

Homersfield Parish Council

FULL COUNCIL MEETING

Homersfield Black Swan

Tuesday 15th September 2026 at 6.00 pm

Councillors Present: Lucy Hammond (Chair), Lynne Elliott & Peter Kent

Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer (RFO): Sally Chapman

Also Present: County Councillor Peter Aiano and two parishioners

A. Public Forum – for Members of the Public

No questions

B. To Receive Reports from the County & District Councillors' Reports can be read on: [HPC's website](#).

County Councillor Peter Aiano gave an update on his report, main points:

- **Local Government Reorganisation** - It was reported that the proposed unitary councils have been withdrawn. At present, it remains unclear whether the proposed mayoral elections will proceed next year.
- **Speeding in the village** - Councillors discussed concerns about vehicles speeding through the village, particularly near the Village Green. The possibility of introducing speed humps was considered. The County Council has advised that incidents should be reported to the Police using the online reporting portal, preferably including the vehicle registration number where possible. These reports will help the Police identify patterns of offending and determine whether enforcement or other traffic management measures are appropriate.
- **Church Wood** - Councillors discussed the difficulties of managing a dangerous tree in Church Wood which is being used as a roost by soprano pipistrelle bats. The latest tree safety survey recommended that the tree must be felled as it poses a significant risk beside the public bridleway. The Parish Council has budgeted £3,825 plus VAT for the tree surgery works. However, to comply with wildlife legislation, an ecologist is required to obtain a Natural England bat mitigation licence and oversee the works at an additional cost of £1,000 plus VAT. The County Councillor kindly offered £500 from his Enabling Communities Budget towards the ecologist's costs. Councillors agreed that the Clerk should submit a further grant application to the District Councillors for the remaining funding.

Action: Clerk

District Councillors Anthony Specca & Toby Hammond sent apologies.

MINUTES

1. To Approve Apologies for Absence

Apologies were Approved from Councillor Holdridge.

2. To Record Declarations of Interests and to Consider Requests for Dispensation

None

3. To Approve the Minutes of the Meetings held on 21st July 2026

The Minutes from the Meeting held on 21st July 2026 were confirmed unanimously as a true and accurate record and signed by the Chair.

4. To Consider Co-option to fill the Casual Vacancy

a) Resignation of Councillor Bird

Cllrs sent thanks to Councillor Bird for returning to the Parish Council and for her valuable support and contribution during her time as a Councillor. HPC will continue to work with Mrs Bird in her role as Chair of Homersfield Community Park and expressed their grateful thanks for her continued commitment to the Parish and the community.

Signed: _____ Chair

Date: _____

Homersfield Parish Council

b) Co-Option

Councillors unanimously Resolved to co-opt Mr Martin Symonds as a Parish Councillor. He signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office and was welcomed to the Council.

Action: Clerk

5. Finance

a) To Consider and Review Insurance Quotations

Councillors reviewed the insurance quotations received and Approved the Zurich three-year long-term agreement quotation of £264.00.

b) To Receive the Financial & Budget Reports and Approve the Income & Expenditure

Councillors Resolved unanimously to Approve the following Receipts and Expenditure:

DATE	REFERENCE	DETAILS	RECEIPTS	EXPENDITURE
28/07/2026	Transfer	Clerk's Salary - July		£ 233.44
31/07/2026	S/O	Bank Fee		£ 7.00
28/08/2026	Transfer	Clerk's Salary - August		£ 233.44
31/08/2026	S/O	Bank Fee		£ 7.00
15/09/2026	11	Clerk's Expenses August & September & Pay Award		£ 91.00
15/09/2026	12	Zurich Local Councils Insurance		£ 264.00
15/09/2026	13	Meeting Costs - September		£ 11.15
		Total	£ -	£ 847.03
		Reserves		
		General Reserves		£ 8,969.51
		Restricted Reserves		£ 14,507.61
		Total		£ 23,477.12

c) To Note the Clerk's Pay Award backdated to 1st April 2026

Councillors Approved the Clerk's contracted pay award, backdated to 1st April 2026.

d) To Consider the Tree Surgery Quotation

Councillors Resolved to accept the quotation of £3,825 plus VAT for the tree surgery works and the Ecologist's quotation of £1,000 plus VAT for the bat mitigation licence.

The County Councillor has approved a grant of £500 towards the costs. The Chair will contact the District Councillors to request a further grant towards the remaining costs.

Action: Chair

e) Remembrance Poppy Wreath – update

The poppy wreath has been received and is ready to be placed on the Village Sign following the Remembrance Sunday service at 10.00 am on 8th November at St Mary's Church, Homersfield.

