

Catthorpe Village Meeting October 2025

All welcome

Will be held on **Monday 27th October 2025**

At **7:00pm**, in the **Green Room** at **Cherry Tree** (thank you Chris and Amy)

Drinks are available from the (pay for yourself) bar!

What would you like to discuss?

So far we have:

1. **Discussion on Village Governance**, see my proposal overleaf
2. **Social Events** for the six months ahead: (big thank you to all the organisers of these events):
 - a. Halloween night – Friday 31st October. Request is for £110 for food, Amy G is organising
 - b. Bonfire Night – Friday 7th November, request is for £130 for food. Jen W is organising.
 - c. Remembrance Sunday Service on Sunday 9th November. Mark B organising, this year the focus is on the church service (no funds are required)
 - d. Christmas Tree Switch-on; carols and mulled wine. Date and costs tbc
 - e. Village social – Jules F is the lead.
3. **Improvement Projects**

I have circulated the written proposals I have (proposals a, b, d) on WhatsApp. If you'd like a copy please let me know and I will try to drop copies off. I will circulate other proposals when I have them

- a. Water Supply for the Allotment – Dave Penny (c£500) Proposal available
 - b. Renewal of defibrillator, which is out of warranty –Quintin (£1,135) Proposal available
 - c. Flower planting on corner of main street - Jules (£TBC)
 - d. Planting Hedge on corner of main street – proposer TBC (£1,500) Proposal available
 - e. Replacement of the Flower Box on Rugby Road and Village sign on the Swinford Rd – Jules (£TBC)
4. **Anything else** you'd like to cover or get an update on?
5. **Future meetings:**

The AGM will be in April or May 2026

What do our finances look like:

In the financial year **2025/26** so far:

Income: £13 in bank interest! (Money from Lilbourne windfarm, c£1,500, is paid in Jan each year).
Expenditure £528. £172 on defib spares, £103 flowers for planters, Elizabeth Tree sign £250

In addition, we have spent £1,475 on the allotment fence (in line with Josh's circulated proposal after the last meeting), and funds for this have been received from the Eight Parishes CIC (Swinford Windfarm).

The balance in our account is currently just over £2,500.

Looking forward to seeing you there

Please do keep in touch by

- Joining the Village WhatsApp Group with over 70 participants
 - o Admin is Jules Franks (07710 095393) and Amy Grindal (07970 968133)
- Follow the Village on Facebook @catthorpe village community with over 100 members
- Read the official stuff posted on www.catthorpe.uk
My details are Quintin Heath Email quintinheath@hotmail.com . Phone 07786 190637

Village Finance Governance

After the last Village Meeting in May, it became clear that the Village Meeting needs a simpler and clearer way to apply for funds and decide how they are used.

It was agreed that we should create a Funding Request Form (FRF). I received two suggested versions and have now combined them into one simple form. From the discussions at the last meeting and afterwards, it seems the main issue comes up when larger amounts of money are requested. Smaller spending, such as for Halloween or the Christmas Lights switch-on, continues to run smoothly.

It is proposed that any spending over £400 should include a completed Funding Request Form. This will then be discussed and voted on at the next Village Meeting. Once a FRF has been completed and reviewed by the Village Meeting Chair, it will be shared with villagers before the meeting.

For spending under £400 that has already been agreed in principle, it makes sense to keep things flexible. The details can be agreed between meetings on the Village WhatsApp group. These decisions will then be noted in the minutes of the next meeting.

The Funding Request Form is available from Quintin, and I will post a copy on the WhatsApp group and the Village website.

Questions

1. Will there be any exceptions to the £400 limit, for example, for time-sensitive events?
2. How should we approve small, unexpected costs (under £100) between meetings?
For example, the Halloween Party was not originally approved at a Village Meeting.

Conduct at meetings and village discussions

It is important that all residents have an equal voice in decisions that affect the village, and some residents have said that they felt uncomfortable with the tone of the discussion at the meeting and afterwards, including on WhatsApp.

I am sure you will join me in wanting to make sure that our meetings and discussions remain fair and respectful, giving everyone the chance to speak and be heard — even when we disagree.

Harborough District Council

In December 2024, the Government announced plans to change how local councils are organised. The aim is for all areas that currently have both district and county councils — like Leicestershire — to move to a single level of local government, known as a **unitary authority**. This is intended to make local government simpler and more efficient.

Two different proposals have been put to the Government:

1. Keep the City and County Councils and remove the District Councils, such as Harborough; or
2. Create three new councils — **North Leicestershire**, **South Leicestershire**, and **Leicester City**.

No timetable has been set, but the changes are expected to take effect around **April 2027**.

Separately, Harborough District Council will also be reviewing the boundaries of parish councils and parish meetings. I will share more information when the review begins.