

HEPWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

HEPWORTH PAVILION

THURSDAY 19 FEBRUARY 2026

7.30pm

PRESENT:

Councillor Garry Bloomfield (GB) (Chair)
Councillor Nick Bennett (NB)
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)
Three members of the public

26/13 APOLOGIES

None.

26/14 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

NB declared an interest in Item 7b, Hepworth Recreation Ground Management Committee proposal, as he is the Chair of this committee and Item 8a, Planning Application DC/26/0027/LB, as he is the owner of the property. MM declared an interest in Item 7b, Hepworth Recreation Ground Management Committee proposal, as she is the Treasurer of this committee.

26/15 PUBLIC FORUM

Pest Issues – Village Hall Store. The meeting noted ongoing work by the Hepworth Recreation Ground Management Committee to resolve pest control around the store.

26/16 REPORTS FROM AND QUESTIONS TO DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS

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

- **May Elections.** It was confirmed that County Council elections would now take place in May.
- **'Stables Field'.** It was indicated that bin collections were taking place while the planning enforcement appeal was being ongoing.
- **Bin Changes.** 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. New bins were due to be delivered to Hepworth residents in the period Monday 20 April to Friday 15 May 2026.

- b. County Cllr Update. County Cllr Joanna Spicer was not present at the meeting.

26/17 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Minutes of the meetings held on 15 January 2026 had been previously circulated and **it was resolved that these were an accurate record of the meetings.**

26/18 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

- a. Village Hall/Church Sign. **District Cllr Bull agreed to investigate adding a 'leading to' sign under the existing road sign at the junction with Church Lane.**
- b. Speed Indicator Devices (SID). The Clerk provided the following update:
- Paperwork for the replacement SIDs has been completed with Suffolk County Council. As part of this process, the location of the northern SID has been moved to the other side of the road to reduce shading by trees.
 - New posts have been ordered for both SID locations at a cost of £630 each.
 - A single SID will be ordered before the end of March once the Clerk has discussed delivery with the SpeedWatch team.
- c. Horse Signs. The Clerk indicated that information is still awaited from Suffolk County Council on this matter.

26/19 FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

- a. Finance Report. The meeting noted the finance report (current account balance £4,430.60, savings account balance £7,000.00 and the projected outturn at the end of the FY of approx. £2,800 current account and £4,000 savings account). No payments were required.
- b. Village Hall Improvements. NB, as Chair of Hepworth Recreation Ground Management Committee, briefed the meeting on proposals to extend or rebuild the village hall. The Parish Council noted the aspirations and agreed to support in principle.

26/20 PLANNING MATTERS

- a. DC/26/0027/LB. The meeting agreed to support this application.
- b. DC/26/0131/LB. The meeting agreed to support this application.
- c. New Bungalow by old Duke of Marlborough pub. NB highlighted fenced off plots by the new bungalow just built. District Cllr Bull confirmed that no planning permission for any further development had been granted but **agreed to check the situation with planning officers.**

26/21 HIGHWAYS MATTERS

None.

26/22 CORRESPONDANCE RECEIVED

a. Bus Improvement Works. The meeting noted the West Suffolk Council correspondence and LR confirmed that there is still a desire for better connections with the village.

26/23 QUESTIONS TO THE CHAIRMAN

- **West Suffolk Road Safety Group.** LR highlighted a recent change in Suffolk County Council policy over 20mph speed limits and reflected that this could be a significant cost for parishes that pursued this course of action without any additional funding being available.

26/24 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

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

The meeting closed at 8.19 pm.



Andy Osman
Parish Clerk
26 February 2026