(DRAFT)

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF HEVINGHAM PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON 6th OCTOBER 2026 IN THE VILLAGE HALL

Present:
Cllr T Bambridge (Chair)
Cllr G Peruzzi
Cllr A Bunn
Cllr T Palmer
Cllr E Mills
Cllr R Daniels
Mrs K Medler (Clerk via Teams)

Parishioners: 2

In attendance: Cty Cllr D Thomas

In the absence of both the Chairman and Vice Chair, it was agreed Cllr T Bambridge would chair this meeting.

1. OPEN FORUM FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Cllr R Daniels wanted to make residents aware that grants are available through the Norwich Freemans Charity to individuals and community groups within a 20 mile radius of the Guildhall in Norwich. Grants are available mainly for educational purposes but also for general welfare needs. Cllr Daniels is on the committee which agrees the grants and will provide further information to the Clerk so this can be advertised on the Parish Council and village social media pages.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies were accepted from Cllrs S Ward, H Cox, D Holmes, I Nickalls and S M Ward.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATION REQUESTS

Cllr G Peruzzi declared an interest in item 6b. There were no dispensation requests.

4. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

Minutes of the meeting held on the 1st September 2026 were agreed by all.

5. MATTERS ARISING

- Following the last meeting the Clerk circulated an advice note regarding taking over closed churchyards and as a result Cllr H Cox has suggested everyone should go and look at the churchyard to see what condition the fences etc are in as the Parish Council would become responsible for those, should they agree to take over the churchyard. The Clerk encouraged everyone to do this. All agreed taking it over could become very onerous. There is an option to decline the offer and pass it onto the District Council. At present no official letter has been received asking the Parish Council to take over the churchyard but Councillors need to begin considering this. Cllr T Palmer asked what happened to all the money received by the Church for the sale of the rectory, that they are so low on funds. The Clerk will direct that question to the vicar for a response.
- The Clerk has still not been able to find anyone to repair the village sign as yet.
- The loose post on the triangle will be fixed once the ground is softer along with another one on the green.
- The Clerk has given NCC permission to use the Herbert Phillipo car park as a turning area for the grit lorry on the proviso that they grit the car park at the same time and has not had a negative response to that.

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 August – paid by Direct Debit)	£78.66

The following accounts were presented for payment and were approved:

Norse Eastern Ltd (Grass cutting for September as agreed)	£362.90
Mrs K Medler (Expenses)	£90.94
TT Jones Electrical Ltd (Street lighting maintenance for Oct-Dec as agreed)	£30.65
G Norton (Works at village hall as agreed)	£80.00
HMR&C (PAYE x3)	£88.64

The Clerk's standing order was paid on the 5th October but at the lower rate, not the increased rate agreed so she will chase this with the bank.

The following receipts were noted:

B.D.C. (Second instalment of the Precept)	£10,000.00
HP allotment rents	£560.00
Barclays Bank (Interest)	£27.13

Balance at the bank at the end of September was £17,902.36. The Clerk supplied Councillors with a breakdown of Receipts / Expenditure against the Budget for the year to date for reference.

Cllr T Palmer asked if Norse had actually been cutting the grass as he hadn't seen anyone there. The Clerk will confirm.

ii) SAM sign
This item will be carried forward to December as Cllr D Holmes is absent.

iii) Advertising boards in new barriers at the village hall
This item will be carried forward to December to allow more time to fully look into costs.

iv) Remembrance wreath and service
All agreed the Clerk should proceed as in previous years and purchase a 'type B' wreath for £23.00 with a donation being made on top of that to make the total £100.00. This will be paid under Section 137. The Chairman (Cllr S Ward) will lay the wreath at the remembrance service on the 8th November 2026.

v) Internal Control check
Cllr T Bambridge has completed this and all is in order.

b. Village allotments

i) Monthly report and updates
The inspection for September was completed by Cllr D Holmes. Several plots were noted as being un-used or un-tidy and so the Clerk contacted the tenants concerned. As a result, one person has decided to leave but all the others have agreed to keep on top of their plots going forward. The notice board post which is no longer needed will be removed. There are 2 plots free at present but the clerk has received enquiries on those, so hopefully they won't be vacant for long.
ii) New issues
The above inspection and Cllr T Bambridge highlighted the hedge needs cutting along the footpath through the allotments so the Clerk has contacted the usual contractor and asked them to do this as soon as possible.

