

HEPWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HEPWORTH PAVILION
THURSDAY 15 JANUARY 2026
7.30pm

PRESENT:

Councillor Garry Bloomfield (GB) (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)
Six members of the public

26/1 APOLOGIES

Councillor Nick Bennett sent apologies which were accepted.

26/2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

26/3 PUBLIC FORUM

Village Hall Storage Container. PP confirmed he would contact pest control.

'Stables Field'. CB indicated that the Planning Inspector would hear an appeal of the West Suffolk Council Enforcement Notice in February. **CB agreed to clarify waste bin collection** with West Suffolk Council for this location.

Purchase of Speed Indicator Device (SID). The meeting noted that one of the current SID was unserviceable and that there was no repair pathway. The positive value of the SIDs along The Street was noted in relation to the effect they had on speeding through the village. The pre-circulated quote of £6215.96 (inc VAT) for two Evolis Vision solar powered SIDs from Elan City was accepted. It was agreed that:

- The Clerk would complete Suffolk County Council paperwork for two new SIDs at the currently used locations.
- The Clerk would review the suitability of the existing poles to mount the new SIDs in line with Suffolk Highways policy (at least 1.3m from verge to bottom of SID). The cost for replacement poles of £630 from Suffolk Highways was noted.
- Purchase one Evolis Vision SID this FY from operating budget.

- Prepare to purchase a 2nd Evolis Vision SID in the new FY once any locality grant funding was confirmed. It was noted that CB had offered £1000 from her locality budget in the new FY.

The meeting also agreed to publicise this purchase to elicit any public donations towards the overall cost; any donors should contact the Clerk.

26/4 REPORTS FROM AND QUESTIONS TO DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS

- a. District Cllr Update. District Cllr Carol Bull provided the following update:

- **Clarkes Sign.** It was confirmed that West Suffolk Council enforcement was following up that the sign had not been removed following refusal of retrospective planning permission.
- **Jaynic Sign.** It was confirmed that the retrospective planning application for this sign had been withdrawn and the issue was now with West Suffolk Council enforcement.
- **Fly Tipping.** The reported fly tipping is being resolved.
- **Bin Changes Leaflet.** All residents are due to receive a leaflet as part of wider West Suffolk Council communications to explain the changes to bin collections due to come into force in May.

County Cllr Spicer arrived at 8pm.

- b. County Cllr Update. County Cllr Joanna Spicer provided the following update:

- **Village Hall/Church Sign.** PP confirmed he had spoken to the landowner in relation to the option to relocate the sign into the verge and this was not acceptable. JS suggested expanding the existing road sign at the junction to indicate leading to the Village Hall and the Church. It was **agreed to revisit this option at the February Parish Council meeting.**
- **A143 remediation.** It was indicated that the A143 road surface between Stanton and Ixworth would be fixed at no cost to the County Council by the original highway contractor.
- **Culvert.** JS **agreed to follow up with the drainage team the clearing of the culvert** under The Street by Wood Lane.

County Cllr Spicer and District Cllr Bull left the meeting at 8.20pm.

26/5 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

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

26/6 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

a. Village Hall/Church Sign. This item is covered in Minute 26/4.

26/7 FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

a. Finance Report. The meeting noted the finance report (current account balance £4,525.31, savings account balance £7,000.00 and the projected outturn at the end of the FY of approx. £3,500 current account and £7,000 savings account). The following payment was agreed:

Just a Little Thing (Website) £40.00

LR agreed to authorise payment.

b. Precept FY 26/27. The meeting agreed a precept of £6,250 for FY 26/27 [Clerk Note: The Chair and the Clerk signed the precept form at the end of the meeting].

c. Implementation of new IT Arrangements. The meeting noted a pre-circulated brief on new IT arrangements and **agreed that from 1 February the Clerk would use the new gov.uk email and the Parish Council would use the new gov.uk website**.

d. Purchase of new Speed Indicator Devices. This item is covered at Minute 26/3.

e. Christmas Lunch Donation. It was agreed to resolve any donation for the Christmas Lunch in the late autumn to ensure funding was available prior to the event.

26/8 PLANNING MATTERS

a. DC/25/1735/HH. The meeting agreed to support this application.

26/9 HIGHWAYS MATTERS

- **Horses Sign**. It was **agreed the Clerk would investigate how Horse Warning Signs** could be installed along Market Western Rd.
- **A143 Illuminated Sign**. **HW agreed to report the obscured illuminated sign** on the A143.

26/10 CORRESPONDANCE RECEIVED

a. West Suffolk Traffic & Speeding Group. It was **agreed that LR would represent the Parish Council on this group**.

b. Charity Concert. The pre-circulated invite to the West Suffolk Chairman Charity Concert was noted.

26/11 QUESTIONS TO THE CHAIRMAN

- **Death of Former Councillor.** MM reported the recent bereavement of former Parish Councillor John Beales. It was **agreed to purchase flowers if appropriate up to £40.**
- **Buses.** LR reported that she was looking at a dial a ride lift system for the village given that a more frequent bus service through the village was very unlikely in the future.
- **Flood Signs.** LR presented options for flood signs. It was **agreed the Clerk would purchase two signs for delivery** to the Chair after receiving further detail from LR.

26/12 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was agreed that the date of the next Parish Council meeting would be Thursday 19 February 2026 at 7.30 pm.

The meeting closed at 8.52 pm.



Andy Osman
Parish Clerk
22 January 2026