

Harbury & Deppers Bridge

Annual Parish Meeting

2026



Harbury & Deppers Bridge
Annual Parish Meeting
7 May 2026 at 7.45pm

AGENDA

1. Welcome by Cllr Tim Lockley, Chairman of Harbury Parish Council.
2. Apologies.
3. Minutes of the annual parish meeting held on 8 May 2025.
4. Matters arising from the minutes.
5. Report from the chairman of Harbury Parish Council.
6. Reports from Harbury Parish Council working parties:
 - Planning
 - Environment
 - Properties
 - Finance & General Purposes
 - Climate & Biodiversity
7. Reports from village organisations (if your organisation has not already provided a written report or you would like to add something further).
8. County & district councillors' reports & questions.
9. Any other business.
10. Close of meeting.

Minutes of Harbury & Deppers Bridge Annual Parish Meeting
Thursday, 8 May 2025 at 7.30pm
Harbury Village Hall

The meeting was chaired by Cllr Tim Lockley, Chairman of Harbury Parish Council.

Present

There were 19 people present including 17 electors and 10 parish councillors as follows:

Cllr Tim Lockley	Cllr Julie Balch
Cllr Sam Allen	Cllr Alan Knowles
Cllr Alex Potter	Cllr Ed Mulley
Cllr Ashley Sylvester	Cllr Keith Thompson
Cllr Kate Gard	Cllr Robert Stockdale
Ruth Walton (Harbury Library)	Ann Mulley
Phillip Cambray	John Holden (Harbury News)
Michael Vincent	Ann Vincent
Lucy Bosley (Harbury Primary School)	County Cllr Chris Kettle
District Cllr Susan Ostrander	

In Attendance

Alison Biddle, Clerk to the Council

1. Welcome

Cllr Lockley welcomed everyone and opened the meeting.

2. Apologies

Mary Thompson, Nicola Thompson, Liz Ball

3. Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 9 May 2024

The minutes of the annual parish meeting held on Thursday, 9 May 2024 were agreed as a true and complete record of that meeting and were duly signed by the chairman.

4. Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

5. Report from the chairman of Harbury Parish Council

A written report had been provided and was included in the booklet. We are entering a period of uncertainty in local government. SDC and WDC are halfway through the process of developing and adopting a new local plan. We don't know what status this will have in the new unitary authority or what form that new authority might take. The recent WCC election has resulted in Reform UK being the largest party on the county council and we don't know what will emerge as a result of this. Most of the parish council's work is not affected by any of this. We will continue to respond to local needs and make a difference. The chairman thanked all the councillors and the clerk for their work during the year.

6. Reports from Harbury Parish Council working parties.

Written reports had been provided by the chairs of the working parties and were included in the booklet for people to read. In addition, the following comments were made:

Planning

Cllr Allen didn't have anything to add to her written report except to say that there will be more house building in the village at some point, probably within the next 5 to 10 years.

Environment

It has been a quiet year. The council had extensive plans to plant trees along the verges on the approaches to the village but these had been rejected by WCC who were concerned about road safety. Three new trees have been planted at The Pound which is owned by the parish council. We will look at other possible areas next year. The parish council worked with landowners and has replaced a number of stiles with gates on some of the field paths around the village. It was noted that there are more stiles that could be replaced.

Properties

Cllr Thompson thanked his fellow councillors who carry out the play equipment inspections each week. A new picnic bench had been installed by the tennis courts in memory of Pat Summers, a former parish councillor and well known Harbury resident. The extension to the car park has been completed which now includes the tarmac path across the top to enable access for everyone. The council is trying to improve the access to the Hall Lane allotments and this is currently a work in progress.

Finance & General Purposes

The precept for 2025/26 has increased by 6.2% as costs continue to increase each year. The council is continuing to save for big projects. There is a meeting this week to discuss the skate park. The council is considering replacement but would need people to help with this.

Climate

Cllr Stockdale has only recently taken over as chair of this group. There are new volunteers who have joined the group and they will have a stall at the carnival which will include the Swift Project and HFE with their infrared camera. The group will be working with the community to discuss ideas for mitigating climate change and improving biodiversity.

7. Reports from Village Organisations

Various organisations had submitted written reports. Additional comments were made as follows:

Harbury Library

The new heating system has been installed. The space has been re-worked to make it welcoming and there is also a new external door and a new bench in the garden. The parish council has given the library a grant of £1500 towards new IT equipment. New volunteers are always welcome.

Harbury Primary School

The recent Ofsted visit was very successful. There are still some places available for next September. The budget is an issue as it is underfunded by 3%. They don't want to lose any staff. They continue to work with community groups in the village.

Harbury Village Hall

The 2024 financial reports are now on the Charity Commission website. They have been audited and approved. The hall has covered its costs. There has been an increase in bookings with 24 regular ones. Andy Rutherford has now retired from the committee. He was very effective at obtaining grants. The AGM is on 21 May 2025 and the committee is seeking new volunteers. Everyone is welcome to attend.

8. County & District Councillors' Reports & Questions

WCC

Cllr Kettle thanked people for their support. He will continue to do his best for everyone following his re-election.

The WCC budget is £420 million and most of it is spent on adult and children's social care. SEN, which is an increasing area of concern, has its own separate budget. This is funded by a government grant. There is huge pressure on WCC to deliver SEN services.

There continues to be a problem with drains in Harbury. Cllr Kettle has used his delegated budget to deal with those which were blocked. The seepage on the corner of Farm St and Mill St will be dealt with soon. The problem outside the doctors' surgery is more complicated and is on the list to be done. It will be a big project and there will be some kick back as it involves removing vegetation. The plans will be shared when they are available.

The sails have been installed on Chesterton Windmill. This is a listed building so the project required planning permission, and there were also bats involved.

The traffic lights at the Harbury Lane/Fosse Way junction are now completed. These improvements were paid for by the developers of Gaydon/Lighthorne Heath. It was an accident blackspot and this has now been resolved.

