £87.86, from £81.38, an increase of £6.48 or 8.0%. National average is £92.22.
- The maintenance contract has been renegotiated and the Maintenance Person's hours increased to incorporate the ditch work and the maintenance of the village garden. The maintenance materials budget has been increased to cover the equipment needed for this work.
- The interest rate is anticipated to drop, so the budgeted interest is lower.

Reports from County and District Councillors

Report from Cambridgeshire County Council – Cllr David Keane

The County Council is now in overall control by the Liberal Democrats. They have 31 seats of the 61 – so a majority. There are 10 Conservatives, 10 Reform, 5 Labour, 3 Greens and 2 Independents.

The first council meeting is on the 20th May and at that meeting the Chair, Vice Chair and committee places will be set.

CCC will be raising the flag at 1.30pm at the front entrance of New Shire Hall, Alconbury Weald for International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia and Transphobia Day is May 17th.

Report from Huntingdonshire District Council – Cllr Clare Tevlin

District Council Opens Consultation on Additional Sites for the Local Plan

Huntingdonshire District Council (HDC) is launching a consultation on additional sites as part of the Local Plan from Wednesday 23 April to Wednesday 4 June 2025.

Huntingdonshire District Council is launching a consultation on additional sites as part of the Local Plan from Wednesday 23 April to Wednesday 4 June 2025.

Initials

Nicola Webster, Clerk, Hilton Parish Council
 10 Church End, Hilton, Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire, PE28 9NJ
 Email: clerk@hiltonparishcouncil.com
www.hiltonparishcouncil.com

Initials

The Local Plan sets out a long-term vision for sustainable development across the district. It identifies areas of land for new homes, jobs, services and infrastructure, and provides the planning policies used to determine planning applications.

To meet future housing and employment needs, the council issued a call for sites, receiving 369 submissions initially. A consultation on those sites was held between September and November 2024. Further sites were submitted between 1 August 2024 and 31 January 2025, and these 68 additional sites have now been assessed.

Huntingdonshire Positioned to Capitalise on Universal Studios Opportunity

HDC is championing the opportunities presented by the anticipated Universal Studios development in Bedfordshire, with a particular focus on how this landmark project can enhance the visitor economy and deliver substantial benefits for Huntingdonshire and its residents.

Thanks to its strategic location, strong transport connectivity, high-quality and affordable housing, and vibrant local communities, Huntingdonshire is uniquely placed to benefit from the scale and ambition of the Universal Studios project. The council sees this as a rare opportunity to boost the visitor economy, attract new businesses, and unlock long-term benefits for residents.

Huntingdonshire Futures Grant Scheme Returns

HDC is pleased to announce the return of community grants through the [Huntingdonshire Futures Place Strategy](#).

Starting Monday 24 March 2025, local organisations can apply for grants of up to £2,500.

The funding aims to support the [Pride in Place journey](#) by encouraging applications for activities and events that showcase and celebrate Huntingdonshire's communities, heritage, and cultural identity.

This latest round of funding builds on the success of last year, when £40,000 in grants was awarded to 28 charities, community groups, and Town and Parish Councils. The funding supported a wide range of projects that brought people together and strengthened community connections across the district. This year's grants aim to continue that momentum by supporting initiatives that inspire Pride in Place and nurture local pride.

Councillor Sarah Conboy, Executive Leader of Huntingdonshire District Council, said: "We're proud to continue investing in the people and places that make Huntingdonshire such a special community. These grants are about more than just funding events, they're about creating shared moments, building a lasting legacy, and strengthening the bonds that connect us all."

"As a council, we remain committed to supporting initiatives that enrich the lives of our residents. I'm excited to see the positive impact these projects will bring to our communities. Keep an eye out for more information when applications open on 24 March." For full details and to apply, view the [grants webpage](#).

Council Leaders Issue Joint Letter on Local Government Reorganisation

Council leaders across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough have sent a letter to the Minister of State for Local Government and English Devolution, setting out progress on plans to move towards a new system of local government.

