Hawstead Parish Council - Clerk report

10th July 2025

The aim of this report is to provide comments on agenda items and to update the Parish Councillors on:-

- correspondence received, sent and circulated since the last meeting
- Training attended since the last meeting
- Clerks' activity since May 2025
- Planning decisions

2.5 Suffolk constabulary

https://www.suffolk.police.uk/SysSiteAssets/media/downloads/suffolk/constables-county-july-2024.pdf

5 Matters Arising

- Footpaths leaflet (suggested Jan 2025) yet to be progressed.
- Clerk yet to instal You Tube Channel
- Fallen tree yet to be taken out of brook.
- The plaque by the crab apple tree got broken – probably by the WSC mowing team; clerk has asked WSC for reimbursement- response awaited.

Item 8.1 Proposed traffic camera signage for White gates

https://www.centurioneurope.co.uk/safety-signs-supplies/signs/road-traffic-signs/ce-marked-permanent-road-signs/350-x-300mm-acp-speed-camera-symbol-only-road-sign-without-channel

Clerk raised a request with SCC as to whether this proposed signage would be acceptable in terms of safety, given that the village does not have a permanent ANPR/ no SIDS (at present). A request has gone onto the Speed Safety team – no response to date.

Email from Jon Shaw SCC re speed safety and signage

Regarding SIDs, SCC is not allowed to recommend any brand over others. Pretty much all SIDs work the exact same way fundamentally though. The main differences between brands are usually aesthetics, weight, battery life and price. There are plenty of brands out there that can fit all sorts of budgets.

Regarding speed camera signage, I can't see why that would be a problem, but I have copied in Highways Safety and Speed Management to comment as they will be more knowledgeable in this area.

Item 8.2 Website refresh

Clerk proposes permission to refresh website to reflect new roles.

8.3 in principle support for purchase of an SID (subject to further investigation about funding/ spec/approvals etc)

Councillors have undertaken research into this. No details circulated to clerk at time papers issued. No final decision should be taken on this item unless councillors have had a proper chance to consider the detail of any proposal advance. It may be necessary to undertake risk assessments etc as to siting before committing to any purchase.

Raw SCC ANPR data is included at the end of this report See Jon Shaw comments above.

8.4 Whether to re- explore the provision of a charging point for the village hall (subject to further consideration/research);

No details seen by clerk as at date of issue. Informatio about EV charging points/funding can be found at;-

https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/asset-library/suffolk-charging-infrastructure-strategy-2023.pdf

https://transportandenergy.com/2025/04/09/suffolk-to-install-6000-chargers/
The Council has considered this matter at least twice in recent years. Relevant extract minutes from the last relevant meeting are set out below;-

Extract minutes 8/2/24
6.1 To discuss the EV charging point proposal (https://www.greensuffolk.org/plug-in-suffolk/) subject to final confirmation of support at a later date (if required). *The Council having previously expressed an interest has been encouraged by SCC to submit an application for this initiative before the end of the month in order that SCC can put the relevant contract out to tender. The Council discussed the following; (i) the extent to which this initiative might be beneficial for village residents and their guests/ users of the village hall; (ii) the fact that full details will only be available after an application has been submitted (subsequent withdrawal is a possibility); (iii) conjecture that SCC will have target numbers of EV points to deliver; (iv) concerns that this facility might attract users (taxi drivers/delivery drivers?) from outside the village who might gather at night to charge vehicles causing noisy/ anti-social behaviour; most people who own an electric vehicle will have a charging point at home already; this would be useful for guests of residents with no charging point and village hall users; (v) there are plenty of EV charging points available for use in central BSE in supermarket carparks/garages; (vi) concern about whether the village electricity supply would be reliable enough to support this facility; (vii) the required 15 year commitment; (viii) The existing village green byelaws restrict parking overnight on the village green (of which the car park forms a part); the installation of the charging point may lead to breach of byelaws and enforcement challenges; (ix) siting of wall mounted chargers may make access to the car park challenging; it might be necessary to create a new dropped kerb, which could be costly; (x) anecdotal evidence from a councillors' relative who manages a leisure venue with EV charging points which has been problematic due to antisocial behaviour; (xi) anecdotal evidence from the village hall manager at a nearby village which hosts such EV points; the equipment was described as 'complete rubbish' (often broken, expensive, underused; mainly used by residents awaiting installation of their home charging point); (xii) the liklihood of technology (and equipment) improving during the proposed lease period; (xiii) any application pursuant to this scheme would need to be made by HCC (with support of the Council) in any event as the power would be provided via the village hall; (xiv) concerns about the company running the scheme by reference to information available at Companies House and the need for proper due diligence before pursuing any application; (xv) the fact that current Phase 2 of this scheme has been amended in light of feedback following the roll out of Phase 1; (xvi) HCC feedback on the proposals ('mixed'); (xvii) the fact that residents in a road with a need for a charging point can petition SCC for a charging point to be installed in that road, if required. Following full discussion it was* ***AGREED*** *by a majority 4:1* ***NOT TO SUPPORT*** *any application which HCC might chose to submit in this regard at this time.*

