

HARPOLE PARISH COUNCIL



Chairman – Mr F Smethers

Clerk – Sally Willis

<http://www.harpole-pc.gov.uk>

E-mail: clerk@harpole-pc.gov.uk

Members of the committee (Cllrs Bess, Gibbins, Haynes, Philips, Smethers, Taylor) are summoned to attend a meeting of the Planning, Highways and Infrastructure Committee to be held at the Methodist Chapel, School Lane, Harpole on **Monday 23rd February** at 7.00pm for the purpose of transacting the following business.

Signed:

S Willis

Clerk & Proper Officer to Harpole Parish Council

Date: 17th February 2026

Members of the press and public are welcome to attend.

AGENDA

272/25 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

To receive apologies and approve reasons for absence.

273/25 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA.

Councillors are invited to make any declarations in relation to items on the agenda.

274/25 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Members of the public are invited to address the Committee.

275/25 MINUTES

To receive and approve the minutes of Planning, Highways and Infrastructure Committee Meeting held on 26th January 2026.

276/25 PLANNING

To consider and approve a response to planning applications:

- a) [2026/0544/FULL](#) - Single storey rear extension - 5 School Lane
- b) [2026/0355/FULL](#) - Erection of two dwellings and associated access on land to the rear – 63 High Street

277/25 HIGHWAYS & FOOTPATHS

- a) To consider resident suggestion about making Road Hill one way
- b) To consider and approve spring litter pick
- c) To consider what the council can do about fly tipping on Road Hill
- d) To consider request to have No U Turn sign on A4500 at Northampton Road Turn
- e) To consider and approve grit bins for Western Gate
- f) To receive an update on outstanding issues

278/25 ALLOTMENTS

- a) To consider and approve improvements suggested
- b) To consider and approve purchase of numbers for plot markers
- c) To receive updates for information only

HARPOLE PARISH COUNCIL

279/25 STREET FURNITURE

- a) To consider and approve benches for replacement
- b) To receive updates on outstanding items

280/25 CHURCH

- a) To consider request from Church to fund groundworks to expand ash internment area
- b) Update on burial ground

281/25 ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday 30th March 2026



Chairman – Mr F Smethers

Clerk – Mrs S Willis

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Minutes of the Planning, Highways and Infrastructure Committee meeting held on 26th January 2026, in the Methodist Chapel, School Lane at 7.00pm.

Present – Cllrs F Smethers (chair), J Gibbins, S Philips, G Taylor

Also present – Clerk, Clement Nnadozie,

Meeting Start: 7pm

247/25 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

Apologies accepted for Cllrs Hayes and Bess

248/25 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA.

Cllr Gibbins advised he has an allotment plot

249/25 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were no members of public present.

250/25 MINUTES

Councillors **APPROVED** the minutes of Planning, Highways & Infrastructure Committee Meeting held on 24th November 2025.

251/25 PLANNING

- a) There were no objections to planning application 2026/022/LBC – Replace three existing timber windows (two on the ground floor and one on the first floor) of the property – 5 Larkhall Lane

252/25 HIGHWAYS AND FOOTPATHS

- a) 2 quotes had been received for removal of the tree. It was proposed to contract Bear Valley Timber.
- b) There had been concern at bend on Upper High Street as parked cars mean there may be cars on the wrong side of the road on a bend. Highways have suggested that the only option is for a sharp bend sign or waiting restrictions. They couldn't advise of potential hazard as it is not a permanent hazard. It was thought that waiting restrictions would cause issues elsewhere. Clerk to investigate sharp bend signs further.
- c) Following the snow and ice earlier this month residents on Western Gate were asking about Grit bins. Clerk to apply to WNC for grit bin at entrance to Western Gate. Others to be considered by Parish Council at a later date.
- d) Clerk met with Highways regarding building a footpath between the entrance and exit of the Playing fields and a crossing to the school. This is possible and would cost about £150,000. There was a discussion about whether the crossing would be needed. It was proposed that it is recommended to Full Council that this is added to the CIL project list and investigated further.



- e) Clerk had reported issue on bridleway on Larkhall Lane which has been resolved. There was a discussion about bridleway at Pegasus crossing being closed. Clerk to chase.

253/25 ALLOTMENTS

- a) Two tenants have been active on the allotments helping clear off unused plots to make them more attractive to new tenants. It was proposed that they can have their plots free this year as a thank you.
- b) During Covid community plots were set up. These did not really take off and since the allotment association have maintained and sublet as raised beds. The allotment association do not want to take these on any longer. Clerk to look and see how we advertise and let out the plots.
- c) There is more rubbish on site. Most from clearing of plots. Clerk to book a skip
- d) It had been proposed by a tenant that the road through the site could be tarmacked or resurfaced. It was thought that it is accessible at the moment and this is not a priority, but we could speak to the developer when they are building the new pavilion and carpark.
- e) Clerk advised she had received a couple of comments regarding the proposed increases for 2027.