Initials

Nicola Webster, Clerk, Hilton Parish Council
10 Church End, Hilton, Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire, PE28 9NJ
Email: clerk@hiltonparishcouncil.com
www.hiltonparishcouncil.com

Initials

The letter, signed by the leaders of Cambridgeshire County Council, Peterborough City Council, Huntingdonshire District Council, East Cambridgeshire District Council, Cambridge City Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council, is in response to the invitation from government for councils to work together to develop a proposal for local government reorganisation.

The invitation from the government was issued in a letter on 5 February 2025 to every council leader in two-tier areas of local government and neighbouring unitary authorities. The invitation asked for an interim update to be submitted on or before 21 March 2025. There will be more of an update by the autumn on this for Cambridgeshire.

Over £257,000 Granted to Rural Communities for Net Zero villages initiative
Huntingdonshire District Council (HDC) has awarded a total of £257,376.60 to rural community groups. The Net Zero Villages initiative encourages climate action and is funded by the Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority (CPCA). The successful projects, including the *Connecting Fenstanton* project, are to cover a wide range of technologies. The projects aim to reduce carbon emissions, promote sustainability, build nature-based solutions and encourage behaviour change. Villagers volunteering their time on all projects will help speed Huntingdonshire's wider sustainability goals. At the same time, local people will enjoy improvements to their village halls, green spaces and footpaths.

New electrical waste bins installed by Church Street Car Park, Fenstanton for all residents.

By participating in this new collection service, residents will be helping to reduce the environmental impact of e-waste and contributing to a safer, cleaner community. This new service accepts small electrical items such as mobile phones, remote controls, and small kitchen appliances such as kettles and toasters, but does not accept large electrical items or hazardous waste. Larger items can still be taken to the nearest recycling centre for proper disposal.

A balanced budget for Huntingdonshire

Huntingdonshire District Council agreed a balanced budget for 2025/2026. The budget included plans for investment into the community and essential services, while ensuring we maintain a balanced financial position.

Council Tax for a Band D property to rise by just £5 a year (less than 10p a week)

Councillor Sarah Conboy, Executive Leader of Huntingdonshire District Council, added: *"At a time when councils across the country are grappling with financial pressures, I am proud that Huntingdonshire District Council remains focused on long-term financial sustainability.*

"This financial stability has enabled us to invest in the Community Health and Wealth Building Strategy. This people-centred initiative aligns our resources with what matters most to residents as research consistently shows that factors like good employment, strong social ties, and physical activity are essential to quality of life. Through collaboration with our community and partners, we aim to create a healthier, more inclusive, and prosperous future for all of Huntingdonshire."

In the autumn state of the District Address, Cllr Conboy said:

Initials

Nicola Webster, Clerk, Hilton Parish Council
10 Church End, Hilton, Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire, PE28 9NJ
Email: clerk@hiltonparishcouncil.com
www.hiltonparishcouncil.com

Initials

“We have grown positive and productive relationships with local town and parish councils, other public bodies, business partners, and the third sector. We will continue investing in these critical relationships to stay as close to our communities as possible.

“Our financial stability is vital to all we have achieved over the last year. As more councils across the country face financial difficulty, I am proud that we are delivering on our promise of long-term financial sustainability. While the decisions that have been made may not always be universally popular, they have been prudent to ensure that we continue to be here for our residents and provide the services they need. We have set a budget that is balanced and protects frontline services. We can build a future based on outcomes and the protection of services for our most vulnerable people, so individuals or families avoid falling into crisis.”

Huntingdonshire District Council has taken action to support local people, by ensuring that the lowest

income households can get Council Tax relief (up to 100%)

in 2025/26. Find out more about council support here:

<https://www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk/benefits/council-tax-support/>

Reports from Village Groups including Hilton Town Trust, Hilton Feast Week and Hilton Village Hall

Report from Town Trust – Phil Wood - Clerk

BACKGROUND

The village of Hilton benefits from land and assets endowed over the centuries. The most recent definition of the charities was confirmed by a Deed dated 1899, in which year the gross yearly income from land and cottages was £41.