Cllr Kettle is delighted to continue representing the ward but doesn't know how long this will be for pending the new unitary authority arrangements. The councils' detailed plans for this must be delivered to the government by 25 November 2025. Following the recent election, there are 23 new Reform UK councillors who have never held public office before.

SDC

District Cllr Susan Ostrander had submitted a written report which was contained in the booklet. She has just completed her second year as a ward councillor and is now finding her feet. It has been very busy and she has enjoyed it. Harbury has a really great parish council which is very effective. She thanked everyone for their help and support. She will be sad to

leave when the district council ceases to exist in two years' time. She will be Harbury's last district councillor.

9. Any Other Business

There was no other business.

10. Close of Meeting

The meeting closed at 8.39 pm.

Parish Council Chairman's Report 2025/26

This year has seen a major shift in the planning landscape. For many years, Stratford District Council was confident that it had over-delivered the housing required by central government and had granted sufficient permissions for the future to retain tight control over planning applications. That was all up-ended last year when a planning inspector ruled that many of the applications with planning permission would not be delivered in a short enough timescale and therefore should not be counted. This opened the floodgates for developers to put in speculative planning applications and Harbury has not escaped this trend.

Currently, there are several planning applications for Harbury, totalling more than 400 extra houses. This would increase the size of the village by 30-40%. We are doing our best to challenge these applications when we can, but it is certain that we will not be able to resist them all and indeed might not be able to resist any. Large developments will have an impact on the rest of the village, in terms of increased demand on local services, including retail outlets and the primary school, and traffic. We will continue to monitor the situation closely.

Local government re-organisation will also have an impact on the village. Two proposals are currently out for consultation: a single authority for all of Warwickshire, or two authorities for North and South Warwickshire. The parish council supports the proposal for two councils, since it better reflects the significant differences between the economies and demographics of the two regions. A decision by central government is likely to come next year.

I am pleased to say that the parish council has a full complement of councillors whose support and dedication to public service is invaluable. Sadly, our parish clerk has decided to retire at the end of the year. Alison has been an amazing clerk, managing us as councillors with effective good humour, and guiding us with sage advice. Her shoes will be very hard to fill. We are now advertising for a new clerk who will hopefully have a lengthy handover period to ensure continuity for the council.

Cllr Tim Lockley MBE

Chairman of Harbury Parish Council

Properties Working Party

Hall Lane Allotments

We have progressed access to the site and will soon be able to begin repairs to the wall bordering Hall Lane incorporating a safe suitable access to the site. We are also investigating water supply so that allotment holders have access to suitable provision.

Play Equipment

We carry out a weekly check on the safety of the play equipment on the playing fields which includes the Deppers Bridge and Manor Orchard sites, using our team of 5 volunteers to monitor the equipment and ensure that it is safe. In addition, we have recently received the very comprehensive annual inspection report provided by a specialist independent contractor and we are working through the recommendations contained within it.



Our weekly checks include the defibrillator located in the former telephone box at Deppers Bridge. We ensure that it is in position and charged ready for use.

Playing Fields

The playing fields are very well used by sports teams, walkers, dog walkers and visitors who enjoy and benefit from the high quality area and facilities we provide and maintain. The field suffered from the very wet weather over the winter but should have recovered by now. The

community is fortunate to have these excellent facilities.

I would record my thanks to my colleagues on the properties working party, Councillors Knowles, Gard, Sylvester, Mulley and Goodman, and our handyman, Simon Nicholson, for their help, support and commitment.



Cllr Keith Thompson

Chair of Harbury Parish Council Properties Working Party

Environment Working Party

Footpaths

The council has a policy to replace all stiles on footpaths from the village with gates. Last year we replaced the stiles on the footpath from Mill Lane to the “Co -op” field and this year we intend to do the same with the path from Bush Heath Lane to Bishops Itchington (footpath SM84). Discussions are ongoing with the farmers on bringing this about. We would



like to record our thanks to the volunteer members of our local footpaths group who have installed the most recent gates but who also carry out strimming and repairs to existing stiles. Their help is very much appreciated.

Streetlights

A few years ago, we had a project to replace many of our streetlights with LED lanterns. As a result, the majority of our lights are now LEDs but we still have some way to go. We will be commencing a new programme of replacement this coming year and we have allocated a budget of £25k for this task. When completed

our annual bill for street lighting will be drastically reduced and it will be better for the environment.

Cllr Ed Mulley

Chair of Environment Working Party

Planning Working Party

Many thanks to the planning working party councillors, and to the whole of the parish council who diligently review all planning applications for the Harbury & Deppers Bridge parish.

We aren't in the most ideal scenario in planning terms in Harbury and Deppers Bridge presently.

The first indication of changes occurred back in December 2024 when the government released the new National Planning Policy Framework. This introduced a new standard method to increase housing need levels.

Stratford upon Avon District Council (SDC) have always been very good with ensuring that housing targets are met but this took the expected housing need from 1206 per annum (in the South Warwickshire area) to 2188 per annum, leaving a shortfall of over 28000 dwellings for the period 2025-2050.

The new South Warwickshire Local Plan development continued, taking these figures into account, until the recent planning appeal at Bordon Hill which concluded that the method used by SDC to calculate its 5-year housing land supply was incorrect and instead of 24+ years, this was only 2.74 years with an undersupply of 2285 dwellings.

Consequently, many policies in both our Local Plan and Neighbourhood Development Plan are now considered out of date and the “Presumption in favour of Sustainable Development” or “tilted balance” comes into effect when considering planning applications. Many speculative applications have begun to come forward, including land off Butt Lane and land off Mill Street. SDC has produced an interim policy position statement which includes a section about simple scale linear allocation of development for the current undersupply. In theoretical terms this would look like approximately 23 dwellings per year for Harbury until the undersupply has been met.

I must give considerable credit to the residents of Harbury who have engaged in such a robust and meaningful way on recent planning applications. Comments from regular parishioners hold significant weight at determination stage. The quality and insight in these written statements has been truly wonderful to read. We are such a strong and invested community and the levels of effort and research that has been undertaken in the multiple comments submitted is extraordinary. Well done! We make a great united team.

