

HEPWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL MEETING

HEPWORTH PAVILION

THURSDAY 15 MAY 2025

7.45pm

PRESENT:

Councillor Garry Bloomfield (GB) (Chair)

Councillor Nick Bennett Marjorie MacPherson (NB)

Councillor Louise Robinson (LR)

IN ATTENDANCE:

Andy Osman (Parish Clerk) (AO)

25/62 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

GB and NB declared an interest in agenda items 8 a and b, DC/25/0700/LB and DC/25/0699/HH.

25/63 APOLOGIES

Cllrs Marjorie MacPherson, Perry Penn and Hollie Williams sent apologies which were accepted.

25/64 PUBLIC FORUM

None

25/65 REPORTS FROM AND QUESTIONS TO BOTH DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS

County Cllr Spicer reported the following:

- Weston Lane. County Cllr Spicer, James Pickering (Rights of Way Manager) and Cllr Perry Penn met in May to discuss the ongoing issues. In the short term, Suffolk County Council would organise a 'pick' of the route to remove as much unsuitable material as can reasonably be removed and catalogue the surface of the route with photos. Contact will be made with the British Horse Society to organise another meeting on-site.
- Bus Shelter Bid. LR reported that she had submitted a bid for a new bus shelter on The Street near to Wood Lane. County Cllr Spicer confirmed that if successful this would be grant funded by Suffolk County Council.
- Ditch Flooding. The County Farms Manager has confirmed that the tenant farmer was responsible for clearing ditches on The Street alongside county farmland. It was agreed that **LR would send County Cllr Spicer the photos** of past flooding.

District Cllr Bull reported the following:

- DC/24/1622/FUL. District Cllr Bull confirmed that the case planning officer was aware of Stanton Rides in relation to this application.

25/66 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Minutes of the meeting held on 15 May 2025 had been previously circulated and **it was resolved that these were an accurate record of the meetings.**

County Cllr Spicer left the meeting at 7.58pm

25/67 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

No matters arising

25/68 FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

Finance Report. The meeting noted the finance report (current account balance £8,907.77, 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:

Clerks Salary & Exps	£993.40
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It was agreed to seek authorisation from Cllr Louise Robinson for the payment.

25/69 PLANNING MATTERS

a. DC/25/0700/LB and DC/25/0699/HH. The meeting was not able to resolve a position with these two planning applications due to the interests declared at minute 25/62 and the remaining number of councillors present not being quorate for decision making.

b. 'Stables' field. NB commented that the secondary legislation identified by West Suffolk Council to support permitted development at this site also included a clause that prevented development if within 25m of a metalled part of a trunk road or classified road. The meeting agreed that the legislative basis for the development remained unresolved and that the best way forward was for the Parish Council and its planning subject matter advisor to meet with the West Suffolk Council enforcement officer to clear up any misunderstanding. It was agreed that the **Clerk was to email to arrange this meeting and also to seek a copy of the policy used to triage enforcement cases.** It was also agreed to consider a formal complaint if the meeting request did not lead to clarification on the legal basis for development.

District Cllr Bull left the meeting at 8.17pm

25/70 HIGHWAYS MATTERS

No matters discussed.

25/71 CORRESPONDENCE

None

25/72 QUESTIONS TO THE CHAIRMAN

Storm Babet Flood Investigation Form. The meeting noted the flood investigation form sent by the Suffolk County Floods Team seeking detailed information on the flooding that occurred in October 2023 to allow a statutory flood investigation to take place. It was agreed that the **Clerk would complete the form in draft**, using information saved at the time, ready for the next Parish Council meeting to review and agree. Any further photos, with appropriate geolocation information, should be sent to the Clerk.

25/73 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

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

The meeting closed at 8.25pm.



Andy Osman
Parish Clerk
26 June 2025