

HOXNE PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of meeting held at St Edmund's Hall on
Thursday 7 December 2023 at 19.30 hours

Present:

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

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr Richard Kruszewski and accepted by the Council.

2. Declarations of Interests

None

3. Public Forum

Members of the public addressed the council regarding the drain clearance in Low Street and how one day after the drain clearance had taken place the junction of Low Street and Goldbrook was flooded again.

4. The minutes of the meeting held on 16 November 2023 were approved and signed by the chairperson.

5. Matters arising from minutes of 16 November 2023 – none.

6. Co-option to the Parish Council – two applications had been received. It was agreed to defer consideration of these to a future meeting.

7. Planning

a. The following planning applications were considered:

Ref	Location	Application
DC/23/05508	Gissings Farm, South Green Road	Application to determine if Prior Approval is required for: Erection, extension, or alteration of a building for Agricultural or Forestry Use. Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015 as amended Schedule 2, Part 6 - Erection of agricultural building

It was agreed to make a recommendation for approval of this application.

DC/23/05453	Oak Grange, Denham Road	Application for works to Tree subject to Tree Preservation Order (MS365/T1) - Proposal to reduce lowest east side bough by approximately 2 m to reduce the canopy spread from 8 m to 6 m to reduce overhanging over property
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It was agreed there were no reasons to object to these works.

DC/23/05026	65 Goldbrook	Erection of extension to annex to create an additional bedroom for family member
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It was agreed to make a recommendation for approval of this application.

b. There were no planning determinations to note.

c. Planning enforcement:

i. Abbey Terrace – it was understood a retrospective planning application would be submitted for the erection of the wall which did not currently have planning consent.

ii. Nine Oaks – it was understood the planning enforcement officer still needed to visit site.

d. There were no other planning matters.

8. Storm Babet – Flood damage

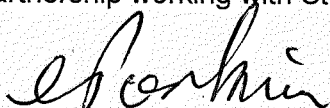
a. All the required information had been logged with the County Council for statutory investigation (Section 19 report). It was asked if the parish Council could close roads to stop flood water being waved up to properties by traffic travelling through standing flood water. This would be investigated.

b. The Suffolk County Council Parish Council briefing post Storm Babet was noted.

c. The Suffolk County Council Riparian Ownership Guidance Notes were noted, along with the differing Landowner and Environment Agency responsibilities. The functions of the Internal Drainage Board were also noted and it was confirmed that a resident had been in touch with this organisation regarding Goldbrook and Chickering Beck.

9. Highways

a. The initial partnership working with Stradbroke Parish Council and other interested local councils on the



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above and other traffic matters relating to the B1118 would take place Thursday 14 December. The Clerk would attend on behalf of the Parish Council.

b. Purchase and installation of Village Gateway signs – the licence to site on the highway had been obtained and likely installation was February 2024 and this would coincide with the noticeboard being erected in Low Street.

20.06 Cllr Hicks arrived and reported that 850 properties had been registered for flooding and all residents should now be contacted by the District Council. Flood defence funding, to the value of £5,000, was still being progressed in conjunction with DeFRA. Cllr Hicks was encouraged by the work being delivered by the new highway's contractor for the County Council.

c. The Suffolk on Board - News / Bus Service Improvement Plan Plus: Where should the money be spent? Consultation was noted. It was agreed to submit a response asking if funding could be used for community transport such as Borderhoppa and to mention that community transport was a priority in the Parish Council's recent CIL survey results. It was agreed that a bus service once a day in a set direction is too prescriptive for what is needed by residents of the village.

10. Hoxne Volunteer Group

a. Letter of support – the Clerk would write and provide to the Volunteer Group a letter of support for funding bids.

b. Appointment of a Board member – it was agreed that any appointment by the Parish Council would preferably be without specific responsibilities such as treasurer, secretary or deputy and would be a committee role only. Further details would be requested.

11. Asset Management

a. Repairs to Low Street Shelter – still needed to procure a metal worker to make the brackets to replace the existing at the base of the shelter seating.

b. There was no update on the legal position of land transfers.

12. Finance and Governance

a. The council's current financial position was noted as £35,259 including CIL.

b. It was agreed to make the following payments:

Amount	Payee	Details	Power
£883.78	S Foote	Clerk salary December 2023 including Local Government Pay Award with effect 1 April 2023	LGA 1972 S112
£595.30	HMRC	PAYE	LGA 1972 S112
£468.00	R Williams	Street Caretaker Salary October/November/December 2023	LGA 1972 S111
£160.00	St Edmund's Hall	Computer Club room hire – Parish Council grant funded	LGA 1972 S111
£170.00	Fressingfield Scout Group	Parish Council grant	LGA 1972 S137
£990.00	Langton Brook	Neighbourhood Plan Consultancy 2023	Localism Act 2011
£150.00	Sarah Foote	Reimbursement of fee for licence to site apparatus on the highway	LGA 1972 S111

c. The indicative tax base for the 2024/25 precept was noted and it was further noted that the Parish Council would agree the budget for 2024/25 at the January meeting.

11. Correspondence

The following items of correspondence were noted:

22.11.23	Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils	Formal adoption of the Babergh and Mid Suffolk Joint Local Plan – Part 1 2018 – 2037
24.11.23	Babergh Mid Suffolk District Councils	Government's flood support payments for households and businesses impacted by Storm Babet.
24.11.23	Save our Suffolk Countryside	Proposed expansion of Cranswick meat processing factory on Eye Airfield - implications for local communities



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It was agreed the Parish Council would be willing to send a representative. The Clerk would ascertain more details of items to be discussed and when.

02.12.23	Babergh Mid Suffolk District Councils	Town and Parish update from Mid Suffolk District Council – December 2023
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14. Urgent matters and matters for information

None

15. Date of next meeting – Thursday 4 January 2024 at St Edmund's Hall, Hoxne.

16. Pursuant to the Public Bodies Admission to Meetings Act 1960, the meeting was closed to the press and public at 20.55 to consider:

- a. Matters relating to staff terms and conditions of employment
 - i. To note the Local Government Pay Award with effect from 1 April 2023 has been applied to the Clerk's salary.
 - ii. To note that the Street Caretaker will not work from the period 1 January to 1 April 2024.

Meeting closed: 21.08.

