

HEPWORTH PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HEPWORTH PAVILION
THURSDAY 18 JUNE 2026
7.30pm

PRESENT:

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

IN ATTENDANCE:

Andy Osman (Parish Clerk) (AO)
Linda Clark (New Parish Clerk)
District Cllr Carol Bull (CB)
2 members of the public

26/53 APOLOGIES

Councillor Nick Bennett sent apologies which were accepted.

26/54 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

26/55 PUBLIC FORUM

None

26/56 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:
 - Blacksmiths Cottage. A tree growing against and into a wall had been reported, and CB was still working with enforcement to resolve this. It was confirmed that maximum empty house premium council tax was being paid on the property.
 - Birch Tree Farm. The Valuation Office were in the process of valuing the property; once this was done, council tax would be charged.

26/57 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Minutes of the meeting held on 21 May 2026 had been previously circulated and **it was resolved that these were an accurate record of the meetings.**

26/58 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

- Minute 26/44: 21 May 2026 - Purchase of 2nd SID. The meeting noted that the posts were still to be installed and agreed to wait for this this work before ordering the 2nd SID.

26/59 FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

- a. Finance Report. The meeting noted the finance report (current account balance £8,312.23, savings account balance £4,000.00 and the projected outturn at the end of the FY of approx. £3,000 current account and £4,000 savings account). The following payments were authorised:

Clerks Salary & Wages	£877.80
HMRC Tax	£185.20

The Clerk was to approach Parish Cllr Bennett or Parish Cllr Robinson to authorise the payments.

- b. New Parish Clerk. The meeting noted the appointment of Linda Clark as the new Parish Clerk from 1 July 2026.

26/60 PLANNING MATTERS

None

26/61 HIGHWAYS MATTERS

- A143 Repair. The meeting noted the update in County Cllr Richardson's report that indicated the road would be repaired in the summer.
- Hedge/A143 Junction. The overhanging hedge at the A143/The Street junction has been reported for 1 2nd time on the Highways Reporting tool.

26/62 CORRESPONDENCE

- a. Better Recycling Email. The meeting noted the email from West Suffolk Council providing an update on the Better Recycling programme.

26/63 QUESTIONS TO THE CHAIRMAN

- None

26/64 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was agreed that the next Parish Council meeting will be on Thursday 16 July 2026 at 7.30 pm.

County Cllr Richardson arrived at 7.50pm

26/65 FURTHER REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR

- Buses. It was reported that funding for the No 70 and 73 buses had been secured until 2028.
- SID Posts. **County Cllr Richardson agreed to chase the installation of the two SID posts** ordered over 3 ½ months ago.
- A143. MM highlighted the inconsistency of people obeying the temporary speed limits on the damaged section of the A143.

The meeting closed at 8.02pm.



Andy Osman
Parish Clerk
25 June 2026

County Councillor Report – Harry Richardson

June 2026

New administration	The new Reform UK administration has been announced at the County Council. The new Cabinet members and their contact details are below: Cllr Michael Hadwen – Leader of the Council E: Michael.Hadwen@suffolk.gov.uk Cllr Philip Fairthcloth Mutton – Deputy Leader & Cabinet Member for Adult Care E: Philip.Faircloth-Mutton@suffolk.gov.uk T: 07494 758000 Cllr Vicky Armstrong – Cabinet Member for Finance, Economic Development and Efficiency E: Vicky.Armstrong@suffolk.gov.uk Cllr Simon Aalders – Cabinet Member for Children and Young People E: Simon.Aalders@suffolk.gov.uk Cllr Tony Gould – Cabinet Member for Education, Skills and SEND E: Tony.Gould@suffolk.gov.uk Cllr Christopher Hudson – Cabinet Member for Transport and Highways E: Christopher.Hudson@suffolk.gov.uk T: 07889 066211 Cllr Tristan Gale – Cabinet Member for Planning, Devolution and the Fire Service E: Tristan.Gale@suffolk.gov.uk Cllr June Mummary – Cabinet Member for Coastal Affairs, Communities and Public Health E: June.Mummary@suffolk.gov.uk T: 07889 066317
Local government reorganisation	The future of local government reorganisation in Suffolk is now uncertain given the new administration at the County Council have decided to launch a Judicial Review into the government's support for the three-unitary-authority model. The precise implications for now are unknown. In the meantime, a new website has been launched to outline what the new unitary authorities will look like, and this can be found here: Home - Future Suffolk

A143	The damage to the A143 during hot weather in the May half-term week has been repaired. This was due to the membrane, which sits underneath the road surface, melting due to high road temperatures; this itself occurred as the membrane was damaged during installation last year. A permanent repair to the membrane itself will take place over the summer. Both the permanent replacement and the temporary repairs will be paid for by Milestone, the contractor, rather than the County Council (and by extension the taxpayer).
	I intend to have further conversations with officers over the summer on longerterm more sustainable diversion routes in the event that either the A1088 or A143 are closed, given the intolerable impact this is having on some villages currently.
Locality spending	I have received numerous requests for funding from my locality funding, so if you are aware of any other projects that may wish to apply for support then please do let me know as soon as possible so I can factor these in as best I can. For example, I am pleased to have provided funding for 195 primary school children across the division to participate in mental wellbeing and internet safety awareness sessions.
Highways engineer	Over the summer I will be visiting various parts of the division with our allocated community liaison engineer to identify priorities for the coming months, including for the usage of my local highways budget. Examples of what this can support include road signs, traffic calming, and Traffic Regulation Orders. If there are particular areas that you feel ought to be focused on then please do let me know and I will ensure these are assessed.
Bus routes	I am in active conversations with the County Council passenger transport team regarding the 332 and 73 bus services. The CENEX report in the latter is in the process of being finalised and I shall share this once published. Whether there is sufficient funding for the 332 to be extended to Thetford will be become clearer later in the year.

N.b. please note this is not an exhaustive list, and does not reflect meetings I have scheduled about specific issues but have not yet occurred (e.g. Knettishall footbridge; Ixworth Primary School).

Cllr Harry Richardson

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