8.5 Any proposal received from HCC for financial support for playground equipment
Nothing received as at date of issue.

9.1 Planning notifications

The following decision has been received:-
DC/25/0439/OUT outline planning a[[;iction (means of access to be considered) – one self build dwelling on Land at Pipers Hall Farm, Whepstead Road, Hawstead – REFUSED

The following application is noted on the WS website as pending (no formal consultation with PC required)

Application to discharge conditions 3 (hours of construction/demolition), 5 (refuse/recycling area to be provided), 6 (means to prevent discharge surface water), 7 (parking/manoeuvring to be provide), 9 (cycle storage to be provided) and 12 (material Details) of application DC/21/2132/P3QPA

Little Meade Whepstead Road Hawstead Bury St Edmunds Suffolk IP29 4TG
Ref. No: DCON(A)/21/2132 | Received: Fri 27 Jun 2025 | Validated: Fri 27 Jun 2025 | Status: Pending Consideration

11.4 Internal Audit report for year ending 24/25

Circulated under separate cover

12. Correspondence

Indication is given where an item has already been circulated by email and/ or is under consideration at this meeting and /or has been circulated for this meeting. Please request copies of anything you have not received

Date	Detail	Action	Email circulation	Agenda item	Circulated with agenda
15.5.25	West Suffolk Civic Service and Cathedral Tower Celebration - Sunday 22 June 2025		06.06.25		
16.05.25	Email HCC chair confirming no hire charges for 25 26	Thanked June 2025			
16.05.25	WSC grass cut schedule				
16.05.25	Play areas report – low risk findings only			11	
19.05.25	WEST Suffolk parish forum flier 17 June		06.06.25		
19.05.25	SALC bulletin		06.06.25		
19.05.25	: Bus Stop Improvements and Passenger Group meeting info from KS		06.06.25		
22.05.25	Fw: Suffolk Community Awards 2025		06.06.25		

22.05.25	SALC NSIP newsletter				
22.05.25	ANPR raw data		06.-5.25	8.3	yes
23.5.25	Offer from HH of £1850 towards playground project	Thanked 30/5; HCC to raise invoice directly to HH			
23.05.25	WSC grass cutting schedule				
27.5.25	Update from HH re Triconnex works		30.05.25		
27.05.25	SALC bulletin		06.06.25		
30.05.25	WSC grass cutting schedule				
30.05.25	Internal audit report and IAR			10.4	yes
02.06.25	SALC bulletin		06.06.25		
03.06.25	OSS newsletter		06.06.25		
03.06.25	SALC training bulletin		06.06.25		
04.06.25	Notice of Nitrate Vulnerable zone designation	To CC 4.7.25			
05.06.25	Council and community action - climate action pilot survey		06.06.25		
06.06.25	OSS AGM voting instructions				
09.06.25	Suffolk community awards		11.6.25		
09.06.25	SALC AGM flier plus SALC report and AGM agenda		11.06.25		
09.06.25	SALC report		11.06.25		
10.07.25	LGC update - press releases from Suffolk County Council - budget/consultation		11.06.25		
06.06.25	WSC grass cut schedule				
12.06.25	Play area report			11	
	Response from Jon Shaw SCC on speed safety/signage			8.1	yes
12.06.25	Bus passenger group info				
12.06.25	Residents survey local gvt reorg	To VV/website 18.6.25	18.6.25		
13.05.25	WSC grass cut schedule				
16.06.25	Suffolk community awards info		18.6.25		
17.06.25	SALC bulletin		18.6.25		
19.06.25	Flier on Suffolk County Council Briefings on Local Government Reorganisation				