254/25 STREET FURNITURE

Clerk advised dog bin have arrived and that she had walked Western Gate with the village maintenance man and locations have been agreed. These will be installed when the weather is better for cementing in the posts. VAS have also arrived. Clerk to contact Cllr Madle about installation in the village. Post for Sandy Lane has been ordered and confirmation from WNC is being awaited. Clerk to produce a short list of benches that could be purchased as a roll out plan to replace benches around the village.

255/25 CHURCH

- a) Church have an area of the churchyard that they think is suitable for ash interments but needs some work. The maintenance contractor has been asked to quote. Clerk to confirm what works have been quoted for and to get another quote. It was proposed that the Parish Council would match fund the project 50/50 with the Church.
- b) No further updates on new burial ground, but this is something that should be added to a wish list for S106 on any future development in the village.

256/25 COMMUNITY

St Johns Ambulance have offered free defibrillator training in the village. It was proposed to support this and to work with them to provide an event or 2 for the parish.

257/25 ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

No items at this time

Meeting closed 8.45pm



DATE OF NEXT MEETING.

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday 23rd February 2026 at 7pm

Signed

DRAFT

Email from resident Re Upper High Street / Road Hill

Hi all

I'm writing with regard to various traffic issues in Harpole. I live on Upper High street which receives the most impact. Road Hill exit from the village is currently closed to traffic. I would like to highlight the huge positive impact this has had on the traffic along Upper High Street which has had to contend with variations of increasing traffic and hazards for some time now.

We know from past experiences that once the road is back open, cars will continue to use Harpole as a cut through, mainly during commute periods of the day. With the development of the new roundabout at the top of Road Hill and the increase in housing we are expecting this to increase again.

It feels like we have an opportunity at this point in time to try to look ahead and solve these on going issues once and for all.

I would like to suggest that from the new roundabout at the top of Road Hill down to the entry to the farm/strawberry fields entrance that the road becomes one way, south into the village. The benefits to doing this are below;

- Reduction in use of village as a cut through- coming from the A45 or M1 to go north would use the bypass as was intended
- Increase use of the bypass which is fit for purpose in managing the quantity of cars rather than the poor road conditions on Road Hill which need regular and I'm guessing expensive, repairs
- Those going south into the village would still be able to, but it's less likely to be used as a cut through as the bypass should be quicker
- A one way road would provide a future opportunity for a footpath or bike lane , joining up the new housing community to the village facilities which has been highlighted as a future issue and links to community cohesion, encouraging less use of cars etc to walk children to the schools in a safe way etc
- The village has become used to the reduced traffic at the moment because of the closure of the road and has gotten used not not being able to exit the village via Road Hill so wouldn't be seen as a massive inconvenience.

This feels like a sensible solution to address many issues for both now and in the future and I would be interested in knowing how we can ensure the proposal is given airtime and due process in the right channels.

Thanks in advance

Potential Allotment improvements

After meeting a few allotment members, some of them have the most amazing ideas.

- 1- Have a monthly or bi-monthly meet up (bowls club if available), members of allotments to bring cakes/biscuits etc. Parish to provide teas/coffee. Allowing allotment owners to meet each other, share tips and tricks etc. Bridging gap between community.
- 2- Improve noticeboards and use them.
- 3- Monthly allotment email of what plots are still available, which plots have given notice, so anything (apart from sheds), are free for anyone to take – therefore reducing amount ‘stuff’ the parish is having to dispose off.
- 4- A community shed – for items and food produce. Many allotment owners at the end of their time having an allotment would of duplicated tools. 1 set they leave at the allotment, 1 set they have at home. A few members I spoke to said they often tip these as they no longer have use for them, or take home tools which they no longer need, and they sit doing nothing. They suggested that excess tools, seeds, etc get places in a community shed for anyone to take, with certain rules so things aren’t dumped that cannot be reused. Also potentially helping new tenants who have just started. The second suggestion for this shed’s use was for excess food produce. One gentleman said last year he grew marrows for him and his wife, they ended up with over 20 marrows they didn’t need or want, they gave some to neighbours but didn’t know what else to do with them. He said he only would bump into one or two members each time he went so wasn’t able to give them all out before the marrows went over. What a lovely way to help the community by sharing home grown produce. If food isn’t getting used/taken from the shed it can be given to the local school, a local food bank, or a local farmer for animal food.
- 5- Allow allotment tenants access to Harpole PC newsletter – maybe a stack in the community shed if this goes ahead, or a plastic box at each entrance with them in, allowing them members from the allotment that don’t live in Harpole to also know about the village and potential events happening. One guy said he lived in Duston, and didn’t know about Harpoles village show where members of the community show off their fruit/veg/cakes/flowers etc. He said he’d love to attend and sure some members would love to enter there produce. Again bridging the gap in the community and encouraging people to get involved.
- 6- Lastly benches. He suggested maybe two benches being put inside the allotments, being a nice reflecting space for its users, and if people want to sit

