

HEPWORTH PARISH COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF A PARISH COUNCIL MEETING  
HEPWORTH PAVILION  
THURSDAY 20 NOVEMBER 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

25/116 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

25/117 APOLOGIES

None.

25/118 PUBLIC FORUM

B1111 Road Closure Impact. Traffic issues along The Street were highlighted during the recent closure of the B1111. These included HGVs seeking to pass along narrow stretches of the road and causing verge damage. The meeting agreed to pass on the observations to Suffolk Highways Network Assurance and to seek better signage in any future works (**Clerk action after confirmation of email by County Cllr Spicer**).

25/119 REPORTS FROM AND QUESTIONS TO DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS

a. County Cllr Update. County Cllr Joanna Spicer provide the following update:

- **New Bus Stop.** Suffolk County Council have confirmed they own the land for the proposed new bus stop and have now placed the order for the concrete hardstanding. The new bus shelter will be ordered shortly.
- **Government Consultation.** A consultation on two proposals for local government reorganisation in Suffolk has begun and ends on 11 January 2026. Link to consultation:  
<https://consult.communities.gov.uk/local-government-reorganisation/norfolk-suffolk/>.

It was agreed to highlight this consultation on the village website and in the Herald  
**(Clerk to pass onto Herald Editor).**

- b. District Cllr Update. District Cllr Carol Bull was not in attendance.

County Cllr Spicer left the meeting at 8.25

#### 25/120 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

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

#### 25/121 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

- a. Jaynic & Clarkes Signs. The Clerk confirmed that both unauthorised signs were now being dealt with by West Suffolk Council Enforcement.
- b. Village Hall/Church Sign. An update on the feasibility of replacing the post holding the village hall and church signs produced by Suffolk Highways had been pre-circulated. This confirmed the low feasibility of being able to complete the works due to the verge being quite narrow with not much stability and the presence of a concrete headwall close by. The meeting agreed to consider an alternative location the other side of the ditch in the hedge and **PP agreed to discuss this with the landowner.**

#### 25/122 FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

- a. Finance Report. The meeting noted the finance report (current account balance £6,268.74, savings account balance £7,000.00 and the projected outturn at the end of the FY of approx. £3,900 current account and £7,000 savings account). The following payments were agreed:

CAS Web hosting & setup	£216.00
CAS gov.uk domain name	£54.50
Barningham PC	£100.00
Hepworth Pavillion Hire	£96.00

LR agreed to authorise payments.

- b. Budget FY 26/27. The meeting discussed the draft budget for FY26/27 that had been previously circulated. It was resolved to adopt this budget unamended and to use a precept for FY26/27 of £6,250 (no change) at the January 2026 Parish Council meeting where the Precept Form would be completed. It was also agreed to rename the existing 'Village Hall' reserve of £2,000 to 'Village Hall Play Park Refurbishment'.
- c. Dates for Parish Council Meeting 2026/27. The draft dates for meetings on 2026/27 that had been pre-circulated were agreed.

## 25/123 PLANNING MATTERS

No new planning matters. NR reported that the Parish Council were represented at the recent West Suffolk Council Cabinet Meeting discussing the draft Shepherds Grove Masterplan.

## 25/124 HIGHWAYS MATTERS

None.

## 25/125 CORRESPONDANCE RECEIVED

None.

## 25/126 QUESTIONS TO THE CHAIRMAN

Bus Offer. LR reported that Symonds Buses were running a seasonal offer on the No 73 bus route.

Wreath. The Chair thanked PP and MM for representing the Parish Council, including laying a wreath, at the Remembrance Service in the Church.

Bus Stop Window Frame. The Chair advised that the window of the bus stop had been replaced by Kieren from K & R Construction at no cost, as a gesture of goodwill to the village.

## 25/127 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was noted that the date of the next Parish Council meeting had been set for Thursday 15 January 2026 at 7.30 pm.

The meeting closed at 8.50 pm.



Andy Osman  
Parish Clerk  
27 November 2025