

HOXNE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting held at Hoxne Playingfield Pavilion on
Wednesday 8 June 2022 at 19.30 hours

Present:

Cllrs Kath Farthing, Jo Chimes (arrived 19.45), Simon Wilby, Iain Gibson, and Chris Parkin. Also in attendance District Councillor Matthew Hicks, County Councillor Peter Gould and Sarah Foote, Parish Clerk. Four members of the public observed the meeting.

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr Flagg and Marsh-Feiley and accepted. Cllr Garnham was absent.

2. Declarations of Interests

There were none.

Councillors were reminded of the requirement to update their register of interests as necessary.

3. Public Forum

County Councillor Gould reported on highways matters as recorded at item 4 below.

District Councillor Hicks reported on the cost of living crisis and reminded councillors that the district council had an emergency funding helpline on 0800 068 3131 (Suffolk Advice and Support Service). A piece of work was also taking place on community led initiatives for mental health including physical activity and improving nutrition. Cllr Chimes asked if Gateway14 was in fact a duty free zone. Cllr Hicks stated that there were reduced rates and government tax breaks for the freeport (Gateway 14) and how if businesses come in and construct and develop their business in the gateway 14 it brings jobs into the County.

4. Highways

a. To receive a report from County Councillor Gould on the forthcoming Temporary Traffic Regulation Order (HGVs) in Eye town centre.

Cllr Gould explained that the experimental TTRO had been arrived at after a long period of evidence gathering in the town and the Town Council commissioned a report from a specialist traffic consultancy which was then presented to the County Council. Public safety was the foremost concern which was supported by a body of photographic evidence and vehicle counts. As there was a shortage of availability of viable alternative routes, the order being put in place was experimental for up to 18 months, can be withdrawn in that period if causes more problems than it solves or can be made permanent if successful. The impact of the scheme would be assessed including surrounding settlements such as Hoxne and the impact on businesses. Cllr Gould also reported that a piece of work underway by the County Council was to determine what survey assessment work would be carried out to measure the impact both in terms of does it solve the problem it intended to solve or is the impact on surrounding areas greater than the gain on safety. Cllr Gould had agreed with transport strategy that he would be working on a collection of comments as he talks to parishes and business (including hauliers). Alongside this the HGV Route Review results should be published in July (a large number of responses had been received) and that the Eye experimental TTRO was a known element of the HGV Route Review.

The scheme was still with Suffolk Highways for cost of construction, the legal order was being drafted and the design work on the impact assessment were all still needed, therefore, early Autumn may be the earliest the scheme would be implemented. Exemptions would apply for agricultural traffic and movements to shops and businesses within the town. It was confirmed that a 7.5 tonne weight limit was included in the TTRO.

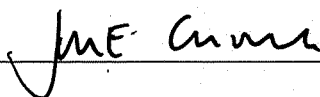
Cllr Chimes was very concerned that the questions of Hoxne residents were not being answered only the concerns of the people of Eye. Cllr Gould responded that the representation of people of Hoxne was equal to all his 16 parishes in his county council division. Cllr Chimes had recognised the issues in the Eye Town Council report and how they mirrored what the residents of Hoxne were experiencing and how Hoxne needed action from the County Council for all the same reasons but instead was going to see an increase in HGV movements due to the restrictions that were to come into force in Eye. It was also noted that HGV movements from Town Farm would have to come through Hoxne if they could not turn left out of Town Farm, onto the B1077 to Eye to access the A140.

Cllr Hicks understood the concerns of the Parish Council which had been echoed by many other villages and assured that that lots of monitoring would be happening.

Cllr Parkin asked how the technical assessment for the HGV Route Review was done. Cllr Gould confirmed it was a combination of data, changes in regulation and advice and good practice changes. To conclude, Cllr Gould suggested to wait for the results of the HGV Route Review which may offer information about Hoxne and stressed that the TTRO for Eye is experimental and it open for open for assessment on settlements and businesses.

b. Traffic surveys for Hoxne

It was agreed to delegate a budget of up to £10,000 to professional and independent traffic surveys to be carried out in the village prior to and after, the implementation of the Eye TTRO. This information would enable the Parish Council to assess the impact of the TTRO on Hoxne.



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11. Correspondence

The following items of correspondence were noted:

| Date | From | Subject |
|------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 18.05.2022 | Mid Suffolk District Council | Annual Play Inspection offer |
| 20.05.2022 | Environment Agency | Footbridge: Hoxne/Thorpe Abbots Weir |

12. Urgent matters and matters for information

The Council acknowledged that events in the village over the Jubilee weekend had been a success and all who had been involved in the organisation were thanked for their contributions.

13. Date of next meeting was agreed at 7.30 pm on Thursday 7 July at Hoxne Playingfield Pavilion. The District Councillor Infrastructure Officer would provide an information session to Councillors from 6.45 pm. Items for next meeting: Cllr Gibson offered his apologies in advance for this meeting.

a. Repayment of PWLB Loan

14. Pursuant to the Public Bodies Admission to Meetings Act 1960 the meeting was closed to the public and press to discuss confidential items:

a. Bequest of land to the Parish Council – Cllrs Chimes and Parkin had provided a report following their site meeting. It was agreed to respond to the landowner that the Parish Council were interested in pursuing ownership of the land which would be managed by the Parish Council and designated for public use. The next stage would be for the Parish Council to take legal advice to establish access, boundaries and any restrictions etc.

b. Matters relating to the Clerk's employment – Cllr Chimes and the Clerk were due to meet for an employment review. The Clerk had supplied Cllr Chimes with a copy of the contract of employment.

The meeting was closed at 21.25.

June Chimes