and have a break or a snack whilst at their tending to their allotment this is a nice space to do so. Also might encourage people to sit and talk, helping them meet new people – improving health and well-being as part of the Parish's business plan.

- 7- Help to restart the allotment association, there may be new tenant that would be willing and able to take on some of these roles and be active in some of the actions above. This would mean that the workload of some of these initiatives would be shared.

In conclusions, there are 7 points above, some of which wouldn't cost anything, some will have small costs. However these will definitely help with bridging that gap in the community, supporting and promoting health and wellbeing, allowing people to make friends and help others out, and potentially welcoming new residents and external residents to the parish.

Below is some estimates pricings for 3 inch plaques for the allotment plots.

There are a few different types of plaques: Pre-drilled, adhesive back, non-personalised / personalised. I have included an engraving tool and blank metal plaques for us to personalise them ourselves as this seem to be the cheaper option, and allow us to add new plaques as and when needed. However for ease the second half of this document have engraved plaques which we can modify and design to include Numbers with A/B if and where needed.

Metal engraving tool – £22.99

https://www.screwfix.com/p/dremel-f0130290jn-35w-electric-engraver-230v/97002?tc=HT6&gclsrc=aw.ds&gad_source=1&gad_campaignid=20155423388&gbraid=0AAAAAD8ldPw4HnP-bXle8oVpiCjyczJvd&gclid=CjwKCAiAwNDMBhBfEiwAd7ti1GPO9wEXgy16G0FQggvBV5C DsHioVNcBpk8derPSNappbBhv7KKGjxoCY-kQAvD_BwE

Non-personalised - 10 pack 3.38inch plaque with 4 screw holes £15.89 (approx. 174.79 + 22.99 = 197.78 for 110 plaques)

https://www.amazon.co.uk/Metal-Engraving-Stamping-Blanks-Stainless/dp/B0D59LJXWB/ref=sr_1_33?crd=37KM39Y0BPKO&dib=eyJ2ljojMSJ9.dyhvGJAN3S8iDnDIF8Nibryulz8IBE39VdpCmPH6cKjjMIhAlmXMVM8gTXMa7H-OWGeha4PinMTMh6b4Hu9mry-H7hMf4zXAAORFdbhtCg8.sqMUzh9UbOQkMrQiFs-H22JIEx2pe68dUM09gkSyGqk&dib_tag=se&keywords=3+inch+metal+engraving+blank&qid=1771326317&s=kitchen&sprefix=3+inch+metal+engraving+blank%2Ckitchen%2C75&sr=1-33&xpid=fMn_Hv2gBmyEa

Non-Personalised - 30 pack – sticky back - £12.19 (£48.76 + £22.99 = £71.75 for 120 plaques)

https://www.amazon.co.uk/PATIKIL-Stainless-Engraved-Adhesive-Personalized/dp/B0DJVVVYST/ref=sr_1_18_sspa?crd=7FAAJHGENU82&dib=eyJ2ljojMSJ9.9ntjz-r6rPEMcdv-0G-g2TldE8RFgB1EnJn_eRINpRyfAIUqjGP8pTleJ8Du5UZn4ZE8fUmky9NW92ApwITGU_ldi-91YEKlRtxESVPfsqzYShGU0fy2kZ9saN02p5A-rVF9ciYzi0AxJBsX35VPgMAvQr99tMYDkzt2HXOq3f0l1KvPkqzR7EQhYME1_um1byuZFBc kQ_1966REYRmM_d7c4n3ZamM7D2tTlwfaUZj-qv_YmWuxuz_gSLh97Wjcg_JEhiVj3HCVb0kXeSf0WDz-mYvz8C-h1N3sqqLucbQ.XfAORpgql37qt9Xsb4SIBaUfrQFvJ75lboxeVaQidl1Y&dib_tag=se&keywords=metal%2Bletters%2Bfor%2Bsigns%2Boutside&qid=1771327620&sprefix=metal%2

