

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF HEVINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON 7th JULY 2026 IN THE VILLAGE HALL

Present:

Parishioners: None

Cllr S Ward (Chair)
Cllr G Peruzzi
Cllr T Bambridge
Cllr S M Ward
Cllr A Bunn
Cllr H Cox
Cllr I Nickalls
Mrs K Medler (Clerk)

1. OPEN FORUM FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No public present.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies were accepted from Cllrs D Holmes, T Palmer and E Mills. Apologies were also received from County Cllr D Thomas. Cllr C Alpe has today tendered her resignation so the Clerk will inform B.D.C.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATION REQUESTS

Cllr G Peruzzi declared an interest in item 6b but is not required to leave the room when this 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 2nd June 2026 were agreed by all.

5. MATTERS ARISING

Highways have confirmed they will trim back the hedge near the bus stop on the A140 Cromer Road.

6. MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION AND DECISION

a. Finance

i) Accounts for payment

The following accounts had already been paid and were approved:

SSE (Electricity for May – paid by Direct Debit)	£75.08
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The following accounts were presented for payment and were approved:

Norse Eastern Ltd (Grass cutting for June as agreed)	£362.90
Norse Eastern Ltd (Works to play area at Village Hall as agreed)	£869.82
Playsafety Limited (Annual play area inspection)	£142.80
HMR&C (PAYE x3)	£61.77
F C Hambling (Bus shelter cleaning as agreed)	£40.00
T T Jones Electrical Limited (Street lighting maintenance as agreed)	£30.65
Mrs K Medler (Expenses)	£58.58

The Clerk's standing order was paid on the 5th July 2026.

Balance at the bank at the end of June was £26,175.56. The Clerk supplied Councillors with a breakdown of Receipts / Expenditure against the Budget for the year to date for reference.

The current electricity contract for street lighting is due to expire on the 30th September 2026 and the Clerk recommended renewing this with the current supplier as it is difficult to change suppliers, because the village runs on an unmetered supply and the cost is only estimated to increase by around £30.00 on the year. All agreed.

ii) Barrier at Village Hall

Cllr G Peruzzi has now obtained one quotation to fit a 16ft galvanised steel gate with two posts and 14 x 0.5m high hoops. It was felt that the hoops are quite small and so Cllr Peruzzi will enquire as to the cost for taller hoops. Cllr Peruzzi reiterated an earlier suggestion that local businesses could advertise within the taller hoops to help recoup some of the costs and prevent them from being used as 'swings'. It was noted that the Village Hall have also agreed a contribution of £1000.00. All agreed, providing the taller hoop cost is not out of the ordinary, that Cllr

Peruzzi should authorise the works with the taller hoops. The Council are aware their Financial Regulations stipulate that two quotations should be sought before authorising any works and they have sought to get these for the current proposal but to no avail. Various options have been considered with varying costs and the Council are satisfied they will be getting value for money with the current proposal and costs.

iii) Cleaning of play equipment at the Village Hall

The Clerk has received a quote now for £425.00 but the Company concerned are only able to do one item, the multiplay, and not the combination goal, due to water access. These costs exceed those authorised. Cllr T Bambridge advised Mr S Lord would be prepared to clean the multiplay at a cost of £250.00. Cllr S M Ward advised the local window cleaner would not be able to do as he uses 'clear water' and the item will require use of a cleaning agent to remove the dirt. Following discussions all agreed Cllr Bambridge should authorise Mr S Lord.

iv) Gardening at the Village Hall

Following the last meeting the Clerk spoke to the current gardener and has made Councillors aware of his response. Mr Wichell is happy to continue but the budget does limit what he can do in the time allowed. Cllr S M Ward advised she has spoken to a local man, who would be prepared to take over the jobs for the same price. Following discussions, all agreed, two hours every other week should be enough to keep the grounds looking tidy and presentable and a more local man may be a better solution. Cllr S M Ward will speak to him again before the Clerk goes back to Mr Wichell. The Clerk suggested maybe the Village Hall could contribute 50% of these costs as they were responsible for the grounds until financial difficulties meant they had to ask the Parish Council to take them over back in 2020. The Chairman will speak to the Village Hall committee.