We operate two Charities. The land and assets are held by the Estate Charity, the senior charity of the two.

The 1899 deed requires that half of the annual income of the Estate Charity goes to the Parish Church to be used for repairs to the building; the other half is paid to the second charity, the Town Charity to be spent for the general benefit of the village.

Both the Estate and Town Charities are administered by the Trustees and are chaired by the Revd David Busk.

The Parish Council appoints two trustees, presently Malcolm Lynn and Rachel Lawton; and the Church appoints the other two trustees, currently Jenny Broom and Jo Turner. Phil Wood is the Clerk.

Initials

Nicola Webster, Clerk, Hilton Parish Council
10 Church End, Hilton, Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire, PE28 9NJ
Email: clerk@hiltonparishcouncil.com
www.hiltonparishcouncil.com

Initials

Trustees publish the purposes of the Charity in The Journal each year, and the wider public is informed by the Charity Commission’s Directories. An annual report is sent to the Charity Commission.

TOWN CHARITY REPORT FOR CALENDER YEAR 2023

At the beginning of 2024, the Town Charity held £28,057 in hand.

In 2024 income amounting to £5,000 was received from the Estate Charity & interest totalled £1317.

Although the Trustees have no specific mandate, a mix of grants are made under the general terms of the Deed including capital grants, educational grants, grants to organisations directly serving the needs of Hilton.

During the year the Trustees continued the scheme to offer support to villagers struggling with the rises in energy bills. This Cost of Living Support scheme provided £200 grants to individuals or families who needed the help. Since the scheme started in 2022 a total of 29 grants have been provided.

Projects supported by the Town Charity in 2024 included:

	£
Cost of living support scheme	1000
Bowls Club – mower replacement	1000
Community hub	500
The Journal	500
WI – cost of ingredients for D-Day celebration village tea	111.5

The Town Charity had £30,810 in hand at 31/12/24 with an expected income for 2025 of £6,000.

As always the Trustees remain open to proposals from villagers for either individual needs or community projects. Contact can be made with the Clerk, any Trustee, via the contact number in The Journal or on hiltontowntrust@gmail.com

Report from Hilton Feast Week Committee – Nicola Webster – Chair

Feast Week 2024 was yet again very well supported, helped by the good weather and it was fabulous to see so many people embracing the Medieval Merrymaking theme.

We have had a great fundraising year so far. Our stall at the Parish Council fireworks night was well attended and we thank nearby residents for enabling us to power our stall. Our quizzes are always popular and this year we also held a murder mystery which was a great success. Still to come is our Bavarian Night on Friday 25th July, tickets on sale soon.

Feast Week this year opens with Sports Day on Sunday 27th July and closes with the Produce Show and evening entertainment on Saturday 2nd August. We changed the format a couple

Initials

Nicola Webster, Clerk, Hilton Parish Council
 10 Church End, Hilton, Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire, PE28 9NJ
 Email: clerk@hiltonparishcouncil.com
www.hiltonparishcouncil.com

Initials

of years ago and it has worked very well. The theme this year is Heroes & Villains and we have another fun packed week of events planned for the whole family. In the meantime we are working hard to produce our programme and as ever would love to hear from anyone wishing to advertise. Please do get in touch if you have a business or know anyone who does that may wish to advertise with us, we hand deliver copies to every household in the village. 200 Club continues to be a steady stream of income and we encourage everyone to sign up and continue supporting Feast Week. Numbers drawn every month with 3 cash prizes, more details can be found on our website: www.feastweek.co.uk We rely solely on fundraising to be able to put Feast Week on each year, the cost of which has risen significantly over the past couple of years. We are therefore very grateful of all the support we get from the local community.

We look forward to seeing you all at our next fundraiser and of course in the marquee for Feast Week itself.

