

HOCKWOLD-CUM-WILTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held in the Village Hall, Main Street, Hockwold
on Tuesday 10th February 2026 at 7.30pm

Councillors of Hockwold cum Wilton Parish Council

Present: Cllr Royal, Cllr Newman, Cllr Sismey, Cllr T. Gossage, Cllr Baker, Cllr Rumsey, Cllr Bland

Hilary R Cox, Clerk

NCC & Borough Cllr Martin Storey

One members of the public

Open Forum

146. **To receive and approve apologies for absence.** Apologies submitted and approved from Cllr Denney

147. **To receive any declarations of interest from Members & consider requests for dispensation** NONE

Members are invited to declare disclosable pecuniary interests and other interests in items on the agenda as required by the Hockwold cum Wilton Parish Council Code of Conduct for Members and by the Localism Act 2011.

148.

a. RAF Lakenheath

- I and the 48 FW would like to wish you all a very happy New Year and thank you for your support and understanding over the past year. We look forward to working with you in 2026.
- Alongside fellow USVF colleagues from RAF Mildenhall, the 48 FW Chaplain assisted with the recent Memorial for the B-17G Flying Fortress 'Mission Mistress' in Bury St. Edmunds on Tues 6 Jan. The WW2 memorial was unveiled on the 81st anniversary at the crash site on the Moreton Hall Estate and included family members from the US that flew over especially.
- Our USVF colleagues at RAF Mildenhall played a key role in the seizure of a Russian-flagged tanker in the North Atlantic this month, an operation that was also supported by RAF surveillance aircraft and a Royal Navy support ship. The UK government position is that we are stepping up activity against shadow vessels, and the US thanked the Ministry of Defence for its "unwavering support" during the operation.
- Exercise Point Blank is running from 26 Jan – 6 Feb. This is a significant joint exercise with NATO partners and there may be additional flying activity.
- As a summary of community activities by RAF Lakenheath in 2025 (covering Suffolk, Norfolk and Cambs), the CRA provides the following statistics. It's worth noting that this activity is despite the pause during the 42 days of US government shutdown.
 - o 34 civic and local invitations supported
 - o 10 memorial requests supported
 - o 22 Remembrance events attended
 - o 24 volunteer opportunities committed

b. Norfolk County Council & Borough WNKL Council, Cllr Martin Storey

Cllr Martin Storey provided an update to the council. He reported on ongoing national discussions regarding local government reorganisation, which proposes replacing the current two-tier county and district council structure with unitary authorities. Members noted that there has been debate nationally regarding the timing of elections in areas affected by these proposals. Government announcements have indicated that some councils have had elections postponed as part of the reorganisation process, while others are expected to proceed. Cllr Storey advised that Norfolk County Council's position is that elections should

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proceed and noted that legal proceedings regarding the timing of elections are currently ongoing.

Cllr Storey also highlighted financial pressures facing Norfolk County Council. He noted that the council's published budget information indicates that an increase of 1p in the National Living Wage can increase the council's budget requirement by approximately £300,000, largely due to workforce pressures within social care. Members also noted that Norfolk County Council has proposed a 15% uplift to foster carer allowances as part of its transformation programme.

In transport matters, Cllr Storey reported that Norfolk County Council has stated that passenger numbers on bus services have increased by approximately 26% since 2022 following improvements delivered through the Bus Service Improvement Plan. He also noted that government funding of approximately £65.5 million has been secured to support improvements to bus services and transport infrastructure across the county.

Finally, Cllr Storey reported that Norfolk County Council approved its budget for the 2026–2027 financial year at the Full Council meeting held on 17 February.

- c. **Chairman** Chairman Royal reported that he attended the Hockwold cum Wilton WI chapter's 100th anniversary afternoon tea. He thanked the WI for the invitation and said it was a wonderful occasion.

d. **Clerk**

The Clerk presented her report to the council and advised that a significant amount of administrative time has recently been required in responding to external correspondence, complaints procedures and regulatory matters, which has reduced the time available for routine parish work. She reminded members that the financial year end is approaching and that priority will need to be given to the preparation of the AGAR and other statutory and regulatory duties. The Clerk confirmed that her written report had been shared with members and responded to questions raised by the council.

The Clerk also reported that she had been in contact with Glasdon regarding replacement village gateways that had been damaged through vandalism. The option of including a round message sign or emblem was discussed and will be placed on a future agenda for further consideration.

Members were also updated on the electricity supply account. The Clerk explained that there had been confusion regarding missing MPAN numbers following supplier changes. The electricity supply has now been consolidated under a single MPAN, which should simplify account management going forward. Members noted the report.

