

HUNSTON PARISH MEETING

ORDINARY MEETING

28 OCTOBER 2025

DRAFT MINUTES

1. **Apologies**

Colin and Gilly Myram, David and Jan Cox, Terry Lewis, Ron and Kathy Back, Claire DT

Present: Richard Winch (District Councillor), Cattermoles, Abnetts, O'Reillys, Margeresons, Wyllies, Clarks, David Johnson. Late arrival Isabel Cockayne

2. **Minutes of AGM and Ordinary Meeting held on 20 May 2025**

The Minutes of the AGM were approved.

The Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting were approved, subject to confirmation that the resolution agreeing the Cottage Committee could authorise works up to a total of £10k incl VAT related solely to the work discussed at the meeting on 20 May 2025, and was not a general increase of financial authority. JWT said if there was a need to increase the financial limit for the Cottage Committee this could be discussed at the next meeting.

3. **Matters arising**

JWT said there had been a very successful village celebration on 2 August and thanked the Wyllies for hosting this. He also thanked Andy Morgan for organising the village walk on 24 May which had been much enjoyed by everyone who had been on it.

David Johnson confirmed that following the Cheddite Championships a donation of £400 had been made to Hunston Church.

4. **Chair's update**

Cottage Committee: the internal lintel had been repaired; quotes for painting the west gable with keim paint were awaited. If it was agreed to use keim rather than limewash, listed building consent would be required. The damp in the east wall had not got worse, so the Committee was keeping a watching brief. An external crack had appeared at the west end of the north wall, and two builders would be coming to look at it shortly. It was still taking a long time to get builders to attend and provide quotes.

Matt Regent (RWR Plumbing and Heating Ltd) had recently repaired the boiler at the Cottage. He was slightly cheaper than the other quote provided by GD Estates. At JWT's suggestion, the meeting agreed that the Committee could offer routine plumbing and heating work at the Cottage to RWR without needing to get a second quote.

In light of the Renters' Rights Act, the Cottage tenancy was now a periodic, rather than annual, agreement.

The Committee members are Mike Wyllie, Kathy Back, David O'Reilly and JWT

Reserves Committee: JWT reminded the meeting of the purpose of the Committee; the PM was not an investment bank, but it was felt there was a need to try and get a slightly better return on funds. The main purpose of the income from the Cottage was to maintain it and keep it in good repair; any excess was available for village use. Not many institutions would accept a PM as a client, so the Committee had been looking at Banks, Building Societies and the CCLA, with a current leaning towards Building Societies.

The Committee members are Isabel Cockayne, David Cox, Mike Wyllie, MDT and JWT

A resolution was passed increasing the Chair's ability to authorise one off expenditure from £750 to £1000.

5. Treasurer's update

MDT presented the accounts for the six months ending 30 September. There was £35,416 cash at the bank. Expenses were £3,513, with normal running costs for the Cottage accounting for £2,310.

6. The Investment Policy and Terms of Reference for the Reserves Committee

MDT explained that it would be sensible to retain a sufficient sum (in the region of £10,000) in the PM's 'operating' account, and for anything above this to be dealt with in accordance with the Investment Policy.

The Terms of Reference for the Reserves Committee, circulated before the meeting, were approved (see attached).

After discussion, a resolution was passed approving the Investment Policy, as circulated before the meeting, subject to two amendments: deletion of the word 'surplus' in the second line and deletion of clause 2 iii) (see attached).

Following adoption of the Investment Policy a resolution to amend paragraph 8 of the Cottage Committee's Terms of Reference was approved:

'All rental income from the cottage shall, in the first instance, be paid into a rent receipt account. Thereafter any funds (as defined in the Investment Policy) in the rental receipt account shall be dealt with in accordance with the Investment Policy'.

7. Update on interim Clerk

Isabel Cockayne will stand in until the next AGM. JWT thanked MWT for all the efforts that she has put in.

8. Update from District Councillor (Richard Winch)

The report had been circulated before the meeting. MWT asked a question on behalf of two community members urging caution in sharing numbers to illustrate the housing target for individual villages, as this might encourage others to believe that it was an actual target. RW understood the point but said that it was a pragmatic approach by Mid Suffolk to include some figures to maintain some control over where houses were built.

RW went on to say that money has been earmarked for an Elmswell to Woolpit cycle path and the East Anglian Food Museum. The District Council had also taken steps to make it easier for owners of listed buildings to carry out insulation – eg double glazing.

Alan Clark raised questions about the government building targets and the seeming lack of appropriate infrastructure.

Plans are in place for mayoral elections to be held in May 2026. There is still a question whether county council elections will go ahead in May 2026.

9. Update on 40mph reduction (MWT)

The initial draft report has been received from Highways, who were not totally averse to the idea. However, the police have a number of objections and have requested a further speed survey between Stowlangtoft and Hunston. This will take place from 6-20 November. We will then have an opportunity to respond both to the draft report and to the results of this further speed survey. The decision will probably be made early in 2026.

RW added that many villages are campaigning for the similar speed reductions.

MWT asked villagers to report near misses to David Cox, which will be added to the report anonymously. This includes reports from anyone who does not wish to walk down the road because it is dangerous.

10. Community Emergency Plan

Mid Suffolk has asked for the village to consider writing a CEP. This is for emergencies such as a loss of electricity or internet, or to support the whole community during poor weather or national crisis, as we experienced during COVID. Mid Suffolk have offered some dates to come and give some initial guidance so anyone interested in contributing to the plan is asked to get in touch with the Clerk in the first instance. Further details will be sent in due course. It was agreed, in the light of this summer's field fires, that at the very least a map showing where the hydrants are would be useful. The plan might also identify people in the community who could offer particular skills and equipment in emergency situations.

11. AOB

MDT updated on plans to modernise the church. There is water and electricity available, with a longer-term plan to add heating and lighting.

David Johnson thanked the Cattermoles who cleared the branch which fell on the church path earlier in the year.

Hazardous waste in Thetford: Marian Wyllie is collecting items to take to avoid many people having to make the trip.

MWT added that there would be a biodiversity day on 8 November. Results of the March 2025 survey are on the website.