

HEPWORTH PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF A PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HEPWORTH PAVILION
THURSDAY 19 MARCH 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)
Two members of the public

26/25 APOLOGIES

Councillor Nick Bennett sent apologies which were accepted.

26/26 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

26/27 PUBLIC FORUM

None

26/28 REPORTS FROM AND QUESTIONS TO DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS

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

- **'Stables Field' Appeal**. The outcome of the planning appeal was likely at the end of March/early April.
- **Village Hall/Church Sign**. West Suffolk Council have indicated that adding directional signs to existing street signs is feasible. **District Cllr Bull agreed to pass contact details to the Clerk** to follow up this proposal. LR indicated that the owner of the wall the current street sign was set into was supportive of the proposal but required further detail on the final solution.
- **Clarkes Sign**. The Enforcement Team have indicated that the next step is to consider prosecution for the continued refusal to remove the sign. The meeting noted that the Parish Council had supported the original application but did comment that the sign was disproportionately large. It was agreed to monitor the ongoing enforcement action by West Suffolk Council.

- **Local Plan Review.** A review of the West Suffolk Local Plan following a change in legislation was due to commence. There was an increase to West Suffolk's housing allocation to 1200 homes per annum.

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

26/29 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Minutes of the meeting held on 19 February 2026 had been previously circulated and **it was resolved that these were an accurate record.**

26/30 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

- a. Bus Improvement Bid. LR indicated that she had received a form to complete for aspirations on future village bus provision. The meeting agreed to seek two weekly services through the village or, as a minimum, a shuttle service to connect with bus services from Stanton.
- b. Land at Old Duke of Marlborough Pub. An email pre-circulated to the meeting confirmed that the landowner did intend to apply for further planning permission but with no timescale.

26/31 FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

- a. Finance Report. The meeting noted the finance report (current account balance £4,240.06, savings account balance £4,000.00 and the projected outturn at the end of the FY of approx. £3,250 current account and £4,000 savings account). The following payments were agreed:

Clerks Salary & Exps	£812.33
HMRC Tax	£185.22
SALC Payroll	£22.80

LR agreed to authorise the payments.

26/32 PLANNING MATTERS

None

26/33 HIGHWAYS MATTERS

None.

26/34 CORRESPONDANCE RECEIVED

- a. Storm Babet Report. The meeting noted the issued Suffolk County Council Storm Babet Report that had not been previously shared with the Parish Council in draft form. It was agreed to seek an update on the action plan from the Suffolk County Council Floods Team in early summer and to place a link to the report in the Hepworth Hearld (**Clerk to action**)

26/35 QUESTIONS TO THE CHAIRMAN

- **Parish Council Minutes.** The **Chair agreed to post agreed Parish Council minutes** on the Parish Council noticeboard.
- **Bins. District Cllr Bull agreed to follow up on the bin collection arrangements** for 'stables field'.
- **Blacksmith Cottage.** The poor condition of Blacksmiths Cottage was highlighted and **District Cllr Bull agreed to follow this up with Enforcement.**
- **Top Garden Services.** The meeting commended the work of Top Garden Services who cleared around the village sign as a gesture of goodwill.
- **Trees.** PP highlighted the availability of several different varieties of trees for planting.
- **Retirement of County Cllr Spicer.** The meeting noted the impending retirement of County Cllr Spicer and agreed to arrange a collection outside of Parish Council funds to acknowledge her long service to the village.

26/36 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was agreed that the date of the next Parish Council meeting would be Thursday 16 April 2026 at 7.30 pm.

The meeting closed at 8.20 pm.



Andy Osman
Parish Clerk
25 March 2026