

**HOXNE PARISH COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of Parish Council meeting held on**  
**Thursday 6 February 2020 at St Edmund's Hall, Hoxne at 19.30 hours**

**Present:**

Cllrs Edward O'Connor (Chairman), Colin Ablitt, Juliette Easey, Katherine Farthing (left 20.24), Alan Garnham, Iain Gibson, Rob Marsh-Fieley, Gill O'Connor, Paula Tebbs and Simon Wilby, District Councillor Matthew Hicks (left 20.23) and County Councillor Guy McGregor (20.40). Ten members of the public were in attendance.

**1. Apologies**

Apologies were received from Cllr Potter and accepted by the Council.

**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 Garnham declared a pecuniary interest in Planning Application DC/20/00040 and a non-pecuniary interest in agenda item 9B donation to Hoxne Bowls Club.

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

**4. PUBLIC FORUM**

Suffolk County Council – Cllr McGregor reported that the Chickering Feasibility Study had been made public and he had highways funding to put forward to this project. Post 16 school transport was still to be financed by individuals although post 16 education was compulsory.

A parishioner asked that no precept money be spent on the traffic calming scheme on Green Street and it was confirmed that the Parish Council had not funded any of the work.

Mid Suffolk District Council – Cllr Mathew Hicks reported that council tax was increasing by 1.66% and there would be no change in the council tax reduction scheme. Funds were being set aside for climate emergency work. Upgrading plans for Stradbroke and Stowmarket Leisure Centre were in place subject to renewal or extension of existing contract for operation of the site. Additional independent living funds were available. Cllr Hicks was asked about vacancies at St Edmund's House and a local housing case was referenced. Cllr Hicks confirmed a review was underway whether St Edmund's House should be sheltered housing and whilst this was being carried out no vacancies were being filled. Cllr Hicks would keep the Parish Council informed.

Public Comments:

Parishioners spoke in support of their letter of objection to planning application DC/20/00040 and reiterated their concerns about the application.

The applicant gave responses to mitigate the above concerns and provided more detail about the design and build.

Other parishioners spoke for and against the application.

**5. Confirmation of Minutes**

The Minutes of Parish Council meeting held on 7 January 2020 were agreed and signed by the Chairman.

**6. Matters arising from Minutes of 7 January 2020**

None.

**7. Planning**

a. The following planning applications were considered:

Ref	Location	Application
DC/20/00040	Bridge Farm, Low Street	Erection of 1no. dwelling and alterations to existing barn to form garage and workshop
It was agreed to recommend refusal of the application (eight votes in favour, two against)		
DC/20/00105	Home Farm, South Green Road	Erection of gates and fences around boundary of the property
It was unanimously agreed to recommend approval of the application		
DC/20/00389	Three Gables, Low Street	Tree works
20.26 Cllr Garnham left the meeting. It was agreed to defer the application pending further details. 20.28 Cllr Garnham returned to the meeting.		

b. The following planning determinations were noted:

Ref	Location	Application
DC/19/05271	Elm House, Green Street	Erection of summer house in rear garden – planning permission refused.
DC/19/05733	Land adjacent Waveney Farm,	Erection of 1 no. dwelling (following demolition of

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Syleham Road

agricultural building) – planning permission granted.

c. Other planning matters

i. Correspondence from Horham and Southholt Poultry Unit Action Group was noted and it was confirmed that Cllr G O'Connor would attend the Group's meeting with Cranswick.

20.20 Cllr K Farthing left the meeting and did not return.

**8. Highways**

a. Damage to the B1118 Green Street traffic calming build out was noted. It was understood that Suffolk Highways planned repair within 14 weeks. It was suggested that the signage could be improved and should be cleaned and the physical build out serviced particularly the recess to allow cycles to cross.

b. Suffolk Highways regarding the feasibility study for the B1118 at Chickering - This item had been published on the agenda to be discussed in confidential session, however, prior to the meeting Suffolk Highways had sanctioned public release of the report. The intended actions included in the report were noted and the Parish Council hoped to receive updates from Suffolk Highways as any remedial works were approved and actioned.

**9. Requests for financial support**

20.36 Cllr Garnham left the meeting. The following requests were considered:

a. St Peter and St Paul Church – church yard maintenance including tree works. The latest National Association of Local Councils legal advice was noted and it was agreed that it would be unlawful for the Parish Council to make a payment towards the fabric of the church which included the churchyard.

b. Signage for Hoxne Bowls Club. It was noted that Cllr Garnham was a member of the bowls club and had a non-pecuniary interest. It was agreed that the Parish Council would consider financial support for the erection of a new directional sign on receipt of a formal application. The grant awarding policy would be provided to the bowls club.

c. Suffolk Neighbourhood Watch – it was agreed not to proceed with a payment for this organisation as it was unclear of the direct financial benefit to the village.

**10. Community Transport**

It was noted that BSEVC were now operating a service through Hoxne; a Wednesday service to Harleston and Friday to Diss.

**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 February 2020	101501	LGA 1972 S112
£110.20	HMRC	PAYE	101502	LGA 1972 S111
£42.70	Mrs S Foote	Clerk's expenses	101503	LGA 1972 S111
£30.00	McGregor Associates	Payroll	101504	LGA 1972 S111

c. After several episodes of incompetence with the Parish Council's current bank it was agreed to move the accounts into one account with an alternative bank.

d. The final account for design and erection of the Hoxne Village sign was noted.

**12. Correspondence**

The following correspondence previously circulated for information was noted:

Date	From	Subject
30.01.2020	Suffolk Associations of Local Councils	The Local Councillor e-newsletter
21.01.2020	Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils	Community Governance Review
21.01.2020	Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils	Community Pubs and Shops event 24 February
15.01.2020	Suffolk Neighbourhood Watch	January newsletter
15.01.2020	Headway Suffolk	Understanding Brain Injury course

**14. Reports**

The following reports were received:

Brakey Wood and Footpaths – no report.

Hoxne Neighbourhood Development Plan Working Group – the working group had received presentation from consultants and one had been appointed. A funding application would be made after 1 April and work had begun to prepare material for the Annual Parish Meeting on 12 March.

Hoxne Playingfield – no report.

Maynard Trust – Cllr G O'Connor, as the Parish Council appointed Trustee, reported that the Trust would

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consider financial awards for educational courses and equipment. It was envisaged the Maynard Trust would have a presence at the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary event at Brakey Wood hoping to engage children and fund activities. St Edmund's Hall – Cllr Wilby confirmed he was now a Trustee of St Edmund's Hall and the committee were considering the provision of chairs.

Suffolk Association of Local Councils – the latest copy of the Local Councillor e-newsletter had been circulated to Councillors.

Vehicle Activated Sign – moved to Green Street and would carry on to be relocated on a fortnightly basis. It was agreed to revisit downloading data from the VAS. It was agreed to purchase two additional batteries.

**14. Matters of report by individual Councillors**

None.

**15. Urgent matters and matters for information**

None.

16. There was no confidential business to be transacted – see agenda item 8.B.

**The meeting was closed at 21.17.**

DRAFT