



Minutes of the Annual Parish meeting to be held at the Valley Christian Centre, Main Street, Harby LE13 4BN on Monday 19th May 2025 at 7.00 p.m. to transact the following business:

Present: Councillors Nicole Draper (Chair), Mike Foulds, Nigel Hodges, Jonathan Neale, Matthew Simpson, Jo Towle and Jacob Wilkinson.

Apologies: Cllr Mike Dunn.

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.**

Cllr Mike Dunn.

2. **CHAIR'S REPORT**

With the continued support of the Parish Clerk, Parish, County and Borough councillors, Clawson Hose and Harby Parish Council has made significant progress within the last 12 months. I would like to take this opportunity to reflect on what we have all achieved.

Lighting - The PC is responsible for most of the streetlights within the parish. In October 2024 we completed a significant renewal project of street lightening across the three villages, replacing 39 old lanterns with new 18-Watt LED lanterns controlled by part-night photocells. The National Grid inventory has been updated with our EAC (estimate of annual consumption), and the certificate has been forwarded to Npower to ensure that future bills are calculated correctly. In addition, we have recently signed a long-term agreement with Leicestershire County Council to manage both the maintenance and energy supply. This project not only provides good value for money for the parish but also increases our green credentials. I would especially like to thank Cllr Nigel Hodges for his time and commitment in achieving this project.

Flooding - It is well reported that the flooding on the 6th of January was the worst in recent history within Leicestershire affecting internally over 1000 properties. This sadly again brought to bear the issues at Long Clawson and the effectiveness of the culvert. Leicestershire County Council have now been provided with additional funding to conduct extensive cleaning of Highway assets across the county. I'm happy to report that this includes the culvert at Long Clawson and work should commence on the 9th of June.

Road Safety - The speed of traffic throughout the parish is of great concern to us all. The Members Grant kindly provided by Cllr Bryan Lovegrove allowed us to obtain a MVAS (mobile vehicle activated sign) which is currently in situ on Harby Lane Hose. The sign will be moved across the three sites within Harby and Hose to help maintain speed awareness.

A volunteer-led Speedwatch scheme will be trialled in Hose for three weeks starting on 7th June. We hope this initiative will encourage more volunteers from across the parish, allowing us to extend the scheme to Long Clawson and Harby in the future.

Grass/Hedge maintenance - It is of no great surprise that this green and pleasant land takes a significant amount of upkeep. The PC is responsible for all parish owned hedges, grass areas and undertake grass cutting on behalf of Melton borough council for which we are reimbursed. These areas include; play areas, recreation grounds, village green, cemetery's closed churchyards, community orchards allotments and nature reserves. In October 2024 we put out to tender our ground maintenance contract to try to obtain a more competitive price and also to include all hedge cutting within a new contract. I'm pleased to announce that the contract was awarded to a local contractor, the contract is for three years and commenced in January of this year.

In relation to trees - we are in the second year of identifying and completing work to be undertaken from the Independent Tree Inspection Reports. Remedial work will commence in autumn 2025.

Playgrounds - When I was elected to serve on the Parish Council I was approached by a number of residents who were concerned regarding the lack of playground equipment for the children of Hose. I am pleased that the Parish Council was able purchase the toddler multi play unit from Dove Cottage Tea Rooms and with the support from the Trustees of Hose had it installed in April on The Green at Hose. In addition, with the Community Funding obtained from the National Lottery- Hose, along with Harby and Long Clawson have all benefited from the installation of a Children's Monkey Wall.

Allotments and Cemetery - Extensive work has been completed at Hose allotments, increasing the number of allotments available to our residents. Currently there are 9 available at Hose. Harby and Long Clawson have non currently available as they are all being used and well cared for. - A waiting list is available!

Significant work has been undertaken at Long Clawson Cemetery, particularly in relation to the trees and the perimeter hedging, improving the appearance and maintenance of the site. In addition, a new database and map has been developed to help manage all existing and future burial plots more efficiently.

Internal Audit - As a Parish Council, it is essential that we remain compliant with legal requirements and follow proper procedures. I am pleased to announce that the internal audit report was received in May this year, and it concluded:

"There are no further recommendations other than to say to continue with the work now being undertaken. The Clerk should be complimented on the changes and updates made to the various systems and processes; this is a major step forward from last year."

Not much to add apart from a big thank you to our Clerk for her hard work and expertise!

Finances - As you are all aware the Parish Council precept was increased this year. The Parish Council tax element of the council tax has risen from £73.48 to £92.14 per year. Notwithstanding that or proportion is only 4% of the overall council tax charge equating to 25p per day, we understand that due to the increase of the cost of living this is a concern to our residents. Historically the parish council precept has been insufficient to

cover day-to-day running costs, subsequent years it has not raised with inflation. Consequently, over the last two years it has had to be increased to be sustainable in the long term. Financially we are on a better footing. We do not expect to have to significantly increase the precept next year, but we do expect to continue the good work expected from this Parish Council.

Finally, I would like to thank; our Clerk Steph Massey, our Parish Councillors, County Councillor Bryan Lovegrove, Borough Councillors Simon Orson and Chris Evans for their ongoing support and contributions to this Parish Council over the last 12 months. I ask that we all look forward and continue to work together to maintain and support our lovely Parish.

3. **QUESTIONS or COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

None.

The meeting closed at 19.12.

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Chair – Clawson, Hose & Harby Parish Council Date