

HEPWORTH PARISH COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING  
HEPWORTH PAVILION  
THURSDAY 20 MARCH 2025  
7.30pm

PRESENT:

Councillor Garry Bloomfield (GB) (Chair)  
Councillor Nicholas Bennett (NB) (Vice Chair)  
Councillor Perry Penn (PP)  
Councillor Louise Robinson (LR)  
Councillor Hollie Williams (HW)

IN ATTENDANCE:

Andy Osman (Parish Clerk) (AO)  
Six members of the public

25/25 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

25/26 APOLOGIES

Cllr Marjorie MacPherson sent apologies which were accepted.

25/27 PUBLIC FORUM

DC/24/1622/FUL. Members of the public highlighted a range of 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.
- **Fencing** – Proposed fencing around the site would impact on local rural landscape.
- **Noise** – There was concern that a 2<sup>nd</sup> dog business operating next to an existing dog business would increase risk of noise.
- **Location** - The proposed location was next to existing properties whereas alternative locations on the applicant's land could reduce such proximity.
- **Access** – There was concern that the proposed access would not cope during winter months and cars would be parked on the main road.

District Cllr Carol Bull arrived at 7.55pm  
County Cllr Joanna Spicer arrived at 8.00pm

## 25/28 REPORTS FROM AND QUESTIONS TO BOTH DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS

County Cllr Spicer provided the following update:

- Devolution. The ongoing public consultation for proposed Norfolk and Suffolk Mayor was highlighted. Elections for the Mayor would take place in May 2026.
- Bus Shelter. County Council support for bus shelter changes was available. It was agreed that **LR would meet with County Cllr Spicer and an officer from the County Council transport team to discuss the aspiration further.**
- County Farms. Discussions were still ongoing in relation to ditch clearing by a tenant of County Farms.
- Western Lane. The restoration of Western Lane has now been completed. Concerns were raised about continued presence of glass and the Parish Council would monitor the lane in the future.
- Allotments. LR enquired whether there was any County Farms land available to provide allotments for the village. **County Cllr Spicer agreed to discuss this further with County Farms**

District Cllr Bull provided the following update:

- Local Government Review. Two different Suffolk options were going forward as part of Local Government Review work; the County Council was proposing a single unitary authority while the 5 District/Borough Councils were presenting an case for two or three Unitary Authorities.

County Cllr Joanna Spicer left at 8.30pm

District Cllr Carol Bull left at 8.30pm

## 25/29 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

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

## 25/30 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

No matters arising were identified from the last meeting that were not included in the agenda.

## 25/31 HIGHWAYS MATTERS

No matters discussed.

## 25/32 FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

Finance Report. The meeting noted the finance report (current account balance £4,230.11, 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:

Noticeboard Company	£36.24
Clerks Salary & Exps	£985.20
Louise Robinson (Flowers)	£17.99

LR agreed to authorise the first two payments and NB agreed to authorise the last payment.

## 25/33 PLANNING MATTERS

DC/24/1622/FUL. Considering the earlier public comments on this planning application, the meeting **agreed to submit a HOLDING OBJECTION and to seek clarification of certain details** that currently prevented a final position to be resolved:

- **Location** – Why was the location chosen close to existing properties when alternatives were available?
- **On Site Management** – Further detail is needed on how the dog business will be managed on site to reduce community impacts.
- **Hours of Operation** – Why does the business need to operate from 6am to 9pm, 7 days a week?
- **Access** – What highways and associated works are needed to provide safe all-weather access and what transport assessment has been undertaken to quantify traffic impacts?
- **Local Landscape** – What mitigation is planned to reduce the visual impact of the proposed site, particularly the new fencing?

## 25/34 CORRESPONDENCE

- a. West Suffolk Local Plan Modification. The meeting noted the previously circulated email covering West Suffolk Local Plan Modifications.
- b. Review of Litter Bin Collections. The meeting supported the proposed changes by West Suffolk Council that had been pre-circulated subject to:
  - The new bin at the pavilion gate being relocated to the other side of the entrance to avoid blocking the road.
  - The litter bins in the bus shelters being left and these will be emptied via local arrangements.

## 25/35 QUESTIONS TO THE CHAIRMAN

None

25/36 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was agreed that the next Parish Council meeting will be on Thursday 17 April 2025 at 7.30 pm.

The meeting closed at 9.15 pm.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andy Osman', is positioned above the printed name.

Andy Osman  
Parish Clerk  
28 March 2025