b. Village allotments

i) Updates

The inspection for June has been completed and raised the following issues:

- There are 5 plots which appear to be un-used. The Clerk has contacted the relevant tenants.
- A couple of trees in the orchard are in need of a little support and it was suggested the Clerk should speak to one of the tenants to see if they can deal with those.
- The new steps are quite overgrown but Cllr G Peruzzi cleared those today.
- The gateway near the School is a little overgrown but people like to pick the berries here so this will be left for now.
- The rat poison seems to have been removed.

ii) New issues

The Clerk has noted that Saffrons hedge which runs along the side of the allotment path is very overgrown and has contacted them with a request that they cut this back. The same hedge is growing onto the public path too.

c. Review of Policies

The Clerk had previously circulated revisions to the Data Protection Policy, Risk Assessment Document and the Councils Standing Orders and all agreed the proposed alterations.

d. Planning

i) New applications:

2026/1747 – Apple Blossom Barn, 2B The Turn – Single storey side extension

Support agreed although it was noted that the current 'front' of the property will be lost in the extension and the new 'front' will actually be to the side, changing the overall orientation.

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

Nothing to report.

7. MATTERS TO REPORT

a. Correspondence

None.

b. Clerks Report

- The Councils Privacy Statement has been reviewed and does not need any changes.
- The SAM sign is not working correctly and so the Clerk has arranged for Westcotec to collect it for inspection. The inspection will be £50.00 and collection £29.50 – both +vat. All agreed the Clerk should use her discretion to authorise any repair costs.

- The Annual Asset check has been completed and damage was noted to the top of the brickwork on the village sign long with fading of the plaque on the upright. The Clerk will try to find someone to do this. Also, one of the posts on the triangle is loose. Cllr T Bambridge offered her husband's services to reinstall that when the ground is not so hard.
- The annual play area inspection has now been completed with only a few minor things to deal with. The Clerk will work through the report to get those items dealt with. It was agreed Cllr T Bambridge and the Clerk will take over the monthly inspection of the play area between them.

c. Village Hall Report

- The Hall now has a new cleaner.
- The hot water in the toilets is still an issue (it gets too hot and could scold). Cllr G Peruzzi suggested maybe a small water heater could be installed near the sinks so the temperature could be more easily regulated.
- There are plans afoot for a new permanent stage and possibly a disco being held over the August bank holiday.

d. Police Report

There were 3 crimes recorded in the village during April: 2x Violent & Sexual Offence (1x on or near Pound Road and 1x on or near Low Lane) and 1x Vehicle Crime (on or near The Heath).

There is no information available yet for May or June. Further information can be accessed via www.police.uk.

e. Reports

District Councillor Report

- Nothing much to report but in his role as Vice Chair for the District Council, Cllr S Ward has attended the Cromer Gala, a South Asian festival in the Hindu temple at Acle and will be participating in the Norwich Lord Mayor's procession.

County Councillor Report

In his absence the Clerk read Cllr D Thomas's report:

- I will speak again to Highways regarding the water pooling on Brick Kiln - if we ever get rain again I will come and take some photographs to evidence the issue.
- Surgery held, one resident visited, one other called me and I had a third email me in advance as they couldn't make it. This is similar to other villages where I've held a surgery but it does build traction.
- Local member highways fund has been scrapped (£11k budget for members) and has been put into the general maintenance pool.
- Committees are now decided and are meeting over the next few weeks. I am on the Communities and Children's Committee (as I also sit on the similar one at Broadland).
- LGR is progressing. Staff at both BDC and NCC are undertaking work as well as dealing with the warding arrangements for elections which most likely will happen next year (2027).

8. MATTERS FOR FUTURE DISCUSSION AND DATE OF NEXT MEETING

To appoint Village Hall Representative.

Next meeting is on 1st September 2026 in the Village Hall.

The meeting ended at 20:35