

HEPWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

HEPWORTH PAVILION

THURSDAY 16 APRIL 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)
County Cllr Joanna Spicer (JS)
Two members of the public

26/26 APOLOGIES

None.

26/27 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

26/28 PUBLIC FORUM

None.

26/29 REPORTS FROM AND QUESTIONS TO DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS

- a. District Cllr Update. District Cllr Bull was not in attendance.
- b. County Cllr Update. County Cllr Spicer updated the following:
 - LGR Outcome. It was confirmed that Suffolk would have 3 Unitary Authorities to replace the current County and District Councils from May 2028. Hepworth would be in the new Western Suffolk Council.
 - Historic Documents. **HW agreed to review a folder of historic documents** relating to the Parish donated by JS.
 - Weston Lane. It was reported that a Rights of Way officer had recently walked the route, collecting any loose glass fragments; the route will be monitored going forward.
 - Street Sign. The Clerk reported that West Suffolk Council had agreed to change the existing street sign on the corner of Church Lane to refer to 'The Church and Village Hall'.

- Bus Shelter. It was agreed that the **Clerk would seek an update on the installation of the new bus shelter** as no work had started.
- A143. It was noted that the A143 areas that surface dressing works had failed would be repaired in June.

The Chair presented County Cllr Spicer with flowers in recognition of her 37 years' service to the Parish.

26/30 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

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

26/31 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

- a. Bus Improvement Bid. LR reported that the bid had not yet gone into Suffolk County Council and proposed that a survey of bus use could be included within a planned Village Hall survey. The meeting agreed this approach.

26/32 FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

- a. Finance Report. The meeting noted the finance report (current account balance £3,219.73, savings account balance £4,000.00 and the projected outturn at the end of the new FY of approx. £3,250 current account and £4,000 savings account). No payments needed authorising.
- b. Asset Write Off. It was agreed to write off the two M-SID devices that were now unserviceable/obsolescent; these are being replaced by new Elan City SIDs. **HW agreed to investigate recycling options.**
- c. Recruitment of Clerk. The meeting noted the planned retirement of the Clerk at the end of June and agreed to set Wednesday 27 May for interviews. It was agreed that applicants would be shortlisted at the May Annual Parish Council meeting. The Clerk was to inform any applicant of the interview date and that shortlisting would take place on 21 May.

26/33 PLANNING MATTERS

None

26/34 HIGHWAYS MATTERS

- Stanton Rides Sign. MM highlighted that the Stanton Rides signs were concealed by vegetation and that she would report these on the Highways Reporting tool.

26/35 CORRESPONDANCE RECEIVED

- a. West Suffolk Planning Policy Consultation – Call for sites with potential for development. The meeting noted the consultation document.

26/36 QUESTIONS TO THE CHAIRMAN

- Defibrillator Sign. LR highlighted that the defibrillator sign was looking faded. The **Chair agreed to discuss the issue with the owner.**

26/37 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was agreed that the date of the next meeting, the Annual Parish Council Meeting, would be Thursday 21 May 2026 at 7.45 pm. This meeting will follow the Annual Parish Meeting at 7.00pm.

The meeting closed at 8.20 pm.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Andy Osman', written over a light grey grid background.

Andy Osman
Parish Clerk
23 April 2026