

Catthorpe Village Meeting Minutes

Held: Monday 1 June 2026 | Attendance: 26 villagers | 7pm – 9:15pm

Next meeting: November 2026 (date to be confirmed)

Thank you to everyone who attended. Quintin Heath was in the Chair, and Jules Franks took the minutes

1. Elections

- Quintin Heath was re-elected Chair for a further year.
- Jules Franks was elected Secretary, welcome Jules.
- The Village Meeting thanked Jacqui Day for her service over the past six years as Secretary.

2. Village Finances

The accounts for 2025/26 were presented and approved.

The Village receives approximately £1,600 per year from the Lilbourne Wind Farm Fund (until 2035) and approximately £3,600 per year from the Eight Parishes Wind Farm Fund (until 2037).

Total income	£3,560.19
Total expenditure	£4,540.91
Excess expenditure over income	£980.72
Cash in bank at end of financial year 2025/26	£2,096.82

- The accounts will now be submitted for audit.

3. Air Ambulance Planning Application

The Air Ambulance planning application has now been submitted and entered the formal consultation process, which ends on Monday 21st June. Residents raised questions regarding construction traffic, public rights of way, helicopter operations and matters discussed at previous consultation events.

It was agreed that:

- Representatives of the Air Ambulance should be invited to a further village meeting (arranged for Tuesday 16th June)
- Villagers would like written responses to previously submitted questions in advance where possible.

4. Local Government Reorganisation

Quintin provided an update on proposals for local government reorganisation in Leics. It was noted that Harborough DC (under all proposals) will cease to exist. A Government decision is awaited, the new structure is likely to be in place for April 2028, with a shadow council elected in May 2027.

5. Defibrillator

A replacement defibrillator and cabinet have been ordered through the OurJay charity. The cost so far is £1,170 (budget is £1,500), funding will be reclaimed from the Eight Parishes Fund. Jen Wyke will coordinate installation and associated arrangements. Ray Maxwell knows an electrician, if needed.

6. Fly-Tipping

The Village continues to work with Harborough District Council regarding fly-tipping. The area is a frequent target by fly-tippers and additional measures may be considered. Quintin and Bob are chasing HDC on removing waste on Lilbourne Lane (it has now been cleared!)

7. Community Events

The following events were agreed (all with a budget of £200 unless stated):

- Village Gathering – Sunday 12 July 2026 at Judith's garden.
- Village BBQ – date to be determined following a village poll, budget also to be determined)
- Halloween – Amy Horton to coordinate.
- Bonfire Night – Jen Wyke to coordinate.
- Christmas Tree and Carol Event – Mark Brazier to coordinate.
- Remembrance Service – options to be explored, Mark Brazier is coordinating.

8. Village Projects

The Village discussed potential future uses of the Eight Parishes Wind Farm Fund, and we'll make sure there is time at the next VM in 2026 to discuss further Suggestions included; community training initiatives; village heritage projects; improvements to church facilities and wider community use of the church; and environmental and village improvement projects.

The proposals below were all circulated on WhatsApp and available on the Village website in advance

Village Planting

It was agreed:

- Existing sites of village planters should be retained and need to consider how to replace them.
- Up to £1,000 of Village funds should be allocated to village planting and environmental improvements for sites A-D & F, to be reclaimed from the Eight Parishes fund. Option for site E was rejected
- Jules Franks will coordinate the project and publish planting dates in the autumn.
- Jen Wyke will review possible improvements to the village pump area.

Village Tidy-Up ("Muck and Sweep")

A volunteer village tidy-up will be organised to improve the appearance of roads, verges and public areas. Paul Bowen, Chris Horton and the GoGs group will coordinate arrangements. A budget of up to £500 was agreed.

Elm Lane Hedge

A proposal to tidy the hedge alongside Elm Lane was discussed. It was agreed that a revised proposal should be developed and brought back to a future Village Meeting following further consultation.

9. Any Other Business

Speed Monitoring

Residents raised concerns regarding vehicle speeds through the village.

- Andy Netherwood will pursue replacement equipment required to access speed-monitoring data.
- Jen Wyke will investigate alternative speed-monitoring options.

Village Website

The renewal of the village website domain registration (£50 for three years) was approved. Andy N to be reimbursed

10. Next Village Meeting

November 2026 (date to be confirmed)

Annual Village Meeting: May 2027 (although noted that it can be hard to find a suitable date in May)