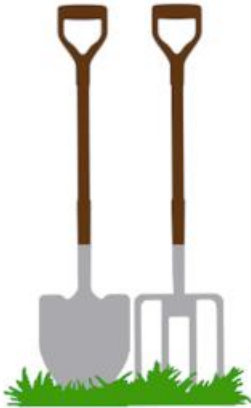


Hepworth Herald

Issue 51 ~ February 2026



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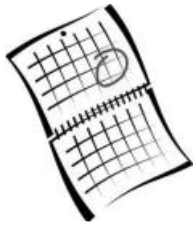
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What's On?

This is what we know about at the moment. Please share any other events you have planned, or that you hear about. Send them to hepworthherald@gmail.com

Hepworth Art Group	Every Mon @1000-1300 » Hepworth Pavilion
Village Voices	Every Mon @1430 » Hepworth Pavilion.
Hepworth Coffee Morning	1st & 3rd Thu @1030 » Hep. Pavilion. See p4
Village Service	1st February@0930 » St Peters.
Parish Council Meeting	19th February@1930 » Hepworth Pavilion
Local Talks for Local People	25th February@1930 » Hep. Pavilion. p11
Suffolk Mobile Library	26th February@1545 - 1600 » See p6
Holy Communion	1st March@0930 » St Peters
Parish Council Meeting	19th March@1930 » Hepworth Pavilion
Local Talks for Local People	25th March@1930 » Hepworth Pavilion. p11
Suffolk Mobile Library	26th March@1545 - 1600 » See p6

Events in Hepworth?

Many village events are supported by **Hepworth2Enjoy**. This is an engaged, friendly collective of Hepworth villagers who come together to put on village events and to help others put on village events, providing people-power, experience, and bags of enthusiasm! We now have a small budget to help. Please contact Clare (250 660)



Do you have a new neighbour?

The Parish Council has prepared a Welcome Pack for people new to the village.

It can be found on the Village Website at

<http://hepworthvillage.co.uk>

Speed Indicator Devices



Device No. 1 at A143 end of The Street is awaiting replacement (See Parish Council Minutes)

Device No. 2 at Barningham end of The Street

61 days from 01/11/2025 to 01/01/2026.

Vehicles **arriving** into village from Barningham:

Total number of vehicles:- **28226**

Average speed for ALL vehicles:- **26.3mph**

Total number of vehicle speeds above 30 mph:- **3797 (13.45%)**

No. of incidents 40mph and above:- **86** 50mph and above:- **1**

Highest speed recorded:- **52mph**

Vehicles **leaving** the village toward Barningham:

Total number of vehicles:- **28641**

Average speed for ALL vehicles:- **26.8mph**

Total number of vehicle speeds above 30 mph:- **4937 (17.24%)**

No. of incidents 40mph and above:- **178** 50mph and above:- **7**

Highest speed recorded:- **56mph**

Speedwatch Along The Street:



For more information about Speedwatch, or to get involved, call Richard on 07979745990

Nov. 2025: 2 sessions 5 vehicles logged

max speed = 37 mph

Dec. 2025: 2 sessions 8 vehicles logged

max speed = 41 mph

Hepworth coffee morning

On the first and third Thursday of each month at 1030 -1200.

Come and join us for a coffee and chat, meet new people and old friends.

Just £4 a session.



From the Rectory

Dear Friends & Neighbours,

February often feels like a month caught between seasons. Christmas is well and truly packed away... (although I have to confess leaving a few twinkly lights up); the days are still short, and yet if we look closely we see signs of hope and bulbs are already pushing through the cold ground. Snowdrops appear almost unnoticed at first, lambing time edges closer, and the light lingers just a little longer each evening.

In the church calendar, February brings us Candlemas, the feast that marks the presentation of Jesus in the Temple. It's a moment that can easily be overlooked, but it holds something deeply precious. Simeon and Anna, two elderly figures who have waited faithfully for years... and finally they see what they have long hoped for: the light of God coming into the world. Simeon describes Jesus as *"a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel"*.

Light is such a powerful image at this time of year. We are all weary of darkness by February... dark mornings, dark evenings, and sometimes dark news that weighs heavily on our hearts. Yet Candlemas reminds us that God's light does not wait for perfect conditions. It shines into ordinary, imperfect, even difficult circumstances. Hope doesn't arrive with a fanfare; it often comes quietly, held gently in waiting arms.

February is also a month when we're invited to pause and reflect. Before we step into the busy-ness of spring and before Lent calls us to reflect once again on Jesus' journey to the Cross... there's time to ask a simple but important questions: Where have I noticed light recently? Who has helped me see hope when I struggled to find it myself? And how might I be a small bearer of that light to others?

In our small communities, light often shows itself in very practical ways: neighbours checking in on one another, meals shared, lifts offered, conversations held at the gate or over a cup of tea. These moments matter more than we sometimes realise. They are reflections of God's care, lived out in everyday faithfulness.

