

Helmdon Parish Plan Working Group

Meeting held on: 19 January 2026

Present: Cllrs Fitzroy-Ezzy, Minshall, Moody, Plunkett, and Shepherd

The Helmdon Parish Plan Working Group (HPPWG) met on 19 January 2025 to review progress of the various prioritised activities that have been started.

Village Shop Working Group

The parish council appointed Cllrs Hart and Fitzroy-Ezzy to a Village Shop Working Group on 28 November 2025 (Minute Ref: 488b) with a view to conducting a feasibility study into a new community shop for Helmdon. The working group met in early January 2026 and discussed a draft terms of reference, which was circulated to members of the HPPWG. The HPPWG reviewed the draft terms of reference and recommends that the parish council approves them at its meeting on 28 January 2026.

The Village Shop Working Group will meet again in February 2026 to put together a project plan and potentially recruit residents to help (including people who put their name and contact details in the original HPP survey).

Community Speed watch

Helmdon Parish Council resolved on 28 November 2025 (Minute Ref: 488c) to express an interest in taking part in Community Speed Watch in 2026. PC Matt Mumford, Safer Roads Team Enforcement Supervisor at Northamptonshire Police has confirmed that Helmdon will be included subject to the parish council:

- 1) Appointing a CSW Coordinator
- 2) Purchasing the requisite speed camera (cost c.£150)
- 3) Recruiting 6 – 10 volunteers

The parish council is asked to resolve 1) and 2) on 28 January 2026.

Off-road path from Helmdon to Brackley

Cllr Shepherd will contact the Clerk to Brackley Town Council to ascertain what activity, if any, there has been on this project from the Brackley end.

Drop off and pick up at school/Volunteer parking wardens/Explore off-street drop off.

The parish council's School Liaison Councillor was picking this up as part of the regular liaison meetings. A general update may be received on 28 January 2026.

Sports & Recreation

There are several HPP actions related to sports and recreation, and it was agreed that Cllr Shepherd would contact the chair of the Helmdon Sports & Social Club to see if there is any appetite for a formal meeting with the parish council to discuss how the two organisations can work together towards the needs identified in the parish plan.

Litter Pick 2026

It was agreed to ask for an agenda item on 28 January 2026 to agree a date and make arrangements for the spring Community Litter Pick, which is typically held in March (last year's litter pick was on Sunday 23 March 2025).

Fibre Broadband

Helmdon Parish Council resolved on 28 November 2025 (Minute Ref: 488c) to appoint Cllr Moody to lead on fibre broadband (FTTP) for Helmdon and a role description was approved. The HPPWG agreed that Cllrs Moody and Plunkett will liaise to scope out the issues and options.

Village Maintenance Group

The HPPWG agreed that Cllrs Moody and Shepherd would meet to develop a proposal for how a Village Maintenance Group could be established and run. It would be a big undertaking but there was significant support for it in the HPP survey.

HPP Action List

It was agreed to add a Red-Amber-Green rating to the action list to enable progress to be tracked and to help identify project risks.

Next Meeting

No forward meeting date was agreed, but the HPPWG will meet as required during 2026 to ensure that progress is monitored and that regular reports are provided to the parish council.

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