149. **To approve minutes of the Council meeting held 13th January 2026** It was resolved to approve the minutes as a true and accurate record.

- **To approve minutes of the Council EXORD meeting held 27th January 2026** It was resolved to approve the minutes as a true and accurate record.

150. **Matters arising (for information only)**

The council noted the decision by Norfolk County Council regarding a modification application to the Definitive Map and Statement of Public Rights of Way under Section 53 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. The application, originally submitted in March 2018, proposes the addition of a restricted byway and the upgrade of part of Hockwold cum Wilton Bridleway No. 6A to a restricted byway. The modification relates to the section between grid references TL 7342 8774 and TL 7343 8768, with the width recorded as the full extent between boundary features as shown on the 1905 Ordnance Survey mapping. Further amendments will record the

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width of the adjoining section of Bridleway No. 6A between TL 7343 8768 and TL 7346 8752. Norfolk County Council has given notice of its decision to make an Order and will proceed in accordance with Schedule 15 of the Act. If no objections are received the Order will be confirmed; if objections are made and not withdrawn, the matter will be referred to the Secretary of State for confirmation. Members noted the update.

To report progress on matters arising from previous minutes (not elsewhere on agenda)

151. **To confirm receipt of NALC, CAN and other correspondence** All Councillors present received their updates and correspondence.
152. **To discuss NCC funding for Village Hall** Members discussed Norfolk County Council funding relating to the Village Hall. Cllr Storey clarified the position regarding his allocated community funding and the earlier confusion surrounding it. The Village Hall Committee expressed their thanks to Cllr Storey for his support. Members noted that Norfolk County Council operates the Norfolk Community Fund, through which each county councillor is allocated £5,000 to support local voluntary and community projects, with grants typically ranging from £200 to £2,500 for initiatives that benefit local communities. It was agreed that Cllr Newman would forward information on the available community funding to the Village Hall Committee so they could consider applying for support.
153. **To discuss Blue Badge parking area in the Village Hall carpark** The council discussed the Village Hall car park, noting the lack of clear markings for the disabled parking space and considering whether additional parking spaces and yellow line markings may be required to improve access and safety. Members agreed that improvements to the layout and markings would be beneficial. The council resolved that it would welcome proposals from the Village Hall Committee for consideration.
154. **To review Farm allotments** Postponed to future agenda
155. **To discuss streetlighting** Postponed to future agenda
156. **To follow up on the newsletter and organise the next newsletter** Postponed to future agenda
157. **To discuss the possibility of beautification project/event** Postponed to future agenda
158. **Planning Matters**
 - a. **To receive results & updates of outstanding applications**
 - i. NONE
 - b. **To receive new planning applications relevant to the village and make comment**
 - i. NONE
159. **Finance**
 - a. **To agree payment of February's invoices** Accounts agree and approved.

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Hockwold cum Wilton Parish Council PAYMENTS LIST

9 February 2026 (2025-2026)

Vouche	Code	Date	Minute	Bank	Payment Ref.	Description	Supplier	VAT Type	Net	VAT	Total
107	Staff Costs	10/02/2026		Current Account		Wages	Hilary Cox	Z	1,295.68		1,295.68
108	Staff Costs	10/02/2026		Current Account		Employer National Insurance C	HMRC	Z	264.30		264.30
109	Staff Costs	10/02/2026		Current Account		Employee Pension Contribution	NEST	Z	64.61		64.61
110	Lighting Maintenance	10/02/2026		Current Account		Street Furniture maintenance a	K & M Lighting Services	S	89.31	17.86	107.17
111	Legal Fees	10/02/2026		Current Account		Legal	NPLAW	S	76.50	15.30	91.80
112	Community Events	10/02/2026		Current Account		Reimbursement for Payment m	David Simesy	Z	119.30		119.30
113	Legal Fees	10/02/2026		Current Account		Legal	NPLAW	S	137.70	27.54	165.24
114	Fees & Subscriptions	10/02/2026		Current Account		Information Commissioners Off	Information Commissioner	Z	47.00		47.00
115	Broadband & Phone	10/02/2026		Current Account		Office phone and internet	Hilary Cox	Z	26.00		26.00
Total									2,120.40	60.70	2,181.10

160. Items for the next agenda

- Pearces Close derelict home
- Village Hall Container
- Village Stone Marker on Main

161. Reminder of the training refresher directly after the meeting

162. To confirm date and times of the next Parish Council Meeting on 10th March 2026 starting at 7.30 pm. Meetings take place in Hockwold Village Hall, Main Street IP264LW

Distribution:

One copy to each Councillor. Copies to Mr M Storey Norfolk Borough and County Councillor, Squadron Leader Eaton RAF Lakenheath and one copy for the website.