

HECKINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Request for Information Decision

Date of request: 5 November 2025

Date of decision: 7 November 2025

Request:

I am writing further to the Parish Council's recent statement regarding the future of The Pavilion. Given the public attention and concern this matter has generated, I am sure you will agree that the Pavilion's future is now firmly a matter of significant public interest. I would ask that you bring this email to the immediate attention of Colin Spencer.

In light of this, I would be grateful if you could please confirm the following:

1. Meeting Details

Please confirm the time and location of the next Parish Council meeting scheduled for 24th November, and confirm that this meeting will be open to the public in accordance with the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960. Given the anticipated level of public interest, I would also ask for confirmation that the Council has considered a suitably sized venue to accommodate members of the public wishing to attend.

2. Agenda Publication

Under Schedule 12, Paragraph 10(2)(a) of the Local Government Act 1972, notice of a Parish Council meeting, including the agenda, must be publicly displayed at least three clear days before the meeting. Please confirm the date on which the agenda will be released and where it will be published online.

3. Inclusion of The Pavilion on the Agenda

Please confirm that The Pavilion will appear as an item on the agenda for the 24th November meeting.

4. Public Access to The Pavilion Discussion

In accordance with Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960, the public may only be excluded from a meeting when publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest due to the confidential nature of the business being transacted. Given the clear public interest in this matter, I request confirmation that discussion of The Pavilion will not take place in a closed session.

5. Tenancy Agreement Information

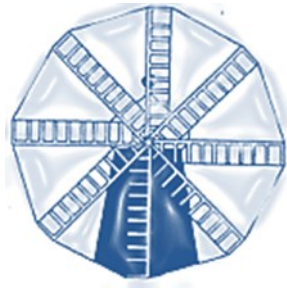
Finally, under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I request a copy of the proposed tenancy agreement that has been presented to the tenants of The Pavilion by the Parish Council. As this relates to the use and management of a public asset, the public is entitled to inspect this information.

Decision:

1. The next Parish Council meeting is scheduled for 24 November 2025 at 7.30pm. The meeting will be held in the Parish Council Chambers as there is no other suitable venue available for hire on this date. The meeting will be open to the public but may be moved into closed session in accordance with the Public Bodies (Admissions to meetings) Act 1960.

2. The agenda will be published three clear days before the meeting on Wednesday 19 November 2025.

3/4. There will be an agenda item relating to the Pavilion and this will be discussed in open session. Members may choose to move the meeting into closed session by resolution if deemed necessary to discuss anything that might be deemed to be confidential or commercially sensitive.



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5. Tenancy Agreement

Further to advice from our legal team at Chattertons, the Information Commissioner's Office and our County Association, the Lincolnshire Association of Local Councils, the Parish Council will not be releasing the lease.

Section 43 and 43(2) (Commercial Interest) of the Freedom of Information Act exempts information whose disclosure would, or would be likely to, prejudice the commercial interests of any legal position. This is a negotiated document which has not been finalised and is not in force and is the subject of privilege. The document will be withheld on the ground of potential commercial harm. The document is also exempt under Section 22 (as it will be published in due course) and 42 (Legal Professional Privilege) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

If information has been refused, please treat this as a Refusal Notice for the purposes of the Act.

Your right of appeal:

If you have any queries regarding this decision, please contact the Clerk to the Parish Council.

If you are unhappy with the service you have received in relation to your request and wish to make a complaint or request an internal review of our decision (within 40 days of this decision notice) you should write to:

Heckington Parish Council, Parish Council Chambers, St Andrews Street, Heckington, NG34 9RE.

Email address: clerk@heckingtonparishcouncil.gov.uk

If you are not content with the outcome of your complaint and the Parish Council's response you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: The Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF

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