

HOXNE PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of Parish Council meeting held on
Thursday 5 March 2020 at St Edmund's Hall, Hoxne at 19.30 hours

Present:

Cllrs Colin Ablitt, Juliette Easey, Katherine Farthing, Alan Garnham, Iain Gibson (Vice Chairman), Rob Marsh-Fieley, District Councillor Matthew Hicks (left) and County Councillor Guy McGregor (arrived 19.38, left). Six members of the public were in attendance.

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr Edward O'Connor, Gill O'Connor, Alan Garnham, Paula Tebbs and Simon Wilby and accepted by the Council. Cllr Gibson would chair the meeting.

2. Order of Business

All those present were reminded of the Openness of Local Government Bodies Act 2014 and that the meeting may be filmed or recorded by any member of the public.

3. Declarations of Interests

Cllr Marsh-Fieley declared a pecuniary interest in Planning Application DC/20/00588

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

4. PUBLIC FORUM

Public Comments:

Members of the public registered their continued disapproval of the application for four dwellings at Abbey Hill and how the permission should have not been granted.

Mid Suffolk District Council – Cllr Mathew Hicks reported the district council had agreed a 1.66% council tax increase and had set budget provision to address climate change initiatives and reported. In relation to application DC/20/00588 Cllr Hicks confirmed he had called this application to Committee and it would get a wider hearing than being officer determined.

Cllr Hicks had provided a payment to the Hoxne Playingfield for support for new heating.

Suffolk County Council – Cllr McGregor had circulated his report ahead of the meeting and provided councillors with a summary of the main points. A HGV Working Group (Officer led) had been set up at the County Council and the Parish Council were urged to submit their concerns for consideration. Cllr McGregor would supply further information to the clerk.

5. Confirmation of Minutes

The Minutes of Parish Council meeting held on 6 February 2020 were agreed and signed by the Vice Chairman.

6. Matters arising from Minutes of 6 February 2020

2039/11C – the Clerk reported that a request to transfer all funds to one account at Barclays had been submitted and the change to an alternative bank would be completed after the end of the financial year.

7. Planning

a. The following planning applications were considered:

20.01 Cllr Marsh-Fieley left the meeting

Ref	Location	Application
DC/20/00588	Land east of Abbey Hill	Application for approval of reserved matters following outline approval under DC/17/02868 dated 25/8/2017 the access, appearance, landscaping, layout and scale for erection of up to four no. dwellings.

It was unanimously agreed to recommend refusal of the application. The comments to support this recommendation to the Planning Authority would be that the Parish Council had previously recommended refusal of the outline planning application DC/17/02868. This refusal was based on the following planning policy; SB3 retaining visually important open spaces. The development would greatly change the visual amenity of the area. Core Strategy objective 4 to manage and enhance the historic environment. The site would greatly affect the open area around St Edmunds monument, a site of historic importance, and the current permissive access would change. The site is outside the current settlement boundary for the village and is a green field site. The preference, as stated in the Parish Plan, is for development to only be infill within the settlement boundary and on brownfield sites. A material planning consideration is precedent - development on this green field site could lead to development of further green field sites and the open nature of this part of the village would be compromised. This recommendation was supported by numerous public comments objecting to development in this current open space. The grant of permission by an Officer of the Planning Authority was questionable given the level of objection. The Parish Council has now considered the reserved matters application, DC/20/00588, and has unanimously agreed to recommend refusal of this application. The outline grant of permission was for up to four dwellings. This application is now presented to the maximum of this grant with four very large dwellings which bring an urbanising effect

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to this rural setting. Proposed property heights of 8.1 metres are not appropriate for the hillside location. The Parish Council is very concerned for access to the listed St Edmund's monument and that the proposed access is neither welcoming, highly visible and has the potential to be overgrown by the proposed planting. The current access to the monument is based on a permissive grant of access and the Parish Council would like a planning condition to be a formal grant of access or transfer of the land which comprises the access to the monument to Parish Council ownership with no cost to the Parish Council. Material considerations such as overlooking/loss of privacy, Flooding, Parking, Highway safety, Traffic, Noise, Effect on listed building and conservation area, Layout and density of building, Design, appearance and materials, Government policy, Previous planning decisions (including appeal decisions) and Nature conservation are all reasons a development of this scale, if any, should not be permitted in this location. The refusal of application DC/19/04594 on land which is opposite to the site of this application with reasons for the refusal being; unsustainable development in the countryside location, the loss of the site as an undeveloped area forming part of the setting and contributing to the significance of two conservation areas and resulting in a medium level of less than substantial harm to heritage assets (i.e. contrary to policy HB08) should be noted. Given the proximity of this application to this recently refused application, the Planning Committee of the District Council must do all it can to ensure that any development at Abbey Hill - where there is every reason to say there should none - should be of the scale and size acceptable to this unique rural area and not in any way be detrimental to the significance and historic St Edmund's Monument. The application should be assessed against all of the following policies and the Parish Council's opinion would be that as presented the application would not be compliant with any - HB01, CL02, CS02, H13, H15, CL11, T10, H04, H07 and the total built area of the site be assessed for affordable housing triggers.