For those that are new to the world of commenting on planning applications, you can directly respond with your views to any local application online at the SDC website <https://apps.stratford.gov.uk/eplanning>.

All recorded comments are considered by SDC, with less weight attributed to those without material planning consideration arguments, or carbon copies of a previous representation.

As members of the parish council, all councillors are required to independently examine any planning application that we are formally consulted upon. We continue to aim to provide sound considered responses to these applications.

We read all sections of planning applications to create and align our parish response to SDC. We listen to anyone who has come along to one of our monthly meetings to discuss an application. There is also an opportunity to feedback to us informally at Councillors Corner in the Farley Room at the village hall during the Saturday Local Markets. Finally, we are always happy to be contacted by email.

Do please continue to contact us with any queries, concerns or information about any planning application in any form in the Harbury parish, so that we might remain reflective of the views of our parishioners. After all - if you do not give your thoughts, we cannot take these into account. Please do make yourself heard!

Cllr Sam Allen
Chair of Planning Working Party

Finance & General Purposes Working Party

I would like to thank our clerk, Alison Biddle, for her indispensable assistance over the past year - always making our roles much easier. I would also like to add recognition for the contributions and commitment of my fellow working party co-councillors.

The Harbury and Deppers Bridge parish precept has been raised from £147,711 to £156,243 for the financial year 2026/27. This equates to a 6.35% raise.

We spend the parish precept on various recurring responsibilities including (but not limited to) maintenance and improvement to publicly accessible areas, bin emptying, street light powering, car park cleaning, tree works/planting plus supporting parish organisations with grants.

This year we've apportioned our some of our precept to include the following:

- £5,000 for the community grants budget.
- £10,000 towards the new cemetery project to provide burial facilities.
- £32,000 for the street lighting budget, including electricity and repairs and a programme of replacement with LEDs.
- £7,500 towards a skate park and BMX track replacement/upgrade project.
- £3,500 towards small items – benches and seasonal light replacements.
- £2,800 for councillors' allowances (5 elected councillors)
- £700 to support the Harbury Local Market raising funds for local groups.

Many of these items we fund (or allocate funds to our reserves) almost every single year. Large projects, such as skate park improvements or a new burial facility are costly and we are unable to fund these unless sustained saving happens first.

Our biggest expected irregular costs this year are expected to be in our street lighting section. In the Harbury parish we own the majority of streetlights. This means we pay for the electricity consumed and take on repair and replacement costs. This year should see the replacement of many of our lights to more energy efficient LED versions, hence the larger sum put aside.

Our website www.harbury-pc.gov.uk is the best way of finding out any information about the council. We have an office at the Bull Ring Business Centre in Church Terrace which is open to the public four mornings a week, Monday – Thursday.

Cllr Samantha Allen

Chair of Finance & General Purposes Working Party

Climate Change & Biodiversity Working Party

The Climate Change & Biodiversity Working Party was re-launched in March 2025 with several new members from outside the parish council who have brought additional expertise in areas such as renewable energy, biodiversity improvement and links to local organisations.

During the year a number of initiatives were taken:

Harbury Carnival – a stand was taken at the carnival in June to promote various subjects such as Harbury Future Energy’s thermal imaging camera that can identify heat loss ‘hotspots’ in homes that would benefit from insulation measures; information on the swift box initiative that has attracted much interest as a practical way to address the loss of swift nesting sites in modern buildings and an update on re-cycling across Stratford District Council that has given it one of the highest re-cycling rates in the country.

A survey was carried out of local organisations to identify measures taken to reduce their carbon footprint and opportunities to reduce this further in the future. Overall, the survey results showed a high level of awareness of climate change and significant projects already delivered in community buildings such as the village hall, library, the scout hut, and the parish church.

We have worked closely with Team Earthworms at Harbury Primary School to source funding for 2 projects – the restoration of the school pond and the improvement of the forest school area in the wooded part of the school grounds. Although the grant application to Stratford District Council’s Climate Change and Nature Fund was ultimately unsuccessful, the projects have been able to move forward thanks to private donations to the PTA.

The title of the working party has been expanded to include biodiversity to reflect the full scope of its activities.

Thanks to all members of the working party for their hard work during the year.

Cllr Robert Stockdale
Chair of Climate Change & Biodiversity Working Party

County Councillor Report – Feldon Division

Whilst there has been some headlines about the change in political control at the county council following the May 25 elections, the everyday task carried out by councillors and county officers has continued unchanged.



The county council provides a wide range of services, from those that effect most residents, some on a day to day basis, to other services, particularly supporting those in need, which do not hit the headlines, until something goes wrong, but absorb significant resources in both staff time and finance.

The overall annual budget for the council, agreed on 17th February 26, was for expenditure of £702 million for the year 2026/27.

The biggest area of expenditure is in adult social care, budgeted at £274 million, followed by care for children and families at £132 million, together being £406 million or 58% of the overall annual budget. Much of social care support is mandated in law and is demand led, with the council having little opportunity to reduce demand.

Cost management is therefore limited to better and more efficient service delivery. However, the challenge is exacerbated by the very individual nature of the support needed.

The third largest area of expenditure is school transport. Along with some subsidised bus services, the overall cost of transport services is £70.4m.

Expenditure on those areas affecting the majority of residents, such as the fire and rescue service - £27.8m, public health - £28.8m, highways - £17.8m and waste management - £22.1m, total £96.5m.

Whilst every resident has their own idea of expenditure priorities, balancing the budget is extremely challenging trying to meet the competing demands the council faces, not least given the continuing and growing demand, for those statutory services, the council provides.

Councillor's Discretionary Budget

One of the ways of alleviating some of the challenges, for small parish led improvements, is through the use of my highways discretionary budget.

