



Huntingfield Parish Council

Minutes

Minutes of the meeting of Huntingfield Parish Council held on Wednesday 9th September 2026 in the Hub.

Councillors attending: Cllr Edward Watson (Acting-Chair), Cllr Sarah Kline, Cllr John Folan and Cllr Emma Ward. **Also attending were 9 members of the public and Clerk/RFO Carol Hume.**

64.26 Apologies and approval of absences. Suffolk County Cllr Annette Dunning, Dist. Cllr Julia Ewart

65.26 To receive Declaration of Interest. None

66.26 To consider requests for dispensations. No requests received.

67.26 To resolve that the minutes of the HPC meeting held on 8th July 2026 are a true and correct record. The minutes were signed as being accurate by the Acting Chair.

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

A resident gave more details about the need for a new notice board outside the Hub entrance as someone has reversed into it, which shows all the local walks (see agenda Item 10). It is owned by the parish council and was put up along with leaflets as part of the Magna Carta celebrations. The quote from C W Ellis Ltd is for £265.78 (incl VAT) using long lasting materials, up to 50 years. A decision whether to use CIL money to purchase will be made later. At this stage another resident asked where all the CIL money has gone. The breakdown of all expenditure will be covered at agenda Item 9. Mr Blackmore then gave a report on the HubFest. This had been a great success, visitors were up by 50% and money raised was between £3.5k and £4k. Feedback was good, it was a great community event and the pub had a good day too. It was felt that the expenditure was a good investment making a few hundred pounds for the Hub. It is hoped to hold the event again in 2027 on 31st July. There was some general discussion about the unpleasant smells in the village. An Anglian Water engineer was in the village for a week in the summer checking all gardens and taking readings. Cllr Kline suggested that a letter about this to DC Ewart could be drafted with input from all residents. She has asked for an update on this issue so Cllr Watson will contact her with further information.

69.26 Progress reports for information

- a) New dog waste bins – The clerk has been in touch again with Teresa Tank, ESC Contract Monitoring Officer who said in an email on 21st July that she would drive out to Huntingfield, take photos and get the ball rolling, however nothing has happened so the clerk will try again to get the two new bins installed. A resident said that some dog waste has been put in the grey bin at the churchyard instead of in the correct bin. A laminated sign will be put up in the churchyard showing the position of the dog waste bins in the village.
- b) Cllr Watson has had discussions with the Hub Trustees but this is still a work in progress. He has also been in touch with the solicitors asking them to await further instructions on the lease.
- c) Cllr Watson has submitted a response to this consultation, but as a resident and not on behalf of the parish council.
- d) It was agreed to contact Jeremy Muller, Suffolk Parishes Road Safety Group for an update.

70.26 Finance

- a) The Statement of Accounts for the current financial year was agreed and signed by the Acting Chair
- b) The Bank Reconciliation to date was agreed and signed by the Acting Chair.
- c) Bank balances as at 31.8.2026 – Current A/C £24,610.45 Savings A/C £20,490.12 were confirmed
- d) The account receipts of interest in July 2026 £8.41, and August 2026 £8.98 were approved
- e) The authorisation to pay was approved for payment
- f) The insurance policy renewal documents had been circulated to councillors before the meeting. It was agreed to compare these with the Hub insurance policy documents to ensure the correct assets are covered. The clerk will contact Ansvar Insurance and ask for the correct postcodes to be included in the policy.
- g) The Thriving Places Investment Fund could be used by the Hub so Cllr Kline will forward the information on it to Mrs Collett for inclusion in the next Hub meeting agenda.
- h) The clerk's pay rate increase as recommended by NALC of circa 50p per hour was proposed by Cllr Kline seconded by Cllr Folan and approved unanimously.

71.26 Planning

There were no new applications.

72.26 CIL expenditure - updated costings and expenditure

The acting-Chairman read out all the items purchased and the cost of each item on the updated spreadsheet. This list included all items purchased for HubFest 26 which amounted to £3026.73. There is currently £17,270.13 left to spend.

73.26 Further CIL spending ideas

The quote for the new noticeboard (as described in the public participation session earlier) was approved unanimously for purchase. Some discussion followed regarding future HubFests and whether some funds should be ring-fenced for this. It was agreed not to do this now but to review future expenditure and research other funding sources. The Millenium Green trustees will discuss future projects which may need to use CIL money at their next meeting. As CIL money has to be spent within five years of receipt, Cllr Kline will calculate how much still needs to be spent and by when.

74.26 VanESSA Bus Project

Cllr Watson said that this is a mobile bus staffed by Citizens Advice East Suffolk which could visit the village once a month. He has completed a questionnaire and sent it off.

75.26 Suffolk Highways wish list

Cllr Kline and her husband have been working on a comprehensive list to send to SCC Dunning. It is not yet complete but will be sent soon.

76.26 Correspondence

The Suffolk Shop Company – It was agreed that there would be no demand for a shop in the village as there is already one in the pub providing some basic items and treats.

ESC Free Trees – No interest in this. Cllr Ward has some trees available if anyone wants them. Cllr Folan said they could be used at Holland Rise.

Suffolk Against Fraud – the clerk will put the poster on this on the Hub noticeboard in the foyer.

Cllr Kline said she will write to the Environment Agency to highlight the poor water quality in the River Blyth as readings for e.Coli at Huntingfield have worsened recently. She will also highlight other issues with sewerage and water in the village to them.

77.26 Date of the next meeting – Confirmed as Wednesday 11th November 2026 at 7 pm in the Hub.

The meeting closed at 8.00 pm

Minutes agreed as correct.

Chairman_____ **Date**_____

Carol Hume

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