

HEPWORTH PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HEPWORTH PAVILION
THURSDAY 16 JANUARY 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)
County Cllr Joanna Spicer (JS)

One member of the public

25/01 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

25/02 APOLOGIES

None.

25/03 PUBLIC FORUM

The member of the public commended the attendance of the Chair at the January 2025 West Suffolk Development Control Committee meeting and expressed concern about the approval of the glamping pod planning application plus the ongoing situation at the 'stables' field.

25/04 REPORTS FROM AND QUESTIONS TO BOTH DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS

County Cllr Spicer provided the following update:

- A1088 Bridge Repair. Due to open by the end of February 2025.
- Speeding – The Street. LR updated the meeting on recent SpeedWatch data which indicated that there appeared to be no increase in monitored speeds.
- Local Government Review. Suffolk County Council had confirmed intent to be part of local government devolution fast track. This could lead to a directly elected Major for Norfolk and Suffolk and the creation of one or two unitary authorities covering Suffolk. Elections for Mayor could take place next year and, if Suffolk were accepted for fast track devolution, there would be no County Council elections this year.

- Save our Buses. A new bus timetable which would include the bus stop on The Street was likely to start after February ½ term. Save our Buses has now become Support our Buses. Funding for new service until the end of the year but longer-term provision depends upon the service being used.
- Weston Lane. PP reported that work on Weston Lane was still ongoing.

District Cllr Bull was not in attendance.

25/05 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Minutes of the meetings held on 21 November 2024 and 4 December 2024 had been previously circulated and **it was resolved that these were an accurate record of the meetings.**

25/06 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Minute 24/119: 21 November 2024 – Drainage Issue. **JS agreed to chase the answer from County Farms** to clarify responsibility for clearing the ditches.

County Cllr Spicer left the meeting at 8pm

25/07 HIGHWAYS MATTERS

None

25/08 FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

- a. Finance Report. The meeting noted the finance report (current account balance £4,426.43, 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). The following payments were authorised:

Hepworth Pavillion Hire	£72.00
Web hosting	£40.00
Replacement SID batteries	£109.08

NB agreed to provide 2nd bank authorisation.

- b. Precept FY 25/26. The meeting agreed a precept of £6,250 for FY25/26.
- c. Replacement SID Batteries. The meeting agreed to reimburse the cost of replacement SID batteries (£109.08)

25/09 PLANNING MATTERS

Role of Delegation Panel. The meeting queried the role of the West Suffolk Council Delegation Panel and agreed that the **Clerk would share available information on the Council's website.**

Signs. The meeting noted the 18 December 2024 response from West Suffolk Council enforcement on the signs at the crossroads A143/Sumner Rd/Clay Lane and agreed that the **Clerk would request the timeline of the route forward** with sign owners indicated in this response.

'Stables' field. The meeting reviewed a draft email handout prepared by the Chair covering ongoing concerns about activity at this location. It was **agreed that the Chair would revise the draft to incorporate comments made at the meeting and recirculate** out of meeting for agreement. Once agreed, the **Clerk would send this note to the Service Manager (Planning - Development), West Suffolk Council.** The meeting agreed to review any response at the next meeting to consider the next steps which could include consideration of more formal complaint action.

25/10 CORRESPONDENCE

a. Save our Buses. Previously covered at item 25/04.

25/11 QUESTIONS TO THE CHAIRMAN

Bereavement of Ex-Councillor. The meeting noted the recent passing of an ex-parish councillor and agreed to a sum of up to £50 to recognise past service.

Events Noticeboard. The Chair confirmed that this new noticeboard would be erected soon.

Dunhill Lane flooding. PP highlighted that County Farms were investigating the flooding from the ditch along Dunhill Lane.

25/12 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

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

The meeting closed at 9.10 pm.



Andy Osman
Parish Clerk
22 January 2025