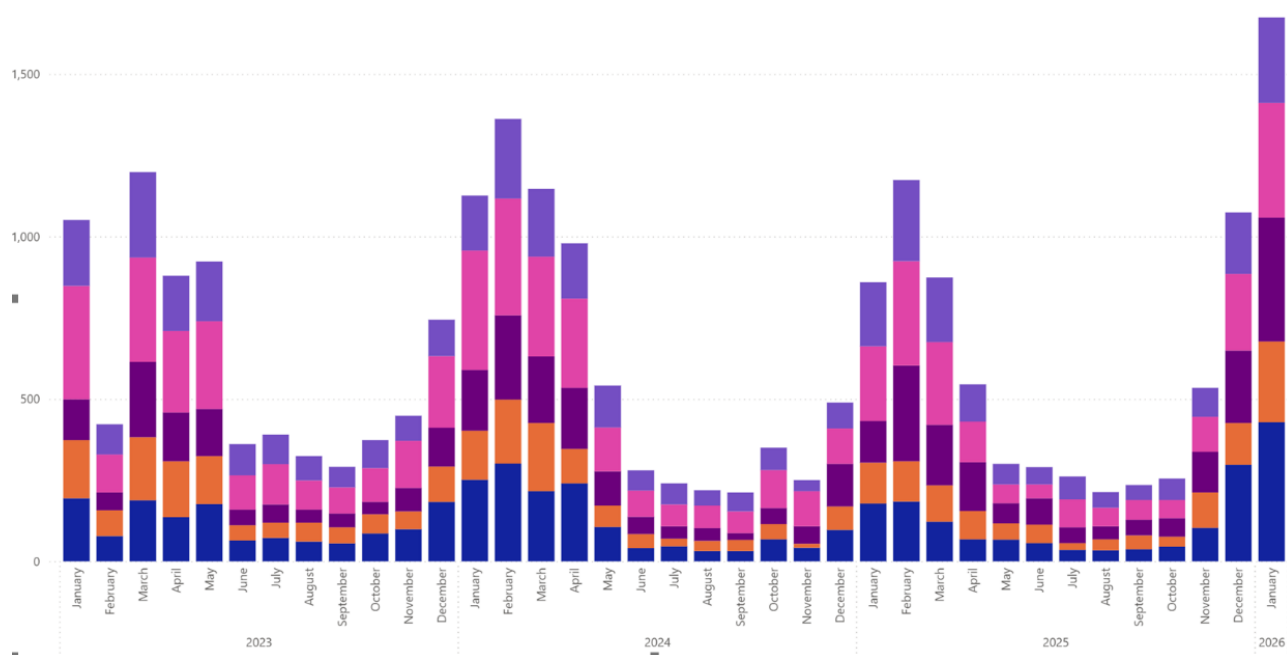
Over the past twelve months works have either been completed or submitted to officers for approval in Bishops Itchington, Farnborough, Fenny Compton, Harbury, Long Itchington and Priors Marston. Schemes currently waiting to be started include the widening of the existing footpath alongside Station Road, Fenny Compton and addressing flooding opposite the church in Long Itchington.

I have also submitted bids from the HS2 Highways Safety Fund for a number of different sites across the division. The decision on the allocation of the remaining monies in this fund has yet to be made.

An area of concern for many residents has been the number of potholes on the road network, particularly over the past four months.

The combination of the continual and heavy rain interspersed with short periods of freezing conditions, the snow ploughs were mounted for the first time in seven years, has caused severe damage to the road network.

The number of potholes reported in January 2026 has been the highest of any month over the past three years, see below. Whilst some of these public reports are duplicates of the same defects, the increase in the number of potholes on the highway network is real. In response to this, WCC has increased its gang resource to 15 gangs in the north of the county and 14 gangs in the south, on site, with 2 tonnes of tarmac per day, working weekends and extra hours.



Other than highway and footpath repairs, one of the other key areas that has been addressed on the highway affected by surface water flooding.

Significant improvements were made to drainage in Fenny Compton, where a key culvert crossing Station Road was found to be blocked resulting in flooding across the road. In Long Itchington, the flood risk team undertook an investigation of flooding off the Marton Road, where they found that a major culvert had been blocked by a developer installing a post for a new boundary fence. After many months, the developer accepted responsibility and dug up and removed the post repairing the culvert. This led to an immediate improvement.

Over the summer, I identified that the gully cleaning program had, for operational reasons, been changed, impacting mostly rural villages, from a significant proportion of gullies being cleaned once every two years, to once every three years. As a result, as part of the annual budget negotiations for 26/27, I put forward an amendment to the budget, that was accepted, to provide an extra £180,000 to reinstate the previous two yearly program across the county.

One of the repeated concerns from residents has been road closures by utility companies. Clearly when a water main bursts, it needs to be repaired as soon as possible, not least to prevent the risk of flooding to neighbouring properties. However, the delays, after the initial problem has been resolved, cause frustration to residents and passing motorists. I have challenged Severn Trent a number of times to improve the speed of reinstatement and reduce lengthy, and sometimes inappropriate, diversions for drivers.

HS2 and its constructions have become a major part of the lives of those residents living in affected villages, which, in the Feldon division, includes most villages, from Long Itchington in the north, to Wormleighton, Priors Hardwick and Priors Marston. I meet with managers of both BBV, for north of Southam, and EKFB, south to the county boundary, on a regular basis to raise concerns of residents and seek to mitigate the impact of the works on residents'

daily lives. Our MP, Sir Jeremy Wright, is kept fully briefed on those concerns and, working with councillors, regularly contacts construction companies as well.

Clearly the track has to be completed, and there will be disruption, but meeting with the new chief executive of HS2, Mark Wild, in December, and subsequently one of his deputies, he is now aware of the impact on communities and has indicated a wish to try to reduce that impact where possible. I have also met with the HS2 Construction Commissioner and raised the same concerns.

Helping residents with their personal cases is confidential and so I will not share individual cases but they include SEND support, access to schools, and school places, transport to schools and access to social care.

In addition, I chair the Warwickshire Local Government Pension Scheme Investment Committee, and from that role, I was elected in September to chair the Joint Committee of the 18 LGPS pension schemes that are part of the Border to Coast Pooling Partnership, the fund manager for those schemes. Border to Coast now manages the investment funds of approximately 2 million LGPS members, across those 18 authorities.

