

HEPWORTH PARISH COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING  
HEPWORTH PAVILION  
THURSDAY 20 FEBRUARY 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)  
Councillor Hollie Williams (HW)

IN ATTENDANCE:

Andy Osman (Parish Clerk) (AO)  
District Cllr Carol Bull (CB)

One member of the public

25/13 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

25/14 APOLOGIES

None.

25/15 PUBLIC FORUM

The member of the public complained about the strong smell from the farm at the top of Church Lane. **CB agreed to discuss this with West Suffolk Council Environmental Health.**

25/16 REPORTS FROM AND QUESTIONS TO BOTH DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS

The meeting noted the update from County Cllr Spicer which had been pre-circulated.

District Cllr Bull provided the following update:

- Devolution and Local Government Review. The main work of West Suffolk Council is focused on this review which could see elections for a Mayor covering Norfolk and Suffolk in 2026, for a shadow unitary council(s) in 2027 and for any new unitary structure in 2028. The review would see no changes to Town and Parish Councils.

25/17 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Minutes of the meetings held on 16 January 2025 had been previously circulated and **it was resolved that these were an accurate record of the meetings.**

## 25/18 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Minute 25/04: 16 January 2025 – Support Our Buses. LR reported the new 73A route would start on 24 February 2025 and will come through Hepworth in the morning and afternoon to facilitate transport to Thurston College. Leaflets showing the new route and timings would be distributed by volunteers.

Minute 25/09: 16 January 2025 – Signs. **CB agreed to discuss the positioning of the Clarkes sign** with Planning Enforcement to reflect visibility concerns raised at the meeting.

Minute 25/09: 16 January 2025 – ‘Stables’ Field. The meeting noted the response of West Suffolk Council Planning Enforcement dated 10 February 2025 to the Parish Council’s earlier Note of Concern in relation to activity at ‘stables’ field. **CB agreed to clarify why the response cannot be made public.**

Minute 25/11: 16 January 2025 – Events Noticeboard. The Chair highlighted that the new events noticeboard only came with a single key and required magnetic holders. **It was agreed that the Clerk would purchase 20 magnets and 3 extra keys for the board.**

## 25/19 HIGHWAYS MATTERS

### **It was agreed that:**

- The Chair would report overhanging trees on Church Lane via the Suffolk Highways Reporting tool.
- LR would report overgrown hedges on pavements along The Street via the Suffolk Highways Reporting tool.

## 25/20 FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

Finance Report. The meeting noted the finance report (current account balance £4,205.35, savings account balance £7,000.00 and the projected outturn at the end of the FY of approx. £3,100 current account and £7,000 savings account). No payments required authorisation.

## 25/21 PLANNING MATTERS

Shepherds Grove Masterplan. The meeting noted that Jaynic were developing a Masterplan for the Shepherds Grove site to align with the objectives of the relevant West Suffolk Council concept statement (part of the Local Plan).

## 25/22 CORRESPONDENCE

- a. Devolution and Local Government Review. The meeting noted the update from Suffolk County Council that had been previously circulated. Future review updates can be found at: <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/devolution/>.
- b. West Suffolk Civic Dinner. The meeting noted the invite from West Suffolk Council that had been previously circulated.

## 25/23 QUESTIONS TO THE CHAIRMAN

- Bus Shelter. LR queried whether the bus shelter needed to be repositioned following the change in bus route. **The Chair agreed to discuss the issue further with County Cllr Spicer.**
- Flowers. It was **agreed to refund LR the cost of flowers** for the planter near the old village sign up to £30 on production of receipt.

## 25/24 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was agreed that the next Parish Council meeting will be on Thursday 20 March 2025 at 7.30 pm.

The meeting closed at 8.28 pm.



Andy Osman  
Parish Clerk  
27 February 2025