

# MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF HEVINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON 13<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2026 IN THE VILLAGE HALL

Present:

Parishioners: 1

Cllr S Ward (Chair)  
Cllr D Holmes  
Cllr T Palmer  
Cllr T Bambridge  
Cllr S M Ward  
Cllr A Bunn  
Cllr G Peruzzi  
Cllr C Alpe  
Mrs K Medler (Clerk)

The Chairman opened the meeting by wishing everyone a Happy New Year

## 1. OPEN FORUM FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

One of the farmers allotment tenants asked if it would be acceptable for him to replace the damaged fencing and gate on one of his plots and create a 'gateway' in the fencing between his original plots and new for ease of access. This was agreed on the proviso that any alterations are reinstated when the plots are vacated.

## 2. APOLOGIES

Apologies were accepted from Cllrs I Nickalls, E Mills and H Cox.

## 3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATION REQUESTS

Cllr G Peruzzi declared an interest in item 6b. Cllr Peruzzi is not required to leave the room when 6b is discussed as he has a dispensation which allows him to stay unless rents are being discussed. There were no additional dispensation requests.

## 4. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

Minutes of the meeting held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2025 were agreed by all.

## 5. MATTERS ARISING

- The yellow zigzag lines have now been installed outside the Under 5's.
- The new defibrillators have been installed and are fully operational. These ones are also suitable for paediatric use. The Clerk is just awaiting confirmation of training dates.
- The New Years Eve party at the Hall was cancelled due to lack of numbers.
- The Diocese are dealing with the hedge reported on Church Lane.
- Highways have said the defect outside Larkeys Farm does not meet their intervention levels.
- The Clerk has received an email from Highways concerning the fence at the beck as follows:  
*Following discussions with the resident, our legal services provider (NPLaw), and the Highway Engineer, Richard, we have decided not to proceed with enforcement action to require the fence to be set back to the public highway boundary at this moment in time. We will instead be directing our resources toward higher-priority matters currently requiring attention. The resident is aware that we may look to return back to this issue in the future when higher priorities have been resolved but currently, I am satisfied that the encroaching fence poses no hazard to the public and doesn't place any member of public at risk of harm.*

## 6. MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION AND DECISION

### a. Finance

i) Accounts for payment

The following account had already been paid and was approved:

SSE (Street lighting in November – paid by Direct Debit) £94.78

The following accounts were presented for payment and were approved:

SSE (Street lighting in December – paid by Direct Debit) £101.23

Freethought (.gov plan – paid by Direct Debit) £38.50

Mrs K Medler (Expenses) £62.36

F C Hambling (Bus shelter cleaning – 6 months) £40.00

Zak Branch Limited (Village allotment hedge cutting) £480.00

HMR&C (PAYE)	£40.52
Red Dragon Media Limited (Various signs in village)	£72.00
T T Jones Electrical Ltd (Street lighting maintenance as agreed Oct 25-Mar 26)	£61.30

The Clerk's standing order was paid on the 5<sup>th</sup> January.

Thanks to Cllr I Nickalls for dealing with the outside light at the village hall free of charge.

The following receipts were noted:

Barclays bank (Interest)	£16.63
Cambridge B/S (Interest)	£214.54
Farmers allotment rents	£1,026.56
Hevingivers (Grant for football goals)	£1,199.19

Balance at the bank at the end of December was £25,005.63. The Clerk supplied Councillors with a breakdown of Receipts / Expenditure against the Budget for the year to date for reference.

#### ii) Barrier at Village Hall

This item will be carried forward to the March meeting to allow more time to obtain quotes. Cllr G Peruzzi put forward an alternative suggestion of smaller individual barriers just around the main field, with an access gate for pedestrians / vehicles. This option would give potential for local businesses to advertise in the barriers and help towards the cost. All agreed Cllr G Peruzzi and D Holmes should investigate this option further.

#### iii) Pitch marking for goals

The markings have now gone completely so will need to be re-done. Cllr A Bunn advised he asked the local man to either come to the meeting tonight or ring the Clerk. The Clerk will call the gentleman again but if he is unable to assist, Norse will be asked to set out again and refresh as and when required. The goals themselves are now fully operational with nets in place. Thanks to Cllrs D Holmes and G Peruzzi for installing the nets.

