

HEPWORTH PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HEPWORTH PAVILION
THURSDAY 16th JULY 2026
7.30pm

PRESENT:

Councillor Garry Bloomfield (GB) (Chair)
Councillor Louise Robinson (LR)
Councillor Marjorie MacPherson (MM)
Councillor Perry Penn (PP)
Councillor Hollie Williams (HW)

IN ATTENDANCE:

Linda Clark (New Parish Clerk)
District Cllr Carol Bull (CB)
Richard Hinton (Speedwatch Coordinator - RH)
8 Members of the public

26/66 APOLOGIES

Councillor Nick Bennett sent apologies before the meeting which were accepted.

26/67 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

26/68 PUBLIC FORUM

Closure of B1111 Stanton to Barningham From 20.07.26 (Up to 26 days)

RH asked the Parish Council to ensure proper signage before closure of the above road. He advised that last time the road was closed HGVs and other vehicles used The Street in Hepworth Village as a diversion route which was dangerous to cyclists, horse riders and people walking. He requested signage to be placed at each end of The Street. GB agreed to make contact with HR (SCC). CB to contact SCC advising the main problem is knowing where the roads are closed to plan alternative routes when travelling.

Report of Anti-Social Behaviour and Safety Concerns to the Parish Council

Residents raised concern about a car travelling at speed through Hepworth, Barningham, Bardwell and Hopton generating excessive noise and compromising the safety of other road users, pedestrians and horse riders. LR to make RH aware. GB advised residents to report all incidences to the Police via the website or on 101. CB will seek advice from the environmental team. GB to discuss with NB. Residents are concerned that someone will be killed or seriously injured.

26/69 REPORTS FROM AND QUESTIONS TO BOTH DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS

- a. County Cllr Update. County Cllr Richardson had submitted a report, attached.
- b. District Cllr Update. CB updated the following:

- Central Government plan to house large numbers of Asylum Seekers at Barnham overwhelming village numbers. CB advised the Councillors have met and sent a letter stating the site is the wrong place for asylum accommodation and that the site sits within the Breckland Special Protection Area.
- CB asked how Villagers were finding the new Recycling Scheme. LR confirmed overall the response had been positive.
- The Annual Canvass is asking residents to confirm addresses for voting.
- Applications are invited for West Suffolk Council's Thriving Communities Fund by 12 noon on Friday 25th September 2026. Applications are welcomed from Community Groups, Charities and Voluntary Organisations.
- Town & Parish Forum Invite Tuesday 28th July 2026 at 6.45pm.
- CB advised that the main Swimming Pool in Bury St Edmunds will be closed for final renovations 19-25/08/26. Alternative provision is being offered by other nearby Pools.
- MM asked CB about ownership of Wash Lane following a query from a local resident. GB/MM investigating and will report further at next meeting.
- GB queried Blacksmith Cottage with CB.
- CB advised that council tax for Birch Tree Farm would be backdated.

26/70 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Minutes of the meeting held on 18 June 2026 had been previously circulated and **it was resolved that these were an accurate record of the meetings.**

26/71 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

- Minute 26/44: 21 May 2026 - Purchase of 2nd SID. The meeting noted that the posts have been installed. It was agreed to wait before ordering the 2nd SID. Clerk to confirm the two donations have been received at the September meeting.

26/72. FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

- Finance Report. The meeting noted the finance report.
Current Account Balance £7398.83
Savings Account Balance £4000.00

The following amounts were considered and authorised for payment:

Request	Amount	Authorised
Clerk Salary 31.07.26	247.10	LR / NB
Clerk Expenses	103.40	LR / NB
HMRC Tax 31.07.26	61.60	LR / NB
Clerk Salary 31.08.26	246.90	LR / NB
HMRC Tax 31.08.26	61.80	LR / NB
New Clerk Training x 3	126.00	All
Website Training New Clerk	60.00	All

26/73 PLANNING MATTERS

DC/26/0918/ HH 20 Church Close Hepworth. Single Storey Rear Extension

The Parish Council supported the application.

Request For Parish Councillors to set date to attend technical briefing on the development of Shepherds Grove

The request was discussed and it was agreed that the Parish Council would prefer a Public Meeting in Hepworth Village Hall. CB to discuss with the Officers.

26/74 HIGHWAYS MATTERS

- Ref 40246 4 Horse Warning Signs - Some quotes have been obtained.
- A143 Repair – Councillors have been kept up to date with developments. GB to contact HR requesting urgent signage for Hepworth saying unsuitable for HGVs.
- Hedge/A143 Junction. The overhanging hedge at the A143/The Street junction has been reported for 2nd time on the Highways Reporting tool and was not deemed as needing cutting.

26/75 CORRESPONDENCE

- a. Suffolk Against Fraud
- b. Removal of requirement to publish members home addresses
- c. Annual Canvass Briefing Pack

26/76 QUESTIONS TO THE CHAIRMAN

- LR mentioned that the bus stop at the south end of the village had a broken ridge tile. GB to source a local quotation. It was noted that a raised curb and tarmac had been supplied but that a bus stop was awaited.
- LR queried faded Defib signage. GB confirmed that photographs had been supplied to a company to obtain a quote for new signage.
- LR reported that 6 responses had been received in relation to use of the bus services.

26/77 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was agreed that the next Parish Council meeting will be on Thursday 24th September 2026 at 7.30 pm.

The meeting closed at 9.00pm.

Linda Clark
Parish Clerk
17th July 2026