

Harrietsham Parish Council

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on
Wednesday 29th April 2026 at 8.00pm in the Booth Hall

1. Introduction

Parish Council Chair, Eddie Powell, opened the meeting by welcoming everyone, reminding all present that the Annual Meeting booklet was available containing the reports provided by the Parish Council and various Harrietsham Groups. He thanked Councillors, the RFO, Parish Warden and the Clerk for their work during the year.

Cllr Powell welcomed Cllr Welham to his first Annual Parish Meeting and introduced Mr Christopher Ralph as the Parish Council's new Amenity Manager.

2. Present

Cllr E Powell (Chair), Cllr J Sams, Cllr T Sams, Cllr R Dayes, Cllr T Griffiths, Cllr C Roots, Cllr S Luck, Cllr S Brown, Cllr G Dean, Cllr S Donley, Cllr R Welham, RFO M Cuerden, Clerk A Broadhurst, Amenity Manager C Ralph, Parish Warden M Sherwood and County Cllr Sarah Emberson (from 8.30pm).
8 members of the public.

3. Apologies for absence

Borough Cllrs C Houlihan, S Povey and M Nedelcheva

4. Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 30th April 2025

Miss A Joy MBE proposed (from the floor) that the minutes of the Annual Meeting held on the 24th April 2025 be approved. This was seconded by Mrs A Davis, with the majority in favour.

5. Guest Speakers - Julie Davies - Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE)

Mrs Davies spoke on several items, including:

- CPRE advocating for the countryside by objecting to inappropriate large-scale developments. As they are not statutory consultees, they rely on resident and Parish Councils bringing unsuitable applications to their attention.
- Influencing national planning policies and working with other agencies including the Kent Wildlife Trust.
- CPRE having 1,500 members in the County.
- This year is their Centenary anniversary, and they are hoping to plant 100 mile of new hedgerow in the next 5 years to celebrate this milestone. They will be applying for further funding to run community days to enable this work to be completed.
- Affordable housing and how this is no longer actually affordable in the South East of England. They are pushing for prices to be set depending on what the average salaries are in the surrounding area.
- The Lenham Heathlands development and solar farms were also mentioned.

On behalf of the Parish Council, Cllr Dean thanked Mrs Davies for the work that CPRE has done in the past to support the Parish Council with various contentious planning applications.

6. Public Discussion

A resident thanked the Parish Council for their hard work over the past year.

An update was requested, following a resident raising concerns regarding the 2 parking bays on the A20, by the West Street Green at the 2025 meeting. The Clerk offered to update the resident after the meeting*.

The formal meeting closed at 8.35pm

Cllr Powell invited all present to stay for refreshments.

*On conclusion of the meeting it was confirmed that a safety audit had been completed when the bays were installed and so no further action could be taken.