It has been a busy year supporting eleven parishes and I endeavour and will continue to attend as many parish council meetings every month as possible working with parish and district councillors.

County Cllr Christopher Kettle
WCC, Feldon Division

Reports from Village Groups & Organisations

Harbury Village Library & Biblio's Cafe

The library and cafe continue to thrive and form part of the network of amenities in Harbury. New activities have been introduced including a very popular Lego club. Current annual footfall is circa 20,000 per year in the day with further events booked in the evenings.



There have also been significant changes this year with the long-standing cafe lead and trustee, Jill Baker, standing down from her leadership role. Fortunately, Jill continues to be an active Biblio's volunteer. As no one volunteer wished to take on the breadth of Jill's role, a new model is emerging as to how to run Biblio's, with an enhanced committee taking on key responsibilities. The cafe footfall is steady, and with the addition of some new volunteers, the cafe rota is filled each week, so providing a full service.

A key area of development over the past year has been the upgrading of IT equipment. The parish council generously contributed to this project to a sum of £1500. These funds have enabled three new computers, screens and new keyboards to be purchased. In addition, a new laptop has been purchased so that a volunteer can assist the treasurer in financial and bookkeeping tasks. One outstanding area is the purchasing and setting up of an LCD screen to promote library and village activities. This plan was delayed due to not having an identified volunteer to maintain the updating of the screen content. As a volunteer has recently come forward, this plan is now proceeding.

Collaboration across the village continues, with particularly good relationships with the school. The recently re-vamped and updated website should also enable better communication of library activities and events across the village and beyond. The ongoing support of the parish council is very much appreciated.

Kay Garvey
Chair of Harbury Village Library

Harbury Village Show

The grant awarded by the parish council played a vital role in enabling us to stage the 2025 village show, an event that brought together residents of all ages and celebrated the creativity, skill, and community spirit within our village.

The funding contributed directly to the essential costs of running the show, including:

- **Venue preparation and equipment** — tables, display boards, signage, and protective coverings to ensure exhibits were presented safely and attractively.
- **Materials and supplies** — category labels, judging sheets, and certificates for entrants.
- **Children's and family activities** — small prizes that encouraged younger residents to take part.
- **Refreshments and hospitality** — helping us create a welcoming atmosphere for exhibitors and visitors alike.

By offsetting these core expenses, the grant allowed us to keep entry fees low (and in case



of young people's categories, free), ensuring the show remained accessible to everyone in the community.



The village show attracted a wide range of entries across all age groups. Residents exhibited:

- Home-grown **fruit and vegetables**
- **Flowers** and floral arrangements
- **Handicrafts** and needlework
- **Paintings** and drawings
- **Photographs**
- **Home baking**, preserves, and liquors

The diversity and quality of the exhibits reflected the remarkable talents within our village. Many first-time entrants, including children and young families, told us they felt encouraged to take part because the event felt friendly, inclusive, and affordable.

The show also served as a social focal point, giving neighbours the chance to meet, reconnect, and celebrate each other's efforts. Several local groups and volunteers contributed time and skills, strengthening community ties and fostering a sense of shared achievement.

We are extremely grateful for the parish council's contribution. The grant helped us deliver a successful, enjoyable, and inclusive village show that celebrated the best of our community. We look forward to building on this success in future years.

Photographs are all entries in the 2025 show.

Gordon Robbins, Secretary
Harbury Show Committee



Harbury Heritage Group

- On March 15th a presentation was given to the 'Men's Breakfast group' in the village hall about the 'Railway Cutting'.
- On March 18th two presentations were given to the WLHS (Warwick Local History Society), at Aylesford School: 'Running the Centre' and 'Life in Victorian Harbury'.
- Also, in March Year 5 were given help and advice with their school project.
- In April we had a visit from the Great Western pub's new owner and we offered to help provide information re the history of the pub. This was followed up by a visit from Siobhan Dodds, their creative director, who perused our collection and took away photographs and documents about the pub and the railway station to help decorate the interior.
- In April/ May we bought and erected 12 blue plaques, an interpretation panel and delivered a booklet to every house in the village re the 'War Memorial Trail Project'.
- On May 11th, we held a commemoration afternoon (60) guests in the library, serving refreshments and afternoon tea. (80th Anniversary VE Day). We unveiled the new interpretation panel by the War Memorial; a service was given by Reverend Andy and many relatives of the WW1 and WW2 fallen were present.
- On May 29th we carried out a 'spring clean' of the heritage centre.
On 7th June we ran a stall at Harbury Carnival in conjunction with Harbury Society.
- In June we helped the school with a project including hanging 2 off 4' x 3' murals in the school corridor.
- On June 28th we served cream teas at the centre during the Open Gardens weekend.
- On 13th July the Centre was visited by Earlsdon WI, hosted by Harbury WI.
- On 18th July Kineton and district history group visited for a village tour and refreshments afterwards in the centre.
- On 12th August local residents enjoyed a village tour and refreshments afterwards at the Centre.
- On 19th August Harbury Society members enjoyed a village tour with refreshments.
- On 21st September we held our 6th annual village treasure hunt with a record 26 teams taking part.
- On 21st October we gave a presentation to Harbury Society members entitled 'The Railway Comes to Harbury'. Before the event we were awarded 'The Heritage Medal' by Harbury Society' which were delighted to accept.



- On 11th November Remembrance Day' some of us attended a service outside the Great Western pub.
- On December 5th we appeared live on the Vic Minett Show (CW Radio) at the Great Western pub talking about the heritage group and the blue plaques.
- On 13th January we took Year 1 pupils from the primary school around the village to help them with their topic 'Your Island, My Island', concluding with a short presentation in the centre.
- Also in January we bought some new display panels designed by David Turner featuring the windmill, the cutting, the enclosures and harbury schools.
- On 3rd February we gave a presentation 'Harbury in WW2' to Year 6 pupils and then on the 9th took them on a tour to look specifically at the WW2 plaques.