As we move through February, my prayer is that we would have eyes to notice the light already among us...to see God's love at work in the small details of a friendly 'hello' or a glimpse of the first snowdrops. And of course, there is and will always be a warm welcome and the promise of God's light for you in our churches which we'd love to share with you.

God Bless, Rev Cathy



SUFFOLK LIBRARIES

Did you know about the Suffolk Mobile Library Service?
It visits Hepworth every 4 weeks on a Thursday, and stops at:

Half Moon, The Street between 1545 and 1600

The coming village visits will be on

- 26th February
- 26th March

Do stop in, say hello, and
borrow a book or two!



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HEPWORTH PARISH COUNCIL - MINUTES OF A PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

HEPWORTH PAVILION THURSDAY 20 NOVEMBER 2025@1930

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 provided 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 1930. The meeting closed at 2050.

Andy Osman - Parish Clerk

27 November 2025

HEPWORTH PARISH COUNCIL - MINUTES OF A PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

HEPWORTH PAVILION - THURSDAY 15 JANUARY 2026@1930

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 Small 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 1930. The meeting closed at 2052.

Andy Osman - Parish Clerk

22 January 2026

Hepworth Weather (as measured on The Street)

	Max. Temp:	17.1°C	6th
November 2025:	Min. Temp:	-2.1°C	20th
	Total Rainfall:	95mm	
	Wettest Day:	23.9mm	22nd
	Max. Temp:	13.7°C	7th
December 2025:	Min Temp:	-1.4°C	30th
	Total Precipitation:	35mm	
	Wettest Day:	8.3mm	18th

November 2025: November was mild, very wet, very changeable and very unsettled, with a short cold spell around the middle of the month. 13th/14th - Neither 24-hour period made up the wettest day of the month but this 48-hour period gave 44.6 mm of rain in association with Storm Claudia. 21st-23rd - The highest pressure of the month (1027.9 mb) was followed by the lowest pressure of the month (990.4 mb) just over 48 hours later. 22nd - Persistent heavy rain in the afternoon and evening gave 23.9 mm and local flash flooding.

December 2025: Very mild and dry. Frequent southerly winds. Trending colder last week of month.

Kindly provided by Richard Hinton. See the latest weather and historical Hepworth weather data at <http://j.mp/HepworthWS>



We are on the hunt for Covers

Hepworth Herald would love to feature the talents of its residents (of all ages!) on the front cover. If you or your children have a seasonal painting, drawing or photograph you would like to share, please consider submitting to hepworthherald@gmail.com

Planning Matters Discussed at Parish Council

DC/25/1735/HH -Woodside Cottage Sumner Road Hepworth, IP22 2PZ



Local Talks for Local People



In response to the recent questionnaire responses, **Hepworth2Enjoy** is organising a series of talks from local people on a range of topics this Spring.

Hepworth Pavilion

7.30pm

£3.00 to include tea/coffee and cake – pay at the door

Please come and join us on the 4th Wednesday of the month starting February



Wednesday 25th February

Wednesday 25th March

Wednesday 22nd April

Look out for further details on posters around the village and future issues of the Hepworth Herald.

Talks booked so far include (order to be confirmed - look out for posters around the village):

Claire Robinson: British Wildlife past and present. Native species that have disappeared. Alien species that have arrived. Invasive species and those native species being reintroduced.

David Pettit: Farming, his work with children and schools, working with other farmers to create wildlife corridors.

Christine Harvey and Geoff Beckett: will talk about their beekeeping trials and tribulations with illustrations, equipment, honey tasting and an opportunity to buy should you wish.



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Village Thank You!



1. Thank you to Garry and Marjorie for emptying the off track dog poo bins. It's an unpleasant job, but much appreciated by all the dog owners in Hepworth. You deserve a medal.
2. A big thank you to Hepworth2Enjoy for organizing the over 65 pensioners Christmas Meal. I know you put so much effort and work into providing a very enjoyable occasion.
3. Thank you Neel for your ongoing dedication to providing Hepworth with the Herald. Your time and work is much appreciated. Thank you to all those who volunteer their time and resources to serving Hepworth. Your work is invaluable.



We are a local, informal, friendly garden club. Green Fingers meetings are held at Hinderclay Village Hall on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 7:30pm in the evening. Annual membership subscription is £15 and our monthly meeting fees are £3 for members (and £5 for non-members) with refreshments included. You would be most welcome to join us.

18th February - THE CHELSEA GARDEN by Tom Hoblyn,
Suffolk RHS Chelsea Gold medal winning designer
18th March - GARDENERS QUESTION TIME & SEASONAL SPRING
FLOWERS TALK by Guy Barker ("the naked gardener")
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For more information, ring Val Hobson: 01359 251977

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