

HOXNE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of extraordinary meeting held at Hoxne Playingfield Pavilion on
Thursday 2 November 2023 at 19.30 hours

Present:

Cllrs Caroline Abbott, Paul Ellis (Vice Chairman), Alan Garnham, Angus Herron, Richard Kruszewski and Bryn Lerwill. Also in attendance District Councillor Matthew Hicks (also representing Suffolk County Council) and Sarah Foote, Parish Clerk, and five members of the public observed the meeting.

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr Chris Parkin and accepted by the Council. Cllr Ellis chaired the meeting. It was noted that the scheduled meeting of 2 November had been cancelled due to adverse weather.

2. Declarations of Interests

None

3. Public Forum

Members of the public addressed the council with their concerns about recent flooding.

4. The minutes of the meeting held on 5 October 2023 were approved and signed by the chairperson.

5. Matters arising from minutes of 5 October 2023 – none.

6. Co-option to the Parish Council – there were no applications.

7. Planning

a. To note responses to planning applications made under delegated authority when the council did not meet on 2 November 2023:

Ref	Location	Application
DC/23/04973	24 Low Street	Erection of front boundary wall including steps and herringbone brick paving - Listed Building Consent
It was agreed to make a recommendation for approval of this application.		
DC/23/04695	24 Low Street	Erection of front boundary wall including steps and herringbone brick paving
It was agreed to make a recommendation for approval of this application.		
DC/23/04429	Barn A Corner Farm, Green Street	Conversion of an existing agricultural barn to form one dwelling with cartlodge associated parking and landscaping
It was agreed to make a recommendation for approval of this application.		

b. There were no planning determinations to note.

c. Hoxne Neighbourhood Development Plan – a final proofread of the plan was due to happen by Working Group members and the consultant at the end of November. Cllr Heron offered to proofread the plan on behalf of the Parish Council.

d. Planning enforcement – no update had been provided by the District Council Planning Enforcement Officer.

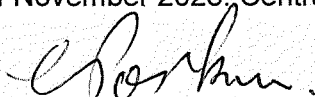
e. There were no other planning matters.

8. Storm Babet – Flood damage

a. It was noted that a report had been compiled of properties affected by flooding (21 October onwards) and submitted to the County Council for statutory investigation (Section 19 report). Additionally, it was noted that most of the individual property owners affected by flooding had made their own reports on the Suffolk Highways Reporting tool which was a requirement to start investigation.

b. It was noted that the Parish Council was not the statutory authority for flooding, however, discussions took place on what measures the council may be able to take, or lobby for, can take to mitigate future flooding in the village and engagement with statutory stakeholders. Suggestions made were community helpers who could assist in times of flooding, teams to deal with damage to walls, brick salvage ahead of repairs, a depository for tools and equipment including sandbags, flood gates for high-risk properties with the Parish Council providing funding where appropriate. It was agreed that before any of these measures were explored further, the county council officer assigned to the Hoxne Section 19 report, or other appropriate officer, would be asked to attend a meeting to engage with parishioners.

20.03 Cllr Matthew Hicks arrived and reported that a total of 850 properties had been internally flooded during Storm Babet and the first 400 premises has been handed over to District Council to work through payments to be made by end of November 2023, Central government funding for mitigation should be forthcoming along



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with a business recovery grant. Cllr Hicks confirmed that the Section 19 investigation could take between six months to a year and at least 60 would be required in Suffolk. Cllr Hicks also reported that funding that had previously been awarded to the HS2 project was being diverted to Ely and Haughley train junctions, road upgrades on A12, upgrade A140/A1120 junction improvements.

Cllr Hicks was asked to comment on the Eye Experimental Traffic Order and confirmed all should respond to the current consultation and all comments would seriously be considered. The consequences were not to be that all problems were moved to certain villages instead of Eye and rural villages should not to take all traffic.

