

# Hatley Parish Council

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## DRAFT Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of Hatley Parish Council held in Hatley Village Hall on Tuesday 1st April 2025

PRESENT: Cllr Micky Astor (Chair), Cllr Samantha Abbasi (Vice Chair), Cllr Harold Nickerson, Cllr Peter Hayward, Clerk to the Council Kim Wilde, and two members of the public (one arriving late).

### ACTION BY

1. WELCOME AND STATEMENT OF MEETING PROTOCOL  
Welcome only by the Chair.
2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE  
Received from County Cllr Sebastian Kindersley.
3. INTERESTS
  - i. Declarations of interest: None received.
  - ii. Dispensation applications for items on this agenda: None received.
4. OPEN MEETING FOR MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO ADDRESS QUESTIONS TO THE PARISH COUNCIL  
A second member of the public arrived.  
Cllr Abbasi queried the burning smell in Hatley St George in recent evenings but the location of the fires was not known.  
A member of the public questioned whether the Parish Council's precept 2025-26 had remained unchanged from the previous year, as the recent letter from the District Council suggested a 3.46% increase. The Clerk confirmed having queried this with the District Council as the precept had remained the same, at £8,000.00. The published percentage increase can be explained by a reduction in the tax base, being fewer properties sharing the cost of the precept.
5. PLANNING
  - i. The Parish Council considered planning application reference **25/01044/LBC** for masonry repairs to the East window surround and reinstatement of new stained-glass window at St Denis' Church, East Hatley. The timing of the proposed works was raised by the Clerk with the two members of the public who were present. This was due to concern about other building works currently taking place directly opposite where the trades and skip are expected to be located for this application. They confirmed that any building work at St Denis' is likely to proceed in the autumn/winter and therefore will not coincide with the presence of construction workers across the highway at present. It was confirmed that building work cannot take place at St Denis' between May and August due to the presence of bats. The **Parish Council resolved to support** this application.
  - ii. There were no other planning matters to discuss.

Clerk

6. PLAY AREA:

- i. The Clerk shared a selection of steel-only designs that focus on a junior age group (usually 5 to 12 years). The Councillors agreed this to be the ideal target age group, thereby discounting one of designs that had previously been supported by two of the Councillors. It was also noted that there would be no scope to modify a new steel play tower to include the current slide. Cllr Nickerson questioned whether the slide could be retained if the height of the supports were reduced to allow it to be access from a mound of earth. It was agreed this could be something to consider, and if not possible, maybe a mound of earth could be provided for the younger children to climb up and roll down.
- ii. The Chair suggested the project should be delegated to one Councillor who can work with the Clerk to find suitable play equipment for the target age group. It was also agreed that some timber designs could be considered to help reduce costs, providing the equipment uses steel posts into the ground. Cllr Hayward agreed to assist the Clerk which was supported by all.

Clerk/  
Cllr Hayward

7. HIGHWAYS AND SPEEDING:

- i. The Clerk shared details of a Temporary Traffic Order Application for road closure in Hatley at the end of April. The closure is required to facilitate the work that was approved via the Local Highways Scheme to reduce the speed limit from 40 mph to 30 mph. The Parish Council did not wish to make a formal comment. The Clerk will share full details of the closure when it has been formally approved and published.

One member of the public left the meeting.

- ii. The Clerk has reported the recent road accidents that have occurred in Hatley St George to the Highways road safety team but as there have been no fatalities she was redirected to the Local Highways Improvement team. As the Clerk was only hoping to seek a professional opinion on whether the signage was adequate on the bend in question, she has asked County Cllr Sebastian Kindersley to discuss this accident spot with Highways, as it does not warrant the time and expense of another LHI project by the Parish Council. The current road markings and signage may still be considered to be enough warning to road users.

8. WEBSITE:

- i. The **Parish Council resolved upon the temporary exclusion** of the press and public from meeting proceedings, under Section 1 of the *Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960*, as the business about to be transacted was considered to be prejudicial to the public interest. The public were instructed to withdraw from the meeting room whilst matters pertaining to item 8.ii. were discussed.

The remaining member of the public left the meeting.

- ii. The Parish Council received the latest response from Pixsy, dated 26.03.25, relating to the previous use of a photo on the website, and discussed next steps.

9. TIME AND DATE OF NEXT MEETING  
Annual Parish Meeting at 7.00pm on Tuesday 20th May 2025, followed immediately by the Annual General Meeting of Hatley Parish Council
10. MEETING CLOSURE  
The meeting was closed at 7.45pm.

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