

Harlington's Annual Parish Meeting

To be held in the West room of the Parish Hall, Church Road
On Tuesday 28th April 2026 beginning at 7.30pm

AGENDA

1. Apologies for Absence
2. Welcome from the Chairman of Harlington Parish Council
3. Parish Council Chairman's Report
4. Thanks group attendees who will be available at the meetings conclusion
5. Report of Central Bedfordshire Councillors
6. Booked Questions from residents
7. Non booked Questions from residents

Refreshments will be served in the Middle Room where you will find displays of various village organisations – please take a look



Cllr Pete Hughes
Chairman of Harlington Parish Council



Harlington Parish Council

Parish Council Office, Rear of Parish Hall, Church Road, Harlington, Bedfordshire LU5 6LE
The Clerk to the Council Telephone: 01525 875933 Email: clerk@harlington-pc.gov.uk

ANNUAL REPORT 2026

CHAIRMAN'S OVERVIEW

Once again staff changes have presented challenges for Harlington Parish Council (HPC) and its personnel.

We said goodbye to our previous Deputy Clerk, Hayley Trew, last summer, and we wish her well for her future. This meant that our Clerk, Alison Doyle, had to manage on her own for quite a while. So huge thanks to her. She has managed to keep HPC functioning, despite still learning the role.

I am pleased to report that after this difficult year we are now moving forward.

Alison has passed her Introduction to Local Council Administration (ILCA) exam, this informs her on how to act as a Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer (RFO) for the Council, telling her what she and we can, and more importantly cannot do. So, congratulations to her.

We are also pleased to welcome a new member of staff, Joanne Sveinbjornsson as our new Office Assistant. She is settling in well and getting to know the role.

We feel we now have a strong team to run the Council and aid the residents of Harlington.

One of the biggest challenges facing our village at the moment are obviously the current building projects. We also have to face the somewhat scary prospect that these developments are only the beginning.

There are moves to apply to build to the south of Toddington Rd., something previously turned down by Central Bedfordshire Council (CBC). Additionally early stages of planning are being sought to fill the field between the Upper School and the railway with more houses. Also, there are proposals for a large-scale industrial development on land from junction 12, to beyond the southbound service area, and extending eastwards to Poplars Garden Centre.

HPC will be working with Harlington Village Action Group (HVAG) and other Parish Councils in resisting these proposals, to protect the identity of our village and its surrounding countryside.

We will continue to hold CBC to account over contraventions/breaches to conditions and undertakings within existing developments. We will also strive to remind CBC, who are being bombarded by hopeful developers with requests for permission for additional sites, of their own rules and current national guidelines, when considering these matters.

As an aside to the above, the developers are required to provide certain monies, allocated to certain themed areas for projects within the village. These are termed as Section 106 funds.

HPC are currently working with the Harlington Parish Lands Trust (HPLT) and the sports clubs and Scout group, to access some of these monies to help fund the redevelopment of the pavilion and Scout hut into a facility suitable for the present day and the future of the village.

We are also seeking to access S106 funds to help with essential works to the Parish Hall, and also the possibility of installing some outdoor fitness/gym equipment on Bury Orchard

We would really like to hear from any residents with additional ideas for other possible projects.

Whilst we will always do our best to help with enquiries from residents, we do sometimes have to refer residents to contact CBC for items that fall under their control, for example highways and pothole issues.

HPC are this year hosting a Christmas celebration and lights switch-on in the Village Hall and Village Car Park. This will be from 2.30 pm until 6.00 pm on 21st November 2026. We hope you can join us.

Pete Hughes

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Pete Hughes', with a stylized, cursive script.