

HACHESTON PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of Meeting
of Wednesday 27th November 2024

1. Present

Cllr. James Hardy (Chair)

Cllr. Chris Hurlock

Cllr. Lucy Lavender

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillor Graeme Hall (health), Councillor Leslie Judd (family issue) and Councillor Terry Mee (family issue).

In Attendance

Lydia Kindred (clerk)

There were no declarations of interest.

- 2. The minutes of 25th September 2024 were approved as a true record of the meeting.**
3. There were no matters arising.

PUBLIC FORUM
None

4. Chair's Report

The Chair and Vice Chair held a meeting to address concerns over the lack of progress on several projects. To encourage greater community involvement, a letter will be sent to all residents, inviting them to participate in local projects and help distribute the workload more evenly. The letter will also include a reminder about signing up for the online mailing list which could be a useful tool for communicating with residents and keeping them informed as to what the Parish Council is doing.

The Chair has charged the working Speed Indicator Device (SID) and it has been positioned outside the Village Hall today. He has also reported defective signage across the village. While some of the signs were deemed not to require remedial action, some 30mph roundels have been replaced and the village sign near Garnetts Gardens has been straightened.

The Chair has met with representatives from Hacheston United Charities to further discuss the future of the charity and its assets. They have been advised to seek legal advice and valuations before this is considered further. A representative from the Village Hall Committee has submitted an application to East Suffolk Council to register the Village Hall, Fairfield Green and the allotments as Assets of Community Value.

5. Clerk's Report

The Parochial Church Council has expressed their thanks for the donation towards churchyard maintenance.

The National Association of Local Councils (NALC) has finalised the pay award for 2024-2025. It includes a 63p/hour increase, backdated to 1st April 2024.

The clerk has completed the Suffolk Association of Local Councils (SALC) highways questionnaire, and the results have now been published.

County Councillor Burroughes is currently experiencing health issues and will not attend meetings for the foreseeable future. However, he remains available via email for any queries.

The Rural Transport Survey remains open. The clerk will continue to circulate surveys like this but is mindful of the volume of surveys being sent recently.

The next SALC Area Forum will take place on Thursday, 28th November, at 7pm. The keynote speaker will be East Suffolk Council's Energy Projects Manager.

Councillors were reminded that there is a budget allocated for training and were asked to contact the clerk if they wish to do any modules with SALC.

The bulbs for the East Suffolk in Bloom initiative have been collected and need to be planted. *It was agreed to hold a work party on Sunday, 8th December. The clerk will prepare a poster to share with everyone on the digital mailing list.*

The new official gov.uk email addresses for Councillors have been set up. Councillors are asked to complete the transition to these addresses as and when they are able.

Suffolk County Council Highways have carried out gutter cleaning along The Street this week. Unfortunately, despite this, flooding has occurred today and Councillor Lavender will report this issue for further action.

6. Financial Officer's Report

a) The following payments were approved:

Amount	Payee	Details
£80.00	Gary Whiting	Mowing and strimming
£300.00	Suffolk Cloud	Registration of gov.uk domain & 20gb mailbox for two years
£22.80	SALC	6 months payroll service

b) No additional payments have been made since the last meeting.

c) Funds received to 31.10.2024:

Barclays £60.34 Interest

d) The bank balances as at 31.10.2024 were noted as being:

Current Account: £555.60

Premium Account: £2,836.85

CCLA Account £35,608.37

e) The bank reconciliation as at 31.10.2024 was reviewed and signed by the Examining Councillor.

f) The accounts to 31st August 2024 were noted.

7. Sizewell C Issues and Updates

Cllr. Lavender reported on several Sizewell-related meetings and emails. She highlighted concerns about the large number of meetings that Parish Councils are being asked to attend, which is not sustainable for such a small Council. She suggested asking other local Parish Councils if they would like to work together, with representatives attending on a rotational basis to speak on behalf of the group. It was noted that some of the meetings are also at Darsham. The clerk will ask if these meetings could also be ran remotely to make attendance easier.

The clerk advised on reporting lorry movements through the main sections of the village, which contravenes the Traffic Management Plan.

8. Village Hall Bench request

Residents have kindly offered to fund this bench, but Councillors agreed to spend up to £600 on a 1.8meter Dale bench for Fairfield Green in case this offer falls through.

Residents have generously now offered to fund a bench for Fairfield Green. However, as a contingency, Councillors agreed to allocate up to £600 for the purchase of a 1.8-meter Dale bench if this funding does not materialise.

9. Highways issues and safety mitigation:

The former Highways Liaison Officer has been promoted, and a Teams meeting with his replacement, Jo Kerridge, is awaited. Councillors have various questions, including:

- The process for purchasing replacement roundels.
- The possibility of attaching repeater signs to existing poles.
- The preferred type of entrance gateway by Suffolk County Council (SCC) and the approval process, to see if they would be allowed at both ends of the village.
- Other traffic calming measures that might be appropriate in Hacheston.

Councillors approved the purchase of three solar-powered Evolvis Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs) from Elancity at a cost of £2,974.60 each. The clerk will request a discount for the bulk purchase. Additionally, two extra brackets will be purchased for both the SIDs and solar panels, allowing easier rotation between the five SID locations. Upgraded poles with thicker dimensions (to accommodate the solar panels) will also be ordered from SCC and these will all be funded by CIL funds.

Currently, there are not enough volunteers to operate a Community Speedwatch Scheme in the village. The clerk will contact Suffolk Police to determine how many completed volunteer forms have been submitted. To encourage participation, a reminder about the scheme will be included in the upcoming residents' letter. It was noted that the scheme and necessary equipment are fully funded by Suffolk Police, with no costs to the Parish Council. Six volunteers are needed for the scheme to proceed.

10. Correspondence:

Request for a donation from East Anglian Air Ambulance

It was agreed to donate £200.

ESC Precept request 2025-2026

The implication of ESC's 100% Council Tax surcharge on furnished second homes the Parish Council's precept request was noted and will be considered further at the next meeting when the precept is set.

Correspondence from CCLA regarding changes to the Sustainability Disclosure Requirements was noted.

11. Receive Councillors reports on any actions

Cllr. Hardy has not managed to progress the replacement village sign project as logistics of removing the old post and replacing it are difficult and the work would likely need a crane. Councillors agreed that it might be advantageous to replace the wooden post with a steel one for longevity.

Cllr. Hurlock reported that the Village Hall Committee will be meeting next week.

12. Matters to be raised at the next meeting

Budget and precept 2025-2026 (*NB funding to be reserved for committed projects- eg painted roundels & 3 new SIDs/posts*)

Meeting dates 2025

NALC latest model Financial Regulations

13. The date of the next meeting was confirmed as being at 7pm on Wednesday 22nd January. There being no further business, the Chair thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 8.50pm.

Signed:
Chair

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Date