HUNSTON PARISH MEETING
11 November 2026
6:30pm at St Michael's Church, Hunston

AGENDA

1. Apologies
2. Minutes
   a. AGM 22 April 2026
   b. Matters arising
3. Report from the Chair
4. Report from the Treasurer
5. Locality Grant: £1,316.40 for road safety improvements
   a. David Cox stepping down
6. Green footpath proposal: Environment Group
7. CPR refresher course
8. Emergency Community Plan: update
9. District Councillor's report: Richard Winch
10. Any other business

NOTES ON AGENDA ITEMS

Item 5: Locality Grant (£1,316.40) for road safety improvements

The parish has £1,316.40 left in its locality grant from Suffolk Council. It must be spent by 31 March 2027. The meeting will be asked to decide how to use it. David Cox has suggested two options.

Option 1: Improve the village gateways. Some of the wooden posts are rotting and need replacing. The gateways could also be made more visible, to encourage drivers to slow down as they enter the village. The gateway at the Badwell Ash end could be widened, if this does not block the view for drivers pulling out of Mill Lane (see Attachment 2 for options). The gateway at the Stowlangtoft end is unlikely to be widened because it is close to the ditch.

Option 2: Part-fund Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs). This would mean one SID at each end of the village. The Parish Meeting previously agreed to make cutting the speed limit between Stowlangtoft and Hunston from 60mph to 40mph its first priority, and to look at SIDs again only if that was turned down. The speed limit reduction was turned down on 30 March 2026, so SIDs can now be considered.

Item 5a: David Cox stepping down

Since April 2023, David Cox has led on traffic matters in Hunston, working with others. This was never a formal role. The white road lines and signs were repainted after the recent resurfacing. David has now decided to step back. The meeting is asked to find a resident willing to take on this work, starting with the locality grant.

Item 6: Green footpath proposal

The Environment Group would like to hear residents' views on levelling the verge opposite Treetops to make a grass footpath. It would run from Tudor House to the cut-through opposite Treetops, and possibly further. This would mean people walking into the village would not have to walk in the road. None of the biodiversity surveys carried out so far have found rare, endangered or protected species on this stretch. The proposal may also mean the parish has to take a view on who owns the verges, both here and elsewhere in the village, as opposed to who is responsible for maintaining them.

Item 9: District Councillor's report (addendum from Richard Winch)

As Richard sets out in his report, the Government unexpectedly withdrew its decision to create three new unitary councils in Suffolk in October 2026. Local elections in May 2027 will therefore take place on the existing council boundaries.

Since then, after the Budget, the Minister, Jim McMahon, told the House of Commons that the Government has finished the first phase of its review of local government reorganisation. The Government is satisfied that the criteria and process are robust and fit its priorities and is now making arrangements to take a fresh decision on Suffolk.

The new decision will be based on the proposals submitted in September 2025. Richard does not expect any further public consultation. No date has been set, but the Government intends to decide within four months at the latest. Once it has, shadow elections for the new unitary councils will take place in May 2028, and the new councils will take over on 1 April 2029.

In short, the reorganisation of local government in Suffolk is back on the table.