6. Planning Applications and Decisions - click the Application number to view.

Cllrs noted the following:

Applications

a) DC/26/2001/FUL & DC/26/2002/LBC

Proposal: Replacement rear extension and internal alterations & Listed Building Consent

Site address: 83 The Green, Homersfield, Harleston, Suffolk, IP20 0ET

HPC Comment: Councillors Resolved to submit a Neutral response, whilst requesting that due consideration be given to the proposed roofline height.

ESC Status: Pending

b) DC/26/2099/FUL & DC/26/2100/LBC

Proposal: Retrospective Application - Erection of a home office/gym building and fence & Listed Building Consent - Retention of a home office/gym building and fence

Site address: Wortwell Mill, Low Road, Homersfield, Harleston, Suffolk IP20 0HJ

Signed: _____ Chair

Date: _____

Homersfield Parish Council

HPC Comment: Councillors Resolved to submit a Neutral response. However, Councillors expressed concern regarding the number of retrospective planning applications submitted for this property.

ESC Status: Pending

c) DC/26/2097/FUL

Proposal: Retrospective Application - Erection of a Cart Lodge building

Site address: Wortwell Mill, Low Road, Homersfield, Harleston, Suffolk IP20 0HJ

HPC Comment: Councillors Resolved to submit a Neutral response. However, Councillors expressed concern regarding the number of retrospective planning applications submitted for this property.

ESC Status: Pending

Decisions

d) DC/26/2057/FUL

Proposal: Extend a C20 addition to the rear

Site address: 82 The Green, Homersfield, Harleston, Suffolk, IP20 0ET

HPC: Councillors Resolved a Neutral Decision on this application with no comments.

ESC Status: Permitted

7. Homersfield Phonebox

a) Maintenance

Cllr Kent will shortly repaint the black base of the telephone box and undertake some additional maintenance tasks.

8. Homersfield Church Wood

a) To Consider Fire Beater - c/f

b) Footpath Signs

The two rotten footpath signposts at either end of the Wood have been cut down and reinstated.

c) Wood Volunteer Mornings - Sunday 27th September, Sunday 25th October & Sunday 29th November

A tree pack of 105 native UK broadleaf trees will be received in early November and planted in Church Wood.

d) Bridleway Hedge Maintenance – update

Cllr Simmonds kindly offered to arrange for the bridleway hedge and brambles to be cut back this autumn. Councillors thanked him for undertaking this work.

e) Information Board – update

A drainage hole will be drilled in the bottom corner of the information board to allow condensation and water to drain away.

9. Homersfield Community Park

The Community Park is being regularly maintained, including grass cutting and the cutting back of branches.

10. Village Maintenance

a) Village Sign Painting

A parishioner has kindly offered to refurbish and repaint the Village Sign, with the work expected to take approximately one month, weather permitting. The proposed colours will be circulated for Cllrs approval.

b) Storage Shed Proposal – update

Cllrs discussed various options for providing storage in the Community Park.

c) Village Noticeboard Maintenance – c/f

b) Village Name Entrance Sign Maintenance – update

Councillors were pleased to note that the village name sign coming from the B1062 has now been replaced by Suffolk County Council Highways.

Signed: _____ Chair

Date: _____

Homersfield Parish Council

11. Correspondence

a) Clerks & Councils Magazine

12. AOB (*For discussion only – the Council cannot make decisions on these items unless stated on the agenda*)

a) Late Night Car Racing through the Village

Cllrs discussed concerns about vehicles speeding through the village, particularly near the Village Green. The possibility of introducing speed humps was considered. The Chair will contact the parishioner who reported these incidents.

Action: Chair

b) Local Plan Scoping Consultation - Briefing for Town and Parish Councils – *update*

The Chair completed the Local Plan consultation comments on behalf of the Parish Council.

c) Litter Pick - Saturday 17th October 2026 – 10.00 am

Cllrs agreed to meet on the village Green at 10.00am with volunteers for the litter pick.

d) Village Communication - What's On in Homersfield - October and November 2026

The Chair advised that the October and November Village Communication will soon be circulated with those responding to the bus service questionnaire, thanked. The next one will include information on how to report speeding vehicles.

13. To Receive items for the next Agenda

a) Budget & Precept

14. To Confirm the Next Meeting Dates:

- Tuesday 17th November 2026 at 6.00 pm

The meeting ended at 7.43 pm

Signed: _____ Chair

Date: _____