20.12 Cllr Marsh-Fieley returned to the meeting.

DC/20/00739	The Old Grapes, Cross Street	Erection of first floor extension and alterations to form granny annex
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It was unanimously agreed to recommend approval of the application.

DC/20/00740	The Old Grapes, Cross Street	Erection of first floor extension and alterations to form granny annex - Listed Building Consent
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It was unanimously agreed to recommend approval of the application.

b. The following planning determinations were noted:

Ref	Location	Application
DC/19/04594	Former Goldbrook Nursery, Abbey Hill	Erection of five dwellings and new access – Planning Permission refused.

c. There were no other planning matters.

8. Procedural

- Standing Orders - were reviewed and accepted. It was noted there had been no legislative changes.
- Financial Regulations - were reviewed and accepted. It was noted there had been no legislative changes.
- Statement of Internal Control - was reviewed and accepted.
- Risk Register (Assessments) and the risk assessment for the operation of the vehicle activated sign were reviewed and accepted.
- It was agreed to appoint T Brown as internal auditor for the year ending 31 March 2020 and the scope of work of the audit was agreed.
- Grant Awarding Policy was reviewed and accepted.
- It was noted that a re-declaration had been submitted to the Pensions Regulator to confirm enrolment entitlements
- Register of Assets – the revised register was noted which included the village sign was accepted.

9. Neighbourhood Development Plan

- Cllr Marsh-Fieley, as chairman of the Working Group, provided a report of the last meeting
- It was agreed to approve £600 of consultancy fees to be paid by the Parish Council prior to the grant application being made to Locality which was anticipated to be in April 2020. District Councillor Hicks had also offered funding towards this work and the Clerk would submit an application for this.
- A community engagement exercise would be undertaken at the Annual Parish Meeting on Thursday 12 March and it was hoped the results of this would steer initial policy development.

10. Correspondence

The following correspondence previously circulated for information was noted:

Date	From	Subject
26.02.2020	Parishioner	Dog Fouling

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26.02.2020	Suffolk County Council	Suffolk County Council Funded School Travel for 2020/2021
25.02.2020	Suffolk Highways	Upcoming works for B1118 Green Street – pothole repairs
20.02.2020	Mid Suffolk District Council	Town and Parish Council Liaison Meeting - Additional Information and Overview

11. Finance

a. The Council's financial statement was noted as £23,863 in the current account and £5,678 in the business saver account.

b. **Payments:** it was agreed to make the following payments as detailed:

Amount	Payee	Details	Chq No	Power
£441.00	Mrs S Foote	Clerk's salary March 2020	101505	LGA 1972 S112
£324.00	R Williams	Street Caretaker salary January/February/March 2020	101506	LGA 1972 S111
£326.20	HMRC	PAYE	101507	LGA 1972 S111
£671.93 incl VAT	Suffolk County Council	Streetlighting energy and maintenance for year ending 31 March 2020	101508	Highways Act 1980 S302
£35.75	Mrs S Foote	Clerks expenses	101509	LGA 1972 S111
£40.00	Information Commission Officer	Annual Data Processor Registration Fee	101510	LGA 1972 S111
£84.00 incl VAT	DH Electrical	VAS Batteries	101511	Highways Act 1980 S302

12. Reports

The following reports were received:

Brakey Wood and Footpaths – several trees had been cut on Wittons Lane. It was agreed to ask the Woodland Trust why they had done such work. All footpaths were muddy.

Hoxne Playingfield – no report.

St Edmund's Hall – no report.

Suffolk Association of Local Councils – no report.

Suffolk Police Safer Neighbourhood Team Liaison Meeting – a report had been provided to Councillors for information and local issues had been raised at the meeting.

Vehicle Activated Sign – new batteries had been provided to Cllr Garnham.

14. Matters of report by individual Councillors

Cllr Gibson reported that positive comments were still being received regarding the village sign.

It was agreed to ask Planning Enforcement for guidance on the erection of fencing close to the highway.

15. Urgent matters and matters for information

None.

16. Pursuant to the Public Bodies Admission to meetings Act 1960 the meeting was closed to the public and press at 20.45.

It was agreed to award the Street Caretaker a salary increase in recognition that the national minimum wage hourly rate would increase on 1 April.

The meeting was closed at 20.50