c. Play area at village hall

i) The inspection for September has been completed and generally everything is ok but the Clerk will speak to the supplier of the Monkey Challenge as the top plank is still out of line.

ii) The Clerk has asked Norse to look at the loose bolts on the see saw and multiplay and advise on the cost of replacing the rope on the balance trail but nothing has been received as yet so this will need to be carried forward to December.

iii) The Clerk has obtained 3 prices for 5 cubic metres of play bark. Cllr T Bambridge advised her husband could probably get a better price so will ask him to enquire and advise.

d. Planning

i) New applications:
2026/2467 – Raynham Lodge, 20 The Turn – Variation of condition 2 under 20220335 – Support.
ii) Outcomes of previous applications:
2026/0471 – 34 Morgans Way – Approved with standard conditions.
All applications and details of any conditions applied can be viewed on BDC's website.

e. Community garden at the village hall

R Rolf gave a report to the Parish Council on how the garden did in 2025, what was happening in 2026 and her hopes for 2027. The weather, volunteer's circumstances and time limitations has made things difficult this year. Councillors confirmed they were happy with how the project had progressed and would like to see it continue. It was agreed the Parish Council would help with communication where possible and suggested the School may also be a good place to advertise and seek more volunteers. Posters in the village and social media would all be good places too. The Clerk and Cllr T Bambridge agreed they could inspect the area once a month, when doing the play area inspection and users would be responsible for highlighting anything in between times.

f. Meeting dates 2027
These were agreed as proposed with the exception of January which will be held on the 12th.

g. Highway Matters
Cllr G Peruzzi advised following the last meeting, Cllrs S Ward and D Thomas met with Highways concerning the junction of The Street and Brick Kiln Road and have agreed to put a roundal on the road on The Street to help reinforce the 20mph speed limit in place. The hedge is also being removed to aid visibility.

7. MATTERS TO REPORT

a. Correspondence
The Clerk had previously circulated an email regarding a Winter Pressures Grant and all agreed they did not wish to apply for this.

b. Clerks Report
- The defibrillator training was very poorly attended but those who did attend said it was very informative and really useful – the Clerk will pass this onto the trainer.
- As a result of the barrier and gate installation at the village hall, the Clerk has had to increase the Parish Councils insurance however Insurers have done this, free of charge..

c. Village Hall Report
No-one present to provide a report.

d. Police Report
There were 5 crimes recorded in the village during July: 3x Violent & Sexual Offence (1x on or near The Heath, 1x on or near Pound Road and 1 x on or near Open Space), 1x Criminal Damage & Arson (on or near Halls Corner Lane) and 1x Other Theft (on or near Pound Close).
There were 3 crimes recorded in the village during August: 1x Other Theft (on or near Morgans Way) and 2x Violent & Sexual Offence (1x on or near Pound Road and 1x on or near Pound Close).
There is no information available yet for September. Further information can be accessed via www.police.uk.

e. Reports
District Councillor Report
No report available.

County Councillor Report
- The draft Budget from the County Council has been announced and will be open to consultation soon. £35m worth of savings (cuts) have been identified, this includes the assumption of a 4.99% council tax increase.
- Devolution update as this is still happening – a Combined Mayoral Authority is planned for 2028 with an election as well. The Fire service is starting to explore how they would separate from the County Council, but this will take some time as they are very closely integrated.
- There is a large scam letter being posted impersonating Norfolk County Council regarding council tax payments. B.D.C. collect your council tax, not the County Council so please contact B.D.C. if you have any concerns and they can confirm for you. The Clerk will put this on the village social media pages to highlight.
- An Environmental Development Plan (EDP) is being discussed and is being pushed by Natural England - this is to more or less replace Nutrient Neutrality. This may affect planning processes in the future if Nutrient Neutrality is applicable. The consultation closes 27th October. Hevingham might not be under this at all - but it is worth bearing in mind.

8. MATTERS FOR FUTURE DISCUSSION AND DATE OF NEXT MEETING
Next meeting is on 1st December 2026 in the Village Hall.

The meeting ended at 20:43