

HOXNE PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of Parish Council meeting held on
Thursday 9 January 2020 at St Edmund's Hall, Hoxne at 19.30 hours

Present:

Cllrs Edward O'Connor (Chairman), Gill O'Connor, Juliette Easey, Katherine Farthing, Alan Garnham, Rob Marsh-Fieley, Kevin Potter and Paula Tebbs, District Councillor Matthew Hicks (left 19.38) and County Councillor Guy McGregor (arrived 20.25 and left 20.47). Three members of the public were in attendance.

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr Gibson and Cllr Wilby 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

None.

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

4. PUBLIC FORUM

Suffolk County Council – Cllr McGregor reported scrutiny had begun on the forthcoming budgets and children's centres were under review. A written copy of Councillor McGregor's report was forwarded to Councillors for information.

Mid Suffolk District Council – Cllr Mathew Hicks reported that the Full Council and Cabinet meetings had been delayed due to the general election. 1.66% increase was planned on council tax.

Empty properties to be billed after 28 days was being trialled to try and stimulate property market and funds for climate emergency action has been earmarked. Cllr Hicks was keen to support local projects through his locality budget and applications should be made to him directly by the end of January.

There were no comments from the members of the public present.

5. Confirmation of Minutes

The Minutes of Parish Council meeting held on 9 December 2019 were agreed and signed by the Chairman.

6. Matters arising from Minutes of 9 December 2019

None.

7. Co-option to the Parish Council

It was unanimously agreed to co-opt Mr Colin Ablitt to the Parish Council. Mr Ablitt would be provided with the necessary documentation to enable him to take his seat on the Council at the February meeting.

8. Planning

a. The following planning applications were considered:

Ref	Location	Application
DC/19/05733	Land adjacent to Waveney Farm, Syleham Road	Erection of 1no. dwelling (following demolition of agricultural building)
It was agreed to recommend approval of the application (seven votes in favour, one abstention)		
DC/19/05271	Elm House, Green Street	Erection of summer house in rear garden
It was proposed to recommend approval of the application (two votes in favour, six against). With this motion not carried, it was then proposed to recommend refusal based on the design as presented. This was unanimously agreed.		

b. The following planning determinations were noted:

Ref	Location	Application
DC/19/05345	13 Cross Street,	Erection of two storey and single storey rear extension. Insertion of roof light. Planning Permission refused.
DC/19/05217	Home Farm, South Green Road	Installation of a new sewage treatment plant and fill in old septic tank. Planning Permission granted
DC/19/05144	Barn at Home Farm, Eye Road	Change of use and conversion of agricultural barn to residential dwelling and associated temporary siting of caravan. Planning Permission granted.
DC/19/05214	26 Heckfield Green	Erection of a single storey rear extension including 3no. rooflights. Planning Permission granted

c. Other planning matters – none.

9. Neighbourhood Development Plan

Cllr Marsh-Fieley as Chairman of the NDP Working Group provided a report of the inaugural meeting which had taken place immediately before the Parish Council meeting. Three members of the public had joined the Working Group and as well as appointing Cllr Marsh-Fieley as Chairman, members had agreed to remain as

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a Working Group and progress the plan with decision making and funding power remaining with the Parish Council. A questionnaire would be prepared for the Annual Parish Meeting on 12 March and also be circulated with the April Village Voice. The Working Group would look to appoint a consultant who it was envisaged would be funded by locality funding.

10. Vehicle Activated Sign

Concerns had previously been expressed that the site close to the build out on Green Street was no longer effective as traffic was slowing as it approached the build out. The other sites where the VAS was being deployed were on the B1118 easterly end, Goldbrook and Abbey Hill. It was agreed to ask Suffolk Highways to assess the uphill approach from Oakley on the B1118 as you enter the village and the Denham Road as you enter the village and before the school. Suffolk Highways would also be asked to provide costs for the additional posts required if these sites were deemed suitable.

11. Highways

- a. Responses from Suffolk Highways to recently reported problems were noted as:
Water run off on to Abbey Hill had been transferred from Suffolk Highways to another authority (believed to be Essex and Suffolk Water) to deal with, the broken drain cover at the corner of the village green/church hill had been inspected and did not require any repair.
- b. The feasibility report for Swan Bridge, Low Street was noted and it was agreed not to explore further any of the remedial suggestions contained within the report. County Councillor McGregor was thanked for funding the feasibility report.
- c. Frequency of HGVs movements through the village - Cllr Tebbs called for a review of HGVS on small roads in rural Suffolk and asked why there were no restrictions in the village and no weight limits on bridges. It was understood, via Cllr McGregor, that the County Council was setting up a Panel to review HGV routes and there was the intention to involve parishes.
- d. To note response from Suffolk Highways regarding the feasibility study for the B1118 at Chickering (confidential session)

12. Finance

a. The Council's financial statement was noted as £23,294 in the current account and £5,678 in the business saver account.

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

Amount	Payee	Details	Chq No	Power
£551.20	Mrs S Foote	Clerk's salary January 2020	101496	LGA 1972 S112
£t.b.c.	HMRC	PAYE	101497	LGA 1972 S111
£44.40	Mrs S Foote	Clerk's expenses	101498	LGA 1972 S111
£30.00	St Edmund's Hall	Meeting room hire November and December	101499	LGA 1972 S111
£30.00	Village Voice	Distribution of Housing Needs Surveys	101500	LGA 1972 S111

c. Budget for the 2020/2021 financial year

The proposed budget for the forthcoming financial year was considered and agreed. It was unanimously agreed to submit a precept request for £16,155.00 which equated to a 5% increase. The precept request form was duly signed by the Chairman, two Councillors and the Clerk and would be submitted to the billing authority.

13. Correspondence

The following correspondence previously circulated for information was noted:

Date	From	Subject
12.12.2019	Suffolk Association of Local Councils	Repairs to property relating to affairs of the church - December NALC legal update
16.12.2019	Suffolk Police	Constable's County newsletter
23.12.2019	Eye and District Volunteer Centre	Letter of thanks for financial support
03.01.2020	Mid Suffolk District Council	Town and Parish Liaison Meetings

14. Reports

The following reports were received:

Brakey Wood and Footpaths – Cllr Farthing reported paths were muddy and in places water logged.

Hoxne Playingfield – it was agreed to make the management committee aware of locality budget from MSDC

St Edmund's Hall – Cllr Wilby had informed the Clerk no meeting had taken place in December.

Suffolk Association of Local Councils – no report.

Vehicle Activated Sign – as reported above.

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Signed : _____ Chairman.

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15. Matters of report by individual Councillors

None.

16. Urgent matters and matters for information

None.

20.44

17. Pursuant to the Public Bodies Admission to meetings Act 1960 the meeting was closed to the public and press to consider

The Suffolk Highway's Safety Audit of the B1118 at Chickering was considered and further information was awaited from both Planning Enforcement and Suffolk Highways before the information contained within could be considered further.

The meeting was closed at 20.49.

DRAFT