Bill Timson
Chairman, Harbury Heritage Group

Harbury e-Wheels

Harbury e-Wheels is a registered charity which has been running for over 10 years. The organisation offers transport options to people, within a 15 mile radius, who are registered through their doctors or other providers.



The charity is fully dependent on grants and donations and is in a healthy financial position at present. Two new electric vehicles have been leased in the last year to replace their aging predecessors.

Fund raising has been greatly helped by the annual garden walkabout and by a concert in December from Leamington based community choir, Sing It Loud. They nominated us as their annual charity. The evening was very musically enjoyable, as well as lucrative. The charity has a strong team of volunteers, both as drivers and co-ordinators, whose efforts are the reason for the success of the enterprise.

The charity has recorded just shy of 1,000 hours and 9,900 miles during the year.

There have been some changes at board level, with Janny Freeman standing down and Adrian Davis joining. He has also assumed the Lead Co-ordinator role previously held by Janny.

Nick Burt

Chair, Harbury e-Wheels

Harbury Swift Village Project



The Harbury Swift Village Project was launched in 2022 with long-term vision of increasing the number of swifts breeding in Harbury.

In 2025, Harbury Parish Council agreed to host a new webpage about the Harbury Swift Village Project on the parish council's website <https://www.harbury-pc.gov.uk/swift-village/>.

The fees I received in 2025 from the talks I gave to local groups and societies about swifts and the Harbury Swift Project, together with other donations and fundraising, enabled the purchase of five swift attraction callers. These were installed in spring 2025 alongside five of the existing swift nest boxes. A generous donation from the Harbury WI in autumn 2025 has funded a further five callers which have been recently installed (February 2026) alongside five other existing nest boxes. By installing additional swift call attraction systems, it is hoped that the level of 'swift interest' in the boxes will further increase next year.

The RSPB [Swift Mapper](#) records needed updating and a systematic survey had not been carried out previously. As a consequence, a team of volunteers surveyed Harbury's swifts during the summer of 2025. The survey was carried out between May and July to establish a baseline for Harbury swift numbers and to locate the swift 'hotspots' in the village. This will enable future protection of existing nest sites, as well as to helping to focus efforts in increasing the colonies in the future. Another key function of the survey was to raise awareness of the Harbury Swift Village Project and enthusiasm for swifts generally within the village and get people talking about them.

The survey located eighteen natural nests, under eaves and in crevices in the walls of a variety of properties in Harbury. The parish clerk has received a list of addresses for these locations, in case of any future applications for roof works that could jeopardise these nest sites.

A number of the surveyors noted that where swift callers have been installed, juvenile swifts were observed coming to investigate those particular nest boxes, with a number of boxes being prospected for the first time. We hope that these individuals will return to nest in the summer.

Swift Awareness Week coincided with the Harbury Open Gardens weekend and Gill Barber and I ran a swift-themed children's activity afternoon in Harbury Library. The children made life-sized cardboard swifts, participated in a swift quiz and discovered the different countries swifts traverse in Africa. Several adults also came in to talk to me about swifts, with suggestions for other places to put swift boxes and also an enquiry from a resident of Combrook who is interested in setting up a swift project there. During the afternoon, the Ivy Lane swifts did a grand job of demonstrating their incredible screaming acrobatics.

I carried out the annual inspection on the condition of the nest boxes in mid March 2026. Unfortunately, seven out of eight of the Men's Shed boxes that I surveyed had roofs that are de-laminating. Action will need to be taken since this will soon render these boxes un-useable.

Looking ahead to 2026, we plan to repeat the swift survey between May and July. I am organising another children's activity during Swift Awareness Week (28 June to 7 July), to coincide with the Harbury Open Gardens weekend 28-29 June. I will also be running a number of swift awareness activities with the children in the Earthworms group at Harbury School during the summer term. I hope to give further talks to local groups and societies to increase awareness about the plight of these amazing birds and also to raise further funds for the project.

Amanda Randall
Harbury Swift Village Project

Harbury Village Hall

In 2024, Harbury Village Hall (HVH) saw a 19% increase in hall-hire income, driven by a significant rise in bookings compared with 2023. That momentum continued into 2025, when 90 different individuals and organisations made 719 bookings, generating a further 13% increase in income.

Alongside the 21 regular user groups—spanning worship, festivals, drama, dance, physical wellbeing, markets, meetings and concerts—the hall also hosted 19 children's parties, five receptions, and served as a venue for blood donation and local voting. The breadth of activity demonstrates just how central HVH remains to village life.

This growth has enabled continued investment in the building and its facilities, ensuring the hall remains a venue the community is proud to use. Most recently, we have installed a DMX-controlled LED stage lighting system and upgraded the kitchen's ancillary equipment, improving both performance capability and day-to-day functionality.

Despite its visibility in the community, many residents still assume the hall is run by the parish council. In reality, HVH is owned by an independent charity and managed entirely by a small team of volunteer trustees. The hall's ability to operate—and to remain safe, welcoming and fit for hire—depends on the goodwill, time and expertise of these volunteers.

As with many volunteer-run organisations in Harbury, our greatest ongoing challenge is recruiting new people with the time and skills to contribute to the hall's management and future development. Strengthening the trustee team is essential if HVH is to continue thriving as a community asset.

Stephen Friling
Harbury Village Hall Committee

Harbury Primary School

A heartfelt thank you for the support the parish council continues to give the school. The advice and practical help provided have been invaluable, particularly in developing our forest school area and strengthening our sustainability work.

We are especially grateful for the support with fruit tree pruning, the tree surgeon's work coppicing and the helpful advice around our pond, biodiversity and conservation. These contributions have made a real difference to our outdoor learning environment and to the experiences we can offer the children.

Our school has a sustainability action plan and our pupil group, the Earthworms team, is passionate about caring for the environment and improving our grounds. With the support and guidance of members of the parish council, our Earthworms lead, Amy Pedvin-Lewis, alongside our forest school leader, Erica James, we are able to ensure this work is as strong and meaningful as it can be.

