



Huntingfield Parish Council

Minutes

Minutes of the meeting of Huntingfield Parish Council held on Wednesday 11th March 2026 in the Hub.

Councillors attending: Cllr David Blackmore (Chair), Cllr Sarah Kline, Cllr Edward Watson, Cllr John Folan and SCC Councillor S. Burroughes. Also attending were 5 members of the public and Clerk/RFO Carol Hume.

15.26 Apologies and approval of absences. DC Julia Ewart and Cllr E. Ward

16.26 To receive Declaration of Interest. None

17.26 To consider requests for dispensations. No requests received.

18.26 To resolve that the minutes of the HPC meeting held on 14th January 2026 are a true and correct record. The minutes were signed as being accurate by the Chairman.

19.26 Public participation session (15 minutes) to include County and District Councillor reports.

A resident said the bank outside the Hub entrance looks good since it has been tidied up. Later in the year it will be cut and strimmed. Matt Bostock said that Heveningham Hall staff will be working along the Carnser footpath to improve it in the coming weeks. A letter from the Estate Manager, Lawrence Walker has been circulated to residents for information. SCC Cllr Burroughes said that now Spring is here some people have been straying off footpaths and walking on farmers' land, also an increase in fly-tipping. From his March report he highlighted a few items such as trials in Lowestoft and Mildenhall of driverless shuttles; SCC's Chief Executive is to step down at the end of March; there will be new joint Chief Executives from 1st April. County divisional boundaries have changed and Huntingfield will be in the new Halesworth division, which means this is the last HPC meeting that SCC Cllr Burroughes will attend. He has spent many years in various different roles whilst serving Huntingfield as their SCC Councillor. The Chairman thanked him for his hard work and for the advice he has given over the years and also thanked him for being a good friend.

20.26 Progress reports for information

- a) Brick Kiln Lane drainage – The further ditch works are complete apart from the cage to go in. Matt Bostock said that the Estate will pull their part of the ditch through soon and will retain a lay-by there.
- b) Barrels Hill additional road markings – After elections on 7th May a new SCC Councillor will have new funding to enable this to hopefully be done.
- c) The Hub/Huntingfield PC draft lease – This is ready to be discussed with the Hub's Committee. Mrs Collett asked for a copy so that the Committee can consider the lease before discussions take place.
- d) Village 'clean-up day' – This will be held on Sunday 12th April at 10.30 am. It will be advertised and the Chairman will order equipment from ESC.
- e) Neighbourhood Plan – The resident who has been trying to get other villages in the area interested in a joint venture has said there is currently no likelihood of any progress.
- f) Councillor new email address update – All completed except for Cllr Ward and Cllr Folan. Hopefully they will be done by the next HPC meeting.

e) New dog waste bins – Funding from SCC Cllr Burroughes' locality budget of £493 has been received to go towards the cost of the bins. The clerk has ordered the bins with the Contract Managing Officer at ESC but as yet has not received a reply. SCC Cllr Burroughes said he will try and chase on behalf of HPC.

21.26 Finance

- a) The Statement of Accounts for the current financial period was agreed and signed by the Chairman.
- b) The Bank Reconciliation to date was agreed and signed by the Chairman
- c) Bank balances as at 28.2.2026 – Current A/C £42,070.44 Savings A/C £20,439.11 were confirmed
- d) The account receipts as listed on the agenda were approved.
- e) The authorisation to pay, as previously circulated, was approved for payment
- f) The Internal Controls Report was completed by the clerk and Cllr Kline in February. The few actions as recommended will be approved at future HPC meetings.

22.26 Planning

No new applications had been received.

23.26 CIL expenditure - updated costings

The clerk had updated and circulated the income/expenditure spreadsheet to councillors prior to the meeting. It shows further spending on ditch works and the Hub noticeboard as well as updated costings for the MG power supply, cabling and water supply of £6100 and steps to the top of the MG £2100. This spending has already been approved in principle by HPC.

24.26 Further CIL spending ideas - Tree felling and replacement marquee

One estimate of £820 to fell and clear the fallen ash tree at the bottom of Brick Kiln Lane has been received. A further estimate will be obtained from another company recommended by Matt Bostock as soon as possible. Cllr Watson then outlined his idea for two new gazebos. He has estimates of £1231.66 plus VAT for two commercial grade 3m x 4.5m and £981.66 plus VAT for two medium grades of the same size. The current party tent is only used for HubFest and the plant sale and hopefully the new ones could be used more often. Four people would be needed to put them up, storage would not be a problem and the old one could be sold. Cllr Watson will circulate his email again to Councillors and to Mrs Collett for information. The Chairman will put the idea of steps and a path to the Arms in the Hare and ask for peoples' views. Installation of an electricity supply in the same location will also be discussed. It was agreed that there should really be other estimates for the improvement works on the MG as they amount to a lot of money. There are several contractors in the Halesworth area who can be contacted for further estimates.

25.26 2026 Grass-cutting quote from ESS and alternate grounds maintenance offer from AWFM Ltd

After some discussion and as there were no actual figures from AWFM Ltd to use as a comparison, it was agreed to accept the quote from East Suffolk Services.

26.26 Suffolk CC 20 mph village limit proposal

Cllr Watson is waiting for a reply from his contact at the Suffolk Parishes Road Safety Group to his offer of a phone conversation. He has circulated an email with a map of the 30-mph area of Huntingfield and where a 20-mph limit could go. SCC Cllr Burroughes said that even though there is historic speed data available, more traffic surveys will need to be done and these should be commissioned with Suffolk Highways when the new SCC representative has been elected.

27.26 To note correspondence received and circulated

Suffolk Parishes Road Safety Group (see the previous item). The Chairman has completed the Suffolk Highways – Town, Parish Council & Parish Meeting Survey on behalf of HPC.

As the Chairman has said that he intends to resign as Chairman and as a Parish Councillor before the next HPC meeting, the Vice-Chairman, Cllr Watson, thanked the Chairman for all his hard work over the years and said he is looking forward to seeing him amongst the public at future HPC meetings. His comments were endorsed by SCC Cllr Burroughes, as well as by members of the public present.

**28.26 Date of the next meeting – Confirmed as Wednesday 13th May 2026 at 7 pm in the Hub.
This will also be the date of the Annual Meeting and the Annual Parish Meeting.**

The meeting closed at 8.05 pm

Minutes agreed as correct.

Chairman _____ Date _____

Carol Hume
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