

**HACHESTON PARISH COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of Meeting**  
**of Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2025**

**1. Present**

Cllr. James Hardy (Chair)

Cllr. Chris Hurlock

Cllr. Leslie Judd

Cllr. Lucy Lavender

Cllr. Terry Mee

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr. Graeme Hall (health) and Cllr. Linda Montgomery (family commitment).

**In Attendance**

Lydia Kindred (clerk), 7 members of public (5 of whom left after the Public Forum) and two representatives regarding the Blomvyle Hall planning application.  
County Cllr. Stephen Burroughes sent his apologies.

**There were no declarations of interest.**

**2. The minutes of 29<sup>th</sup> January 2025 were approved as a true record of the meeting.**

**3. There were no matters arising.**

**PUBLIC FORUM**

*Reports have been received from the County and District Councillors.*

*These have been circulated and published on website.*

The agents for the Bloomvyle Hall application provided an overview of the planning proposals (see item 7.1) and outlined the likely order of the works, which would be phased. They answered questions from Councillors and members of the public, during which several concerns and objections were raised, including:

- Construction traffic using the single-carriageway road, designated as a 'Quiet Lane,' to access the site.
- Whether drainage and flooding mitigation had been adequately addressed.
- The necessity of an Environmental Impact Assessment.
- Whether Essex & Suffolk Water had been consulted regarding the supply of clean water to the new properties.
- The length of time the project might take.

Traffic management for the project would typically be addressed through planning conditions, but the agents are considering this in advance and welcomed comments from the Parish Council. The agents have engaged in discussions with the nearest neighbours and will be submitting additional information to amend the application accordingly. It was noted that the public consultation period should be extended to allow for responses to this additional information.

Questions were raised regarding the forthcoming planning application for a solar farm at Easton Lane. One local resident asked for the Parish Council's preliminary thoughts, but the Chair reiterated that no comments could be made until the application had been received and formally discussed. Residents were encouraged to attend the public consultation on 26<sup>th</sup> March and the Extraordinary Parish Council meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> April at which the application should be considered.

**4. Chair's Report**

The old Speed Indicator Device has been returned back following the Council agreeing not to authorise the repair and it will be reinstalled on the post near the church soon. New aluminum warning signs have been affixed near the footbridge.

## 5. Clerk's Report

There will be a public consultation regarding the proposed solar farm at Easton Lane on 26th March. All residents should receive a flyer about this by post. The planning application is expected to be submitted imminently. Information will also be advertised on the parish website and shared via the digital mailing list.

County Councillor Burroughes is in contact with the new Highways Liaison Officer to arrange a site meeting in Hacheston. If a date is not confirmed soon, the Clerk will request the officer's email address to try and ensure this is progressed.

The clerk has begun preparations for the financial year-end and the internal audit. She reminded Councillors that the period from March to May is the busiest time of the year for clerks and that much of her work will be behind the scenes.

A VAT claim for 2024-2025 is in progress.

The clerk attended East Suffolk Council's 'Town and Parish Council Planning Forum' on 4th February. Slides from the presentation have been circulated.

East Suffolk Council has recently published new village profiles based on data from the 2021 Census. Hacheston's profile has been circulated and will be published on the website.

Suffolk Association of Local Councils (SALC) continues to provide regular updates on the devolution process in Suffolk. A dedicated page is available on their website, and the next East Suffolk SALC Councillor Forum on 27th March will focus on this topic. Cllr. Judd hopes to attend this for HPC.

## 6. Financial Officer's Report

6.1) The following payments were approved:

| Amount  | Payee           | Details                                           | Reference             |
|---------|-----------------|---------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| £120.00 | Suffolk Cloud   | Web Hosting & support 2024-2025                   | 192                   |
| £220.00 | HMRC            | PAYE to 05.04.2025                                | 120PC003462<br>592512 |
| £958.45 | L. Kindred      | Pay to 31.03.2025                                 |                       |
| £22.80  | SALC            | 6 months payroll services                         | TBC                   |
| £81.54  | Defib Warehouse | Defibrillator pads ( <i>to order late April</i> ) |                       |

6.2) Other payments since the last meeting

None

6.3) Receipts since the last meeting

None

6.4) The bank balances as at 28.02.2025 were:

Community Account: £1,579.50

Premium Account: £711.70

CCLA Account £25,893.15

6.5) The bank reconciliation as at 28.02.2025 was reviewed and signed by the Examining Councillor.

