



**Minutes of the Helmingham
Annual Parish Meeting
held on
Friday 15th May 2026
At St Mary's Church, Helmingham**

5 in attendance, including 4 Parish Councillors (1 also being the District Councillor for Helmingham)

Apologies – County Councillor Matthew Hicks

1. Welcome by Chair of Helmingham Parish Council

Chair Lesley Clark opened the meeting, thanking everyone for coming.

2. Agreement of Minutes of the Previous Annual Parish Meeting on Monday 29th April 2024 (no Annual Parish Meeting held in 2025)

The Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting 2024 as a true and accurate record, were proposed by Councillor Lesley Clark, seconded by Councillor David Penny, all voted in favour and **IT WAS SO RESOLVED**. The Minutes were signed by the Chair and the Clerk

3. Matters Arising from the Previous Annual Parish Meeting on Monday 29th April 2024

None

4. Report by the Chair of Helmingham Parish Council – verbal report presented by Chair Lesley Clark

The main item of business this year has been reinstating the Parish Council, with three District Councillors coming forward to enable the Council to function and looking for a long-term solution to the lack of volunteers who wish to be Parish Councillors. This has resulted in a proposal put forward jointly between the two parishes of Framsdon and Helmingham for a merger to take place, the outcome of which is yet to be finalised. In the meantime, thanks are given to the three District Councillors who have stepped forward.

5. Report from Mid Suffolk District Councillor Nick Hardingham

The full Annual Report from the District Councillor is available on the Helmingham village website.

NH also reported that a recent licencing application put forward by the Helmingham Estate had generated a lot of concerns from residents about potential late-night disruption. The original planning application for the site at Wades Barn had not mentioned licencing and that the site would only be in operation until 5.30pm and mostly just during school holidays. NH had met with several residents and met with Council Officers involved in deciding the application, expressing the concerns. In light of the concerns raised the application had been withdrawn and the Helmingham Estate will be issuing a statement soon to explain the situation. A new application is expected and NH will monitor to ensure that resident's views are properly represented.

6. Report from Suffolk County Councillor Matthew Hicks

The full Annual Report from the County Councillor is available on the Helmingham village website:

7. Report by a Representative of St Mary's Church PCC, Helmingham – Report on village website – presented by Councillor Lesley Clark

8. Report by a Representative of Helmingham Primary School – No report received.

9. Open forum for questions and discussion

None

Meeting closed 6.55 pm

Signed (Clerk) Signed (Chair)