Lucy Bosley
Head Teacher, Harbury School

Harbury RFC

The parish council's funding has enabled us to purchase a new BBQ, which has quickly become an asset for the club and wider community. It is used across all sections of the club, from Minis and Juniors through to Senior and Ladies teams, supporting match days, training events, and



social activities. The BBQ has helped encourage players, families, and supporters to spend more time together at the club.

Beyond club use, the BBQ is made available to other organisations within the village, extending the benefit of the council's investment into the broader community. Overall, it has proven to be a simple but highly effective addition, delivering value across a wide range of age groups and community activities.

Chris Woodhams
Harbury RFC

Harbury Society

Once again, a full and varied programme of talks and outings was enjoyed by Harbury Society members during 2025/26.

'Archaeology in Harbury' was the title of the talk in April which revealed some of the hidden treasures below our feet. After an outing to Shuckburgh Hall in glorious sunshine in May and an entertaining bat walk in Harbury churchyard in July, it was back inside in September to hear Martyn Brunt's interesting presentation about the charity, Sustrans.

The speaker in October was Bill Timson, Chair of the Harbury Heritage Group, who informed us of the history of the coming of the railway to Harbury. This was followed in November by



Ed Wilson (right), presenting certificate and medal to Bill Timson (left)

Catherine Evans whose presentation was entitled 'The History of the Heart of England Co-operative Society'. In January 2026 a meal and social evening was enjoyed by several society members at The Shakespeare Inn in Harbury. 'The Staffordshire Hoard' was the title of the talk given in February by Steve Dean, a leading archaeologist who has been involved with the stunning artefacts since they were discovered in 2019. In March, Fiona Baskett amazed us all by telling us about the fantastic work the Medical Detection Dogs carry out.

Another Harbury Society Heritage Medal was awarded during the year. This was to Bill Timson in recognition of the work the Harbury Heritage Group do in preserving Harbury's history.

Sue Turner
Harbury Society

GASS

Guiding and scouting in Harbury has continued to thrive this year with section numbers collectively up on last year as a whole.

All of our sections have continued to run a diverse programme of activities from those involving crafting or construction, to cooking, to STEM, as well as a huge number of games and other engagements for the young people in Harbury and the surrounding area.

Many of our activities have continued to be focussed on young people gaining activity badges with several sections exhausting their badge budget this year which is excellent to see. We've delivered a huge range of badges through activities as well as those the young people have completed at home (backwards cooking, fire safety, nature lovers, time on the water, to name just some). We also had a big celebration for our 100th Guiding Thinking Day with all our guiding sections together which was excellent to see and celebrate.

We thank HPC for their support to GASS running the annual bonfire and fireworks event in the village again in 2025. This event, which is definitely an annual highlight in the village calendar, continues to be popular with around 2000 attendees this year. The event provides for the vast majority of our hut running costs each year and enables us to keep section costs for the young people low and means we can deliver external activities like ninja tag, bowling, visits to Leamington boat centre for kayaking and other fun water based activities, laser quest etc, at a very low cost or no additional cost.

The area of most change has been our hut development project where, with the support of an SDC grant, we made significant progress on our first-floor extension in March-May 2025. HPC very kindly supported this work with funding for the windows which have now been installed, making the extension watertight which is a huge step and enables us to then manage the internal work securely. I've included some pictures of the development below. We continue to work on plans to complete this phase of the development and are seeking support to complete the internal fit out to allow this room to support our activities and offer a new community space in the village for use.



Looking forward, all of our scouting sections are looking forward to the district camp 'Get in Camp' in May where we will be camping with groups from across Warwickshire at Ragley Hall as part of a huge festival of scouting; including lots of activities as well as the

opportunity for some nights away under canvas. We are thankful to the HPC who have offered us some funding to support improving some of our camping stores equipment and the purchase of some newer equipment to make this event even better for the young people and adult volunteers supporting them.

David Browne
Harbury GASS

Harbury & Ladbroke News

A grant application was made in February to the parish council to meet the printing costs of the Harbury Directory which is being updated for the 2026 – 28 edition. The directory should be circulated with the May or June edition of the magazine. The directory provides details of village services, clubs and organisations, retail and public houses as well as local government contact information.

The magazine continues to be published each month. Each edition on average involves around 75 villagers (Harbury & Ladbroke), ranging from those who contribute articles and photographs, the editors, through to the distributors who deliver the magazine to subscribers. The magazine is also supported by the committee members who do an awful lot to ensure the smooth running of the publication.

John Holden
Harbury & Ladbroke News

Harbury Twinning Association

Our busy year was marred by the sudden death of Ron Temple who had been chairman of the association but passed away while on holiday. He was always enthusiastic about twinning events and had some interesting and innovative ideas to take the association forward. He will be much missed.

We had a very successful visit to Samois sur Seine last May. Many of us visiting old, established friends but also making some new ones. One of the important outcomes of the visit was to renew contacts with the village school there. We were greeted in French and English by the children and heard that they were very keen to establish links with Harbury School. As this is an important aspect of the twinning charter, we are delighted to report that links are being established, progress is slow but letters have been exchanged.



As well as activities in the village, a number of us were taken to visit Notre Dame Cathedral which had re-opened after the fire that destroyed much of the building.

On Thursday the 13th of November the members of the association met in the village library for our annual general meeting.

John and Sally Stringer, who have been key members since the beginning of the association, decided to retire from the offices they have held superbly for many years but fortunately they are prepared to stay on the committee.



We also met on various occasions through the year, celebrating some French special days, Bastille Day and the Fete des Rois. We had a Christmas party, a skittles evening, and a BBQ. After our visit to Samois we met up with everyone and had an opportunity to share our experiences with those who are unable to travel.

We are delighted to report a big party is visiting us in May this year. As part of the visit, the Harbury Heritage Centre has kindly offered a guided walk around the village as it is a first time visit for some of the party.

Peter Mc Donald has kindly sorted a website with more up to date information and photographs and can be found at harburytwinning.org.uk. We also have a dedicated e mail address: harburytwinning@gmail.com

Celia Neill and Sue Crum
Harbury Twinning Association

Contact Your Parish Council

Alison Biddle PSLCC, Clerk to the Council
 Harbury Parish Council

2, Bull Ring Business Centre, Church Terrace, Harbury, CV33 9HL
 Open 10.00am to 12.00pm Monday – Thursday

Tel 01926 614646 | clerk@harbury-pc.gov.uk | www.harbury-pc.gov.uk



Parish Council Attendance Record April 2025 to March 2026

The council held 11 meetings in total during the year, including the annual meeting of the council. We have 10 councillors. A total of 102 members of the public attended during the year.

Name of Councillor	Number Attended	Percentage Attended
Cllr Tim Lockley, Chairman	9/11	82%
Cllr Julie Balch, Vice-chair	10/11	91%
Cllr Sam Allen	8/11	73%
Cllr Kate Gard	9/11	82%
Cllr Michael Goodman (co-opted Oct 2025)	5/5	100%
Cllr Alan Knowles	11/11	100%
Cllr Ed Mulley	11/11	100%
Cllr Alex Potter (resigned August 2025)	2/5	40%
Cllr Robert Stockdale	10/11	91%
Cllr Ashley Sylvester	8/11	73%
Cllr Keith Thompson	11/11	100%

Parish Council Working Parties

Planning: Cllr Allen (chair), Cllr Thompson, Cllr Knowles, Cllr Mulley, Cllr Sylvester

Environment: Cllr Mulley (chair), Cllr Stockdale, Cllr Goodman

Properties: Cllr Thompson (chair), Cllr Knowles, Cllr Goodman, Cllr Gard, Cllr Mulley

Finance & General Purposes: Cllr Allen (chair), Cllr Mulley, Cllr Thompson, Cllr Stockdale, Cllr Lockley

Climate Change & Biodiversity: Cllr Stockdale (chair), Cllr Balch, Cllr Gard, Cllr Sylvester

Seasonal Lights: Cllr Allen, Cllr Balch, Cllr Lockley, Cllr Gard

Staffing: Cllr Balch (chair), Cllr Lockley, Cllr Thompson, Cllr Stockdale

Harbury Parish Council Financial Report 2025/26

The following is an extract from the financial report (unaudited) for the year ended 31 March 2026. The report is a supplement to the council's formal statement of accounts which is contained in the Annual Governance and Accountability Statement 2025/26 (subject to audit) which will also be published on our website in due course.

Year Ended 31/03/25		Income & Expenditure		Year Ended 31/03/26
		GENERAL PARISH FUND		
£	Income			£
138,886.00	Precept			147,711.00
4,557.60	Interest received - deposit accounts			4,172.93
1,017.01	Interest received - Tennis & Netball Courts Fund			780.30
1,206.11	Allotment rents			1,399.64
2,660.00	Cemetery fees			2,477.00
330.00	Playing field hire			250.00
134.41	Wayleave			134.58
1,345.81	Grass verge contribution - SDC			1,405.16
-	Grant funding			-
-	Sec 106 & CIL			-
4,123.20	Sports clubs conts to Tennis & Netball Courts Fund			4,329.66
25.70	Misc receipts			2,320.50
154,285.84	TOTAL INCOME			164,980.77
	Expenditure			
48,111.61	Admininstration & salaries			51,523.32
175.00	Training			330.00
681.13	Office equipment			24.94
5,774.02	Parish office			5,795.22
620.00	New Tree Planting			-
5,860.38	Grants			7,956.50
-	Platinum Jubilee			-
-	Neighbourhood Plan			-
	Running costs:			
4,541.61	Allotments			2,807.83
9,653.07	Cemetery			9,050.11
10,198.02	Open spaces			9,325.50
52,395.11	Playing fields & car park			15,767.88
1,570.00	Tennis & netball court works			3,150.00
1,968.84	Non-estate roads			2,008.20
14,143.32	Street lights			11,666.39
55.00	Climate			-
5,040.94	Purchase of village assets / village improvements			3,384.54
2,800.00	Councillors allowances			2,564.38
163,588.05	TOTAL EXPENDITURE			125,354.81

Balance sheet as at 31 March 2026							
Year ended 31.03.2025				Year ended 31.03.2026			
£			Current Assets	£			
1,722.57			Payments in advance	819.48			
2,257.96			VAT Debtor	2,909.29			
-			Other debtors	146.00			
-			Cash with clerk to the council	-			
290,809.51			Cash at bank	329,225.99			
294,790.04				333,100.76			
			Less current liabilities				
- 2,206.21			Creditors & receipts in advance	- 890.97			
292,583.83			Total Net Assets	332,209.79			
			Represented by:				
124,791.60			General fund balance b/f	133,802.69			
9,011.09			Less deficit/plus surplus	17,994.66			
133,802.69			Balance 31 March	151,797.35			
			Specific funds:				
42,474.24			Tennis & Netball Courts Fund	46,605.54			
77,256.00			New Cemetery Fund	87,256.00			
-			Sec 106 & CIL	-			
1,462.53			Office refurbishment reserve	1,462.53			
22,500.00			BMX & Skate Park Fund	30,000.00			
15,088.37			Eastfields Solar Community Fund	15,088.37			
292,583.83				332,209.79			

Community Grants Awarded by Harbury Parish Council in 2025/26

Harbury Show 2025	Village hall hire	£385
Harbury Carnival 2025	Children's entertainment	£528
Harbury Village Library	New computers	£1,500
GASS	Scout hut windows	£2,000
Harbury RFC	Barbecue	£640
Harbury Heritage Group	War memorial book	£85.50
Harbury & Ladbroke News	New village directory	£284
Harbury Carnival 2026	Children's entertainment	£503
GASS	Camping equipment	£1,000
Harbury Local Market	Village hall hire	<u>£1,031</u>
	Total	£7,956.50