Report from Hilton Village Hall Management Committee – Nicola Webster – Chair

We are a small committee of six, which could do with a few additional members. Despite being a small committee, we have achieved a lot in the last year.

The hall has seen some improvements. We installed a new boiler and replaced the curtains with blinds.

Thanks must go to Graeme Gribbin, who has organised a building survey to enable us to put together a maintenance program, with particular focus on our damp issue.

In terms of fundraising, we had run two successful paint and sip events. Fundraising is crucial for the hall as the income does not cover the running costs.

Looking ahead, we have a fundraiser in June with Jazz and are planning another paint and sip in the autumn.

Report from Hilton Action on Traffic – Ken Attwood

Started 25 years ago, objective was to get an HGV ban through the village. HAT continues to monitor HGV movements through the village, camera authorised by police for evidential purposes. HAT writes to all companies 3927 drivers since ban was implemented, 1547 companies. Most companies are supportive. Keep a database, regular offenders are referred to the police, who are sending notice of intended prosecution to offenders, which can result in a fine. 2-10 per day. Intend to carry on. Town Trust has funded a new camera, thanks from HAT.

Report from Hilton Community Garden Group – Claire Sarkies

Garden is well established with various planting areas, including developing a native plant collection. Structure of the garden has been developed, including an all-weather stand for a visitor book. Latest project is a canopy for the seating area. Outreach maintain visits from groups such as Brownies, Rainbows and Cubs. Mandrake experience and quiz for FW. Bird boxes supplied by a mens shed in Brampton. Hedgehog houses for FW. DoE students doing their volunteer work. Surplus produce is given to people attending Saturday morning between 10-12 and the community hub. Biodiversity is important, one of the members has

Initials

Nicola Webster, Clerk, Hilton Parish Council
10 Church End, Hilton, Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire, PE28 9NJ
Email: clerk@hiltonparishcouncil.com
www.hiltonparishcouncil.com

Initials

won a prize writing about the garden. Grant funding means the activities are free. Thanks to Roland and Dreda Randall for their support and the PC for the easements.

Report from The Journal – Malcolm Lynn

The Journal is now in its second year, and has gone from 64 pages to 84 pages, with 10-12 contributions per month, including local history, travel, and others. They continue to request advertisers but the financial position is okay due to the grants from the PC and TT.

Report from Hilton Parochial Church Council – Phil Wood

Everyone in the village has received a letter from the vicar explaining the plan for the burial areas. Conversation for the village, and between the PCC and the Diocese. South churchyard (around the church) has not had any burials for 150 years. North churchyard is getting full, there is no definite calculation but estimated as 5-10 years capacity. South-east corner is allocated to cremated remains, which is also getting full. Reburial in the South churchyard, for which there is precedent, there are some churchyards in London reburying after 75 years. The plan is to create an area that should last the next 50 years. Extending cremated remains area along the wall and looking to raise the crown of the holm oak by 3m. Burials will be allocated from the church path to the east wall. No intention to move the existing memorial stones. Open to feedback from the village and waiting to hear from the Diocese. A parishioner asked whether there were any records for the burials in the South area. The churchyard was extended in 1902, and the mounds were all levelled at that time. There is a record of the names, but not the burial locations. A parishioner requested some maintenance work to the tree boundary on the west side. A parishioner asked for an update on the church wall project.

General Question Time

A parishioner asked about the maintenance and suggested a working party to do some of the maintenance work.

A parishioner suggested a permanent memorial to the late Queen, such as renaming the village hall in her honour or an obelisk in the village garden, to be paid for by public subscription.

A parishioner asked for an update on the parking in Church Lane.

Chair summed up, thanked those people who contribute to the community groups and events in the village and thanked the attendees of the meeting.

There being no further business to transact the meeting was closed at 20:26.

Signed.....Date.....

Initials

Nicola Webster, Clerk, Hilton Parish Council
10 Church End, Hilton, Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire, PE28 9NJ
Email: clerk@hiltonparishcouncil.com
www.hiltonparishcouncil.com

Initials