[Bletters%2Bfor%2Bsigns%2Boutsid%2Caps%2C125&sr=8-18-spons&aref=LPNXQ6mOjX&sp_csd=d2lkZ2V0TmFtZT1zcF9tdGY&th=1](https://www.amazon.co.uk/sourcing-map-Engraved-Nameplate-Aluminium/dp/B0F5HQB7VJ/ref=sr_1_24_sspa?dib=eyJ2ljojMSJ9.W1ELYagKJH-DTViifnYFJPA-75np2YLL83j43X7yFz3kGa55JUoKsg3rEVu9RY9Hbs3dYB6Bo4CJ3Gq855hmu8_pOIZ0-g8c4F1Rz8exz00CmrY43kCzbg8y0hUxEi0nQwlz1yUzeWYavvJX8bxxkW3ML3LHEp4HQ38WXNVmj7aQ4UPp483oEvbibNNRVSyRa8YWM6XkxDVug9jHhwvc0aRF-vfJTzPjNjtDwvjBZQV4ZBEqlhnW5fj5IOJTH2Txe7_my7B_6S5i7-XfmS38TMqTwCaO3Gmj3oJKGvEJpl.3txrTy2Fz6Xz3JyWDSOXWQnPgD3feuwStweVN8izGJk&dib_tag=se&keywords=metal%2Bletters%2Bfor%2Bsigns&qid=1771327189&sr=8-24-spons&aref=8sEReEtz42&sp_csd=d2lkZ2V0TmFtZT1zcF9tdGY&th=1)

Non-Personalised - 12 pack sticky back – 3.1 inch - £8.99 (£81.99 + £22.99 £104.89 for 120 plaques) https://www.amazon.co.uk/sourcing-map-Engraved-Nameplate-Aluminium/dp/B0F5HQB7VJ/ref=sr_1_24_sspa?dib=eyJ2ljojMSJ9.W1ELYagKJH-DTViifnYFJPA-75np2YLL83j43X7yFz3kGa55JUoKsg3rEVu9RY9Hbs3dYB6Bo4CJ3Gq855hmu8_pOIZ0-g8c4F1Rz8exz00CmrY43kCzbg8y0hUxEi0nQwlz1yUzeWYavvJX8bxxkW3ML3LHEp4HQ38WXNVmj7aQ4UPp483oEvbibNNRVSyRa8YWM6XkxDVug9jHhwvc0aRF-vfJTzPjNjtDwvjBZQV4ZBEqlhnW5fj5IOJTH2Txe7_my7B_6S5i7-XfmS38TMqTwCaO3Gmj3oJKGvEJpl.3txrTy2Fz6Xz3JyWDSOXWQnPgD3feuwStweVN8izGJk&dib_tag=se&keywords=metal%2Bletters%2Bfor%2Bsigns&qid=1771327189&sr=8-24-spons&aref=8sEReEtz42&sp_csd=d2lkZ2V0TmFtZT1zcF9tdGY&th=1

Personalised plaques – 1.7inch - £2.02 each if over 100 brought – (£222.22 for 110 plaques) https://www.signomatic.co.uk/signs/apartment-number-signs/2156?utm_source=google&utm_medium=cpc&utm_campaign=shopping-uk&gad_source=1&gad_campaignid=22221847174&gbraid=0AAAAAC7xVY-6V5YSdXC-6DUUKuJoTFP5g&gclid=CjwKCAiAwNDMBhBfEiwAd7ti1POCVvseMF58xD3xyay5VpmwOuXCzyHYem9LEAJWNN7OniHGIv07GRoCmP8QAvD_BwE

Personalised plaques – 3 inch- £2.99 each (£3.28.90 for 110 plaques)

<https://www.signomatic.co.uk/signomatic/label-and-plate>

Personalised plaque – 3.24inch - £2.28 each (can pick either sticky back or drill holes) (£250.80 for 110 plaques)

https://www.ebay.co.uk/itm/144979752968?var=444190955804&_ul=GB&mkevt=1&mkcid=1&mkrid=710-53481-19255-0&campid=5339019733&toolid=10001&customid=eb%3Ag%3Avms%3Aeb%3Ap%3A144979752968-444190955754%3B%7BGCLID%7D&_trkparms=ispr%3D1&amdata=enc%3A1aFGFd77OTTqRn8maXmQdzg38&adtype=pla&loc_interest_ms=&loc_physical_ms=9046150&gbraid=0AAAAADmMgijdmxtk9Mz6D4oh1PaUXCr_N&gclid=CjwKCAiAwNDMBhBfEiwAd7ti1BdifDdVBDC0VLZ6MlRhJszrizlaGIgvm51fxMtsG2MpgeDh85RxdxoC6BUQAvD_BwE