9. Highways

a. Meeting with Suffolk Police and Crime Commissioner – a report of the meeting held on Green Street on 24 October had been circulated to all members. The PCC had been able to witness residents' concerns by seeing HGVs and other traffic mounting pavements. A report of enforcement measures would be provided to the Parish Council by the PCC.

b. Suffolk Highways to consider traffic calming measures for B1118 – locations for SDR had been agreed with the Highways Engineer at locations visited after the aforementioned meeting. Councillors Kruszewski and Lerwill had a further site meeting on 16 November and it was again confirmed that the SDRs would be funded by County Council Locality budget. If data obtained was appropriate, a 40 mph buffer could be introduced on B1118 east side. Trees on Old Vicarage boundary would be cut back to improve visibility and the Highways Engineer will provide signs and cones to support this work.

c. The response was agreed for submission to consultation on the Suffolk County Council Eye Experimental Traffic Regulation Order (ETRO) consultation.

d. It was agreed that there would be benefits to partnership working with Stradbroke Parish Council and other interested local councils on the above ETRO and other traffic matters relating to the B1118. It was understood that Stradbroke would.

e. Confidential data the APNR camera placement on Green Street was noted.

f. Purchase and installation of village gateway signs - permission from relevant landowners had been obtained and quotes for installation (at a cost of £3600) had now also been received. An amended application would now be submitted for a licence to site these on the highway.

g. Purchase and installation of Low Street noticeboard – Cllr Lerwill confirmed that the noticeboard had arrived and was awaiting installation which was likely to happen at the same time as the gateway signs.

h. Suffolk on Board – making a response to the Bus Service Improvement Plan was deferred to the next meeting.

10. Hoxne Volunteer Group

a. Letter of support for the Community Ownership Fund bid – this item was deferred to next meeting.

b. Representative to the Board of the Community Benefit Society – it was confirmed that this appointment did not have to be a parish councillor and personal liability would be limited to £10. Further consideration was deferred to the next meeting.

11. Asset Management

a. Repairs to Low Street shelter – the supporting fixture requirements had been emailed to a possible manufacturer.

b. There were no legal updates on possible land transfers.

c. It was agreed to provide funding for bespoke signs to be made for the Telephone Kiosk Library to a cost of £30.00.

d. Noticeboard at Cross Street Well/Nuttery Vale junction – this item had previously been considered by the council and was reconsidered in light of a further request from a member of the public. It was agreed (five votes in favour, one abstention) not to proceed with placing a noticeboard in this location.

12. Finance and Governance

a. Receipt of £3217.60 of CIL funding for the period 1 April 2023 to 30 September 2023 was noted.

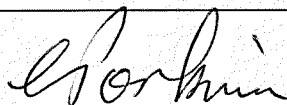
b. CIL Funding – the CIL report was noted. Allocated £8,100 (noticeboard and village gateways signs). CIL Working Group had suggested further village gateways on B1118 pending any speed limit changes.

c. Receipt of Pride in Your Place Grant to purchase a new strimmer to enable the maintenance of public open spaces to the value of £250 was noted.

d. The council's current financial position was noted as £37,210.

e. It was noted that the following payments had been made under delegated authority when the Council did not meet on 2 November:

Amount	Payee	Details	Power
£603.80	S Foote	Clerk's salary November 2023	LGA 1972 S112
£151.00	HMRC	PAYE	LGA 1972 S112



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£15.75	S Foote	Clerk's expenses November 2023	LGA 1972 S111
£1020.00	Cole Easdon	Summary Technical Report	LGA 1972 S111
£80.00	C Leader	Community Orchard Maintenance August and September	LGA 1972 S111
£60.00	Community Action Suffolk	Annual website hosting fee	LGA 1972 S111
£21.60	Sword and Trowel	Payroll service	LGA 1972 S111

f. It was agreed to make the following payments.

Amount	Payee	Details
£40.00	C Leader	Community Orchard Maintenance October
£1488.00	The Acorn Workshop	Low Street Noticeboard (CIL expenditure)
£30.00	Royal British Legion	Poppy Wreath

g. The following grant request was considered:

i. It was agreed to make a payment of £170.00 to Fressingfield Scout Group to purchase overnight shelters (bivouac)

13. Correspondence

The following items of correspondence were noted:

Date	From	Subject
10.10.2023	Suffolk Accident Rescue Service	Annual report and funding request
It was agreed to send the Council's Grant Awarding Policy to ascertain further details of funding that the organisation may be seeking from the Parish Council		
11.10.2023	Babergh Mid Suffolk District Councils	Town and Parish update from Mid Suffolk District Council - October 2023
01.11.2023	Suffolk Association of Local Councils	The Local Councillor Autumn 2023
02.11.2023	Suffolk Police and Crime Commissioner	Suffolk Constabulary new operating model
02.11.2023	Babergh Mid Suffolk District Councils	Town and Parish update from Mid Suffolk District Council - November 2023

14. Urgent matters and matters for information

None

15. **Date of next meeting** – Thursday 7 December 2023 at St Edmund's Hall, Hoxne.

Meeting closed: 21.14.

