

HOCKWOLD-CUM-WILTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held in the Village Hall, Main Street, Hockwold
on Tuesday 13th January 2026 at 7.30pm

Councillors of Hockwold cum Wilton Parish Council

Present: Cllr Royal, Cllr Sismey, Cllr Denney, Cllr T. Gossage, Cllr A. Gossage, Cllr Baker,
Cllr Rumsey

Hilary R Cox, Clerk

NCC & Borough Cllr Martin Storey

One members of the public

Open Forum

122. To receive and approve apologies for absence. Apologies submitted and approved from Cllr Bland and Cllr Newman

123. 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.

124.

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.
 - 34 civic and local invitations supported
 - 10 memorial requests supported
 - 22 Remembrance events attended
 - 24 volunteer opportunities committed

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

Cllr Storey provided an update on current priorities and external developments affecting the council area. He reported that with the arrival of colder weather this winter, existing potholes on local roads were expected to worsen, and that safety on

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the highway network remained a paramount concern. Cllr Storey advised that he had arranged a meeting with the local Highways team to discuss pothole repairs and concerns about the absence of white lining in places, emphasising the importance of maintaining road safety. Members noted that Norfolk County Council operates a winter maintenance programme with gritters deployed on priority routes; there are significant gritting resources in place covering main roads at over 2,200 miles per run to help keep routes clear during ice and frost conditions.

On electoral matters, Cllr Storey reminded members that elections to county councillors are expected to proceed in May 2026, although there has been debate locally about whether they should be delayed; the Government's timetable for structural reform has led to differing views among councils on timing. Members noted that Norfolk and Suffolk are engaged in a local government reorganisation process to replace the existing two-tier structure with new unitary authorities, with consultations ongoing and proposals submitted to Government; the new unitary body for Norfolk is anticipated to be in place within the next 12 months as part of this process. Finally, Cllr Storey advised that Norfolk County Council's budget setting process is underway, with key budget decisions scheduled for 17 February. Members noted the report.

c. Chairman Cllr Royal informed the council that he will be attending the WI 100th year celebration on the 25th January.

d. Clerk The clerk state there is not al lot to report as she was on annual leave for most of January. The clerk updated the council on the communications from parishioners on the speed change on Station Road, her reporting the increasing size of the potholes on Main Street and has begun the requested communications letter to NPLAW. A pothole on Nursery Lane was reported and the clerk to make a request for repair to the NCC Highways Department.

125.To approve minutes of the Council meeting held 11th November 2025 It was resolved to approve the minutes as a true and accurate record.

a. To approve minutes of the Council Exord meeting held 18th November 2025 It was resolved to approve the minutes as a true and accurate record.

126.Matters arising (for information only) NONE

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

127.To confirm receipt of NALC, CAN and other correspondence All Councillors present received their updates and correspondence.

a. To confirm Council access to the new gov.uk email accounts All councillors have now confirmed they have access to the new .GOV email accounts.

128.To follow up on the newsletter and organise the next newsletter Cllr Denney updated the council on the most recent newsletter distribution. A total of 750 copies were printed. Additional copies will be supplied to St James Church, Hockwold Shop and the Village Hall. The next issue is planned for March 2026 and will include the Annual Parish Assembly invitation and agenda, dog waste information and a dog waste bin location map.

129.To discuss new power supplier The Clerk advised that it had not been possible to obtain new electricity supply quotations for the meeting. New providers are unable to issue quotations while an outstanding balance remains with the current supplier. The original supplier has ceased trading and the account has been transferred to an alternative provider,

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which is still being confirmed. Once the new provider is identified and the balance is cleared, quotations will be sought.

130. To discuss vandalism on the village gateways and other areas of the parish The clerk is awaiting guidance from NCC Highway on getting repair quotes and after which she can contact the council's insurance provider.

131. To discuss possible replacement of bus shelter dog waste bin and repair of Mill Lane dog waste bin The clerk reported that the bin on the bus shelter is now in working order. She will keep an eye on it. Also discussed the erosion and difficulty reaching the Mill Lane bin. The clerk was tasked with contacting Les Fenn to see if he can have a look at it.

132. To consider previously agree funding for VJ Day event Cllr Sismey discussed the previous approval of up to £250.00 for the VJ Day event. Cllr provided records of spends totalling £119.30. It was resolved to approve the payment.

133. To discuss the possibility of beautification project/event The council discussed the possibility of holding an event to encourage parishioners to maintain gardens and surrounding areas. Cllr Denney agreed to research similar schemes or initiatives used in other areas and report back at the February meeting for further consideration.

134. Planning Matters

a. To receive results & updates of outstanding applications All read out.

i. 25/01933/F | RETROSPECTIVE/RETENTION: Proposed permanent retention of mobile home / temporary accommodation ancillary mobile unit housing customer w.c.s, office and tack room

b. To receive new planning applications relevant to the village and make comment
i. 25/00297/TREECA | There is a large Ash tree with branches hanging low over the access track. We will remove all dead wood from the tree and cut back the overhanging limbs to give a 2 metre clearance away from the track.

ii. 25/01973/LDP | Application for a Lawful Development Certificate for proposed refurbishment project consisting of provision of new upstream stoplogs, installation of new stainless steel stoplog guides and new gantry crane to install stoplogs

135. Finance

a. To agree payment of January's invoices Accounts agree and approved.

Hockwold cum Wilton Parish Council

8 January 2026 (2025-2026)

RECEIPTS LIST

Vouche	Code	Date	Minute	Bank	Receipt No	Description	Supplier	VAT Type	Net	VAT	Total
12	Bank Interest	08/12/2025		Business Premium Ac		Interest Earned	Barclays	Z	21.35		21.35
									Total	21.35	21.35

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Hockwold cum Wilton Parish Council PAYMENTS LIST

8 January 2026 (2025-2026)

Vouche	Code	Date	Minute	Bank	Payment Ref.	Description	Supplier	VAT Type	Net	VAT	Total
98	Staff Costs	13/01/2026		Current Account		Wages	Hilary Cox	Z	1,295.48		1,295.48
99	Staff Costs	13/01/2026		Current Account		Employer National Insurance C	HMRC	Z	264.50		264.50
100	Staff Costs	13/01/2026		Current Account		Employee Pension Contribution	NEST	Z	64.61		64.61
101	Lighting Maintenance	13/01/2026		Current Account		Street Lighting Maintenance	K & M Lighting Services	S	89.31	17.86	107.17
102	Bus Shelter & Gateways	13/01/2026		Current Account		Bus Shelter and Gateways clea	1st Glass Window Cleaning	Z	25.00		25.00
103	Bus Shelter & Gateways	13/01/2026		Current Account		Bus Shelter and Gateways clea	1st Glass Window Cleaning	Z	25.00		25.00
104	Broadband & Phone	13/01/2026		Current Account		Office phone and internet	Hilary Cox	Z	26.00		26.00
105	publication	13/01/2026		Current Account		Reimbursement for Payment m	Paul Royal	Z	257.14		257.14
106	Fees & Subscriptions	13/01/2026		Current Account		accounting software subscriptio	Starboard Systems limited	S	348.00	69.60	417.60
Total									2,395.04	87.46	2,482.50

136. Items for the next agenda

- Beautification Project
- Newsletter
- Highways Updates
- Vandalism
- Electricity Supply
- Street Lighting

137. **Reminder of the training refresher directly after the meeting** Council discussed topic for next meeting.

138. **To confirm date and times of the next Parish Council Meeting on 10th February 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.