*County Cllr D Roper joined the meeting a 19:50*

#### iv) Grass cutting contractor for 2026 season

The Clerk sent out tenders to 4 companies. A M Cultivating are no longer operating but out of the remaining 3, only 2 have provided a quote despite chasing. Following discussions, all agreed to award the contract to Norse.

#### v) Contribution to Church grass cutting for 2026 season

Following discussions all agreed to provide a 50% contribution as in previous years.

### *b. Village allotments*

#### i) Updates

- Zak Branch has completed the cutting of the footpath hedge.
- The signs have been dealt with.
- The December inspection confirms all is in order.

#### ii) New issues

Plot 4 has had their crop of carrots stolen. This appears to have been a human thief rather than an animal. There isn't anything the Parish Council can do but tenants should be aware and keep an eye out. The Clerk will see if the Community Garden can perhaps grow some carrots this year.

### *c. Village Hall play area repairs*

The Clerk has received a quotation from Norse for the works required. The new handyman has confirmed he can deal with any of the gardening aspects but not the play equipment however the man he works with may be able to help. As these jobs need completing before the next main inspection at the beginning of June, it was agreed the Clerk will authorise the cheaper quote, once she has heard back from the handyman. Cllr D Holmes may also be able to get a quote from Red Dragon. The youth shelter will not be dealt with for now but will be considered at the March meeting for possible removal / replacement.

### *d. Planning*

#### i) New applications:

None.

#### ii) Outcomes of previous applications:

Nothing to report. All applications and details of any conditions applied can be viewed on BDC's website.

### *e Highway Matters*

- Cllr C Alpe mentioned that the road outside the Primary School was 'deadly' during the recent cold spell as it wasn't gritted. The Clerk advised Norfolk County Council are responsible for gritting the roads but there is a grit bin on the corner which can be used by residents on the road and paths. County Cllr D Roper confirmed the gritting route does not include New Road but as it stops so close to the School, he will ask for it to be extended.
- The road at the entrance to Wallers Sawmill has been reported to Highways on more than one occasion now.

### *f. Consultations*

BDC Sex Establishment and Sexual Entertainment Venues Policy

All agreed they had no comments to put forward especially as there are no such establishments in Broadland.

## 7. MATTERS TO REPORT

### *a. Correspondence*

None.

### *b. Clerks Report*

The Clerk reported that a resident who lives next to the hall has asked that branches overhanging her garden from the hall grounds are cut back. The Clerk has contacted the halls handyman to see if he can assist with this.

### *c. Village Hall Report*

- Next meeting is on the 19<sup>th</sup>.
- In answer to questions it was confirmed that the committee are aware of problems with the hot water in the kitchen and toilets and are looking into this to try to resolve.
- Cllr G Peruzzi asked why the bins were put into a cage and should this be locked as he witnessed someone depositing a bag full of rubbish into the bins after Christmas. It was confirmed that the bins were caged so they could be stored closer to the road but the cage is not locked.

### *d. Police Report*

The Clerk advised there were no crimes recorded in the village during October but there were 4 in November: 2x Violent & Sexual Offence (on or near Low Lane and Pound Road), 1x Anti-social behaviour (on or near Pound Close) and 1x Other theft (on or near Pound Road). There is no information available yet for December. Further information can be accessed via [www.police.uk](http://www.police.uk).

### *e. Reports*

#### *District Councillor Report*

- BDC now have a Waste Management Policy in place.
- RIPA (Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act) which covers covert investigations into various 'custodial' crimes will be used more frequently now to aid crime prevention.

#### *County Councillor Report*

- The Community Fund still has quite a lot of money in which needs to be allocated before 1<sup>st</sup> March 2026. Any community organisation can apply for a grant of between £500.00 and £5000.00 for 'new' things. The grant cannot be given for maintenance matters. Please contact Cllr D Roper if you would like to apply.
- The local government reorganisation consultation closed on the 11<sup>th</sup> January. The outcome should be known by March then the statutory processes will take over. It is likely that shadow councils will be elected in May 2027. It has not yet been confirmed if County Council elections will take place this year.

## 8. MATTERS FOR FUTURE DISCUSSION AND DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Barriers and the youth shelter at the Village Hall.

Next meeting is on 3rd March 2026 in the Village Hall.

The meeting ended at 20:31