20.06.25	WSC grass cut schedule				
23.06.25	RPA update n delinked payments				
23.06.25	SALC bulletin		03.07.25		
27.06.25	WSC grass cut schedule				
02.07.25	SALC AGM and 75th Anniversary 1st July 2025 - recording		03.07.25		
03.07.25	SALC news bulletin		03.07.25		
2.07.25	Email re tree accident	To JC 4.7.25		11	
3.07.25	Pond restoration and conservation, July 10th @ 6PM		03.07.25		
3.7.25	West Suffolk Local Plan 2024-2041 – Examination – Inspectors' Report		3.07.25		
3.7.25	Whepstead PC email re Quintas solar proposal		4.7.25	9.2	
4.07.25	Annual Canvass briefing pack		04.07.25		
04.07.25	WSC grass cut schedule				

TRAINING

JFL attended councillor training sessions 1 and 2 22 and 29 May 2025

AB attended new councillor training sessions on XX

HB booked for chair training 16 June ad Councillors sessions 1 and 2 June 2025

CLERK'S ACTIVITY June-July 2025

Date	Activity	Time
	Prepare for and minute July meetings End of year finance/audit	
	Corresp	
	TOTAL	**40.00**

Email from HCC Chair 16 May 2025

On Monday 12th May 2025 the Executive Committee of Hawstead Community Council held a meeting of its new members.
One of the items on the agenda was hire charges for your club/group and following discussion and a vote, I am pleased to inform you that we are able to waive the charge for hire of the Village Hall as in previous years and under the same conditions for 2025/26

Please note this arrangement will be discussed by the new Executive Committee in May 2026 for their consideration.

Extract SCC ANPR data re Hawstead (item 8.3)

ANPR Raw Data – 24/02/2025 – 06/05/2025

Hawstead – Bury Road

·Total photos – 1385

· 30-34mph – 1122

35mph+ - 263

· 40mph+ - 40

· 50mph+ - 0

· 60mph+ - 0

· Fastest Speed – 49mph

Email about tree accident 2 July

Yesterday's tragic event in Southend made me think we ought to review every tree in the village to make certain none are anywhere close to collapse.
For instance the large willow close to the play area?
See the article on The BBC website.

https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c4gdr4el5vpo

Clerk note; referred to tree warden for coment.

Quintas solar – email from Whepstead PC

The planning application DC/25/0909/FUL for the proposed solar farm on Land off Poulters Lane has been submitted.

As the application will have a far-reaching effect on the area, the Whepstead Parish Council is hosting a meeting for villagers to air their concerns or support.

The meeting will be held on Thursday July 10th at Whepstead Community Centre at 6pm.

Quintas Cleantech will be at the meeting to discuss their planning bid and to answer your questions.

After Quintas has spoken residents will be given the chance to make a statement of their views – and can speak uninterrupted for up to three minutes.

If you wish to make a statement please email – parishclerkwhepstead@gmail.com who will compile a list of speakers for the agenda.

In the link below you can access the documents where you can read them in full or just the executive summaries or the conclusions.

There is a Landscape Strategy (attached) that shows proposed works

Here is the link to the planning notice and where you will find an opportunity to submit comments:

https://planning.westsuffolk.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=summary&keyVal=SX8JILPDKDE00

Your comments are important – they show the planning team how residents see this proposal.

Thank you to the residents of Whepstead and Horringer who have already made comments.

Regards

Whepstead Parish Council