

HEPWORTH PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HEPWORTH PAVILION
THURSDAY 17 APRIL 2025
7.30pm

PRESENT:

Councillor Garry Bloomfield (GB) (Chair)
Councillor Nicholas Bennett (NB) (Vice Chair)
Councillor Marjorie MacPherson (MM)
Councillor Perry Penn (PP)
Councillor Louise Robinson (LR)

IN ATTENDANCE:

Andy Osman (Parish Clerk) (AO)
District Cllr Carol Bull (CB)
Eleven members of the public

25/37 APOLOGIES

Cllr Hollie Williams sent apologies which were accepted.

25/38 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

LR declared an interest in Item 9b, Planning Application DC/25/0511/CLE.

25/39 PUBLIC FORUM

DC/24/1622/FUL. Members of the public highlighted a range of ongoing concerns relating to this planning application:

- **Management** – It was not clear how the proposed business would be managed on site to reduce risk of noise or traffic disruption to nearby properties.
- **Opening Hours** – The opening hours were viewed as excessive.
- **Lighting** – Proposed lighting was considered disproportionate to rural setting..
- **Noise** – There was concern that a 2nd dog business operating next to an existing dog business would increase risk of noise.
- **Location** - The proposed location was next to existing properties.
- **Parking & Traffic**– There was concern that cars would be parked on the verge and that persons using the site would add considerably to the traffic flows on roads where large sections are single track. Safety concerns in relation to the Beck Street junction and residents driveways were also raised.
- **Stanton Rides** – additional traffic and proximity to bridleways would deter riders.

County Cllr Spicer arrived at 8.10pm

25/40 REPORTS FROM AND QUESTIONS TO BOTH DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS

County Cllr Spicer provided the following update:

- County Farms. Discussions were still ongoing in relation to ditch clearing by a tenant of County Farms. It was agreed that JS would report the outcome of discussions at the next Parish Council meeting.
- Allotments. The meeting acknowledged that it was unlikely that land would be surrendered from County Farms areas. LR **agreed to write an article for the Hepworth Herald to gauge support for allotments.**
- Weston Lane. Suffolk Rights of Way have acknowledged that the new surface still has small pieces of glass coming through. It was agreed to arrange a meeting with County Cllr Spicer and Rights of Way to discuss the issue further.
- Planning Application DC/24/1622/FUL. It was noted from the public forum that the Suffolk Highways response to this application had not considered Stanton Rides. CB **agreed to discuss this issue with the case planning officer.**

District Cllr Bull provided the following update:

- Bin Collections. Changes to bin collections over Easter were highlighted.

25/41 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Minutes of the meeting held on 20 March 2025 had been previously circulated and **it was resolved that these were an accurate record of the meetings.**

25/42 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Minute 25/28: 20 March 2025 – Buses. LR reported some problems with the new bus taking pupils to school being late. This was thought to be caused by not enough time being put into the schedule to take fares. It was highlighted that Suffolk County Council had commissioned consultants to look at future bus options. The meeting noted a request for future funding for bus timetables. LR reported that a meeting with the County Council to discuss the proposed relocation of the bus shelter would take place on 30 April.

25/43 HIGHWAYS MATTERS

No matters discussed.

25/44 FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

Finance Report. The meeting noted the finance report (current account balance £3,190.58, savings account balance £7,000.00 and the projected outturn at the end of the FY of approx. £3,200 current account and £7,000 savings account). The following payments were authorised:

SALC Membership	£269.90
SALC Payroll	£22.80

NB agreed to authorise the payments.

25/45 PLANNING MATTERS

DC/24/1622/FUL. NB highlighted continued inconsistencies in proposed use following the supplementary information provided by the applicant to the Parish Council's points of clarification, eg states no intent to operate after dark and yet retains proposals for lighting and hours of operation 6am to 9pm. The meeting resolved that there were still material issues:

- **Traffic**. There would be increased traffic on a narrow lane with potential safety issues for existing users.
- **Lighting**. The proposed lighting would impact a currently dark rural area.
- **Loss of Amenity**. The operation would increase noise for neighbouring properties.

The meeting agreed to OBJECT to the application.

DC/25/0511/CLE. The meeting agreed to offer no comment on this application.

DC/25/0361/ADV. The meeting noted that the proposal was disproportionately larger than other signs in the area and agreed to offer this as a comment along with SUPPORTING the application.

25/46 CORRESPONDENCE

None

25/47 QUESTIONS TO THE CHAIRMAN

'The Stables'. NB asked the Chair if CB could provide an update re "The Stables". CB updated the meeting on the ongoing monitoring of 'stables field' from a planning enforcement perspective and confirmed that the status of the field needed to be clarified. NB and CB agreed that if it is classified as agricultural land, the existing works could constitute unlawful development. **CB agreed to clarify the status of the field**, thought to be agricultural use only, in relation to the development thus far.

25/48 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was agreed that the next meeting will be the Annual Parish Council Meeting on Thursday 15 May 2025 at 7.45 pm. This will follow the Annual Parish Meeting which starts at 7pm.

The meeting closed at 9pm.



Andy Osman
Parish Clerk
24 April 2025