6.6) The accounts to 28<sup>th</sup> February 2025 were noted. The Council currently holds £12,044.62 of unreserved CIL funds.

6.7) Review direct debits and standing orders:

ICO Data processor fee- Increased from £40 to £52 but there is a £5 deduction for paying via Direct Debit

Hacheston Village Hall- £500 donation every six months

## **7. Planning:**

### **7.1) Discuss application DC/24/4527/FUL Land at Blomvyle Hall, Hacheston**

*A phased full planning application for (1) the development of a 0.3 hectare solar farm with an equipment kiosk, (2) the conversion of two traditional agricultural barns into two dwellings including the rebuilding of a collapsed range, (3) the demolition of an employment building and an agricultural building, (4) the development of a new office building, (5) the conversion of traditional agricultural brick buildings to two dwellings, (6) the conversion of two traditional agricultural buildings to office use and ancillary office storage use for the applicant, (7) the development of a building for use as a cycle shelter, (8) the conversion of an existing agricultural silo to a dwelling, and the extension of the silo, and (9) alterations to the vehicular access, the creation vehicle parking, associated infrastructure and landscaping*

Following a detailed discussion during the public forum, the Council agreed to request an extension to the consultation response deadline with East Suffolk Council (ESC) to ensure that the forthcoming additional information could be properly considered. The following points were also agreed:

- Highlight the flooding experienced during Storm Babet and request that measures be implemented to retain water on-site during heavy rainfall, preventing additional surface water from flowing onto The Street via Easton Lane.
- Ask the property owner to approach the neighbouring landowner regarding the installation of two passing places to alleviate traffic issues related to increased construction traffic and large vehicles accessing the site via this single-lane minor road.
- Note that the village is already experiencing increased traffic due to the Sizewell C development and emphasise the importance of Quiet Lanes for recreational use and pedestrian safety.
- Request that the property owner trims the hedge along Easton Lane, which is currently hindering some traffic.

Councillors expressed no material objections to the building plans themselves and noted that the buildings were due to be sympathetically restored. The decontamination of the grounds and the clearance of collapsed pig buildings were seen as positive steps. However, the importance of mitigating traffic issues and possible flooding needed to be stressed to minimise disruption and negative repercussions for residents and neighbours.

### **7.2) Note planning decisions**

None

**7.3) Update on planning breach ENF/24/0160/DEV Erection of Fence adjacent to highway.** The panels have been removed and the posts can remain. The case has now been closed.

## **8. Residents letter and call for volunteers**

It was agreed to include the residents' letter regarding volunteering opportunities in an upcoming newsletter. The clerk will draft the newsletter when time permits, incorporating updates on:

- Call for volunteers
- Devolution in Suffolk
- The new nature group
- CIL funding expenditure
- Digital mailing list sign-up
- Available Sizewell grant funding
- Gauging interest in creating a Neighbourhood Plan for Hacheston
- The imminent solar farm application & planned extraordinary meeting

- Requests for reports for the Annual Parish Meeting

**9. Sizewell C issues and updates from meetings**

The Chair reported having spoken to a representative from the Southern Transport Forum, who agreed to provide updates following their next meeting, scheduled for tonight. Funding from Sizewell C will be available for the next 10 years, with regular panels held to discuss grant applications, so there is no immediate urgency to apply.

**10. Consider correspondence received:**

Emails from Village Hall Committee concerning solar panel battery storage project and request for a possible donation of £1,500 using CIL funds – after discussion it was agreed to support this request.

Report of drug paraphernalia and litter in five-ways roundabout bus shelter – noted and Councillors will keep an eye out for unusual behaviour.

EAAA letter of thanks re donation

ESC