

Helions Bumpstead Parish Council

Parish Clerk/RFO: Kevin B. Money

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Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 9th. February 2026 at 7pm in the village Hall

Present: Cllrs. S. Cunningham, R. Etheridge, R. Kirkland, N. Nicholson, A. Parker, BDC Cllr D. Garrod and Kevin B. Money Clerk/RFO to the Council. There were no members of the public present.

019/2026 Apologies for Absence were received from ECC Cllr P. Schwier, Cllr S. McGrath, N. Turner Cllr N. Nicholson was elected to Chair this meeting only

020/2026 Declarations of interest

To declare the existence and nature of any Disclosable Pecuniary, Pecuniary or Non-Pecuniary Interest relating to items on the agenda. Cllr A. Parker declared an interest in item 030/2026

021/2026 To approve the minutes of the last meeting held on Monday 12th. January 2026

All Agreed

022/2026 Public Forum

Members of the public are welcome to attend the Parish Council meeting in order to speak with respect to items on the agenda. No questions were asked

023/2026 Essex County Councillor Report No report was given

024/2026 Braintree District Councillor report

BDC Cllr D. Garrod February report can be found at

<https://helionsbumpsteadparishcouncil.gov.uk/parish-council-minutes/>

The proposed BDC Council Tax may be frozen in 2026-2027

025/2026 Sports Pavilion – It has been agreed at their AGM to dissolve the committee who managed & maintained the pavilion since its construction some 30 years ago & to recommend and ask the Parish Council to take over this Village Asset wef 01/01/2026

A meeting on the future of the cricket pavilion with Messrs West and Plant has yet to take place and Cllr N. Turner will pursue the matter on his return. More detailed information on the structural state of the building will definitely be required. Cllr R. Etheridge to investigate the availability and cost of an RICS qualified surveyor. Cllr A. Parker and Cllr N. Nicholson went round the pavilion with Guy Forkes (who had previously raised concerns about the construction). He seemed more relaxed about it now ("It won't be falling down any time soon") and the main points were:

- The trees were unlikely to have had any role in the cracking of the back wall (too far away).
- The cracking close to the drainage pipe (back LHS) was probably due to the erosion of the foundations during the persistent water leak fixed some five years ago.
- Attention to the soakaway of surface water may also be beneficial.
- The mild cracking further along the wall was probably due to the lack of expansion joints (should be every 6 metres, often forgotten by amateurs)
- The pressure of the earth on the front of the building was unlikely to be causing the cracking at the back unless there was a cut field drain delivering water to the front of the building. Dave West says there is not.

There is a lack of insulation which would need to be fixed for building regs if any further development were considered.

It was suggested that considerable sums were available from funders such as the National Lottery should Parishioners be able to put forward an ambitious scheme for the use of the building and corporate involvement (such as the recent IFF hire) might offer both utility and funding.

There was a general feeling that the Parish Council should not pay for Pavilion outgoings (Estimated by the meeting to average out at between £2,000 and £5,000 *p.a*). unless there was a proven utility for a decent proportion of villagers and no Councillors had an interest in running the building. No Accounts have yet been received from the Sports Pavilion Management Committee.

A village discussion of the future of the Pavilion might be combined with the Annual Parish Meeting

026/2026 BDC Local Plan As covered in BDC Cllr D. Garrod report
Parishioner are strongly encouraged to view the Braintree Draft Plan and oppose the development of 5,000 houses in the north of our parish and to demand a green buffer zone between Haverhill and the surrounding villages. Please ask your local Councillor for help with this.

027/2026 Highways, Roads and footpaths

a) Culverts update – Cllr N. Turner

In my opinion the matter of the sleeper needs to be resolved through agreed action with your neighbour, Mr Sturgess. It is not a matter for the Parish Council in which to become involved. By way of example it was left to Cllr N. Turner personally to deal with the debris that the National Power tree surgeons had left in the ditch into which your culvert empties

b) Litter picking date (March or April) The agreed date will be arranged. Cllr R. Kirkland to contact Sue Kehr

c) Phone box – update from Cllr N. Nicholson. Nothing to report

d) Village hall car park – to be gritted in the icy weather

The village hall car park gets very icy in this cold weather and we think that we need to salt/grit it whenever the temperature drops.

Could Malcolm include the VH as part of his regular gritting runs. If this works then please let us know if you would require a donation from the VH to cover Malcolm's additional time and how much this would be.

Councillors agreed to this request and Cllr Lloyd will contact Malcolm for his approval

028/2026 Defibrillator – update Cllr S. McGrath. The defibrillator is working and is regularly inspected

029/2026 Recreation Ground Mower servicing. The mower is being serviced by Charlie Bryning this year.

030/2026 Planning – including any Current Planning Applications requiring a response

26/00092/TPOCON - Roskins Meadow Water Lane Helions Bumpstead

Notice of intent to carry out works to trees in a Conservation Area: 1no. Willow (T1) – Pollard

RESOLVED: Helions Bumpstead Parish Council supports this planning application subject to the Tree and Conservation Officers approval

26/00101/FUL - Storage Containers At Board Barn Farm Drapers Green CB9 7AT

Change of use from a duck rearing facility (Agricultural) to a specialist dog sports facility (Sui Generis)

RESOLVED: Helions Bumpstead Parish Council does NOT object to the conversion of a duck barn to a dog facility at Board Barn Farm.

However, it does object to the inaccurate and misleading transport report especially concerning Camps Road presented as evidence for the proposal. However, other routes to Board Barn Farm are available particularly from Haverhill via Castle Camps.

031/2026 Finance

a) To receive the Bank Reconciliations as at 31st. January 2026

Councillors noted the Bank Reconciliations as at 31st. January 2026

b) To receive the comparison of Actual to Budget for 2025/2026

Councillors noted the comparison of Actual to Budget for 2025/2026

c) To approve the payment for Accounts for February 2026 and to agree a transfer of funds to meet the Parish Council financial requirements. **All Agreed**

032/2026 Items for the Next Agenda

Wooden seats on village green to be cleaned

033/2026 Date of the Next Meeting - Monday 9th. March 2026 at 7pm

034/2026 2026 meeting dates: 13.04: 11.05: 08.06: 13.07: 14.09: 12.10: 09.11: 14.12.26

035/2026 Closure of the Meeting To close the Meeting having considered and determined all items of business

The Chair then closed the meeting at 8.30pm and thanked everyone for attending

Signed

S McGrath
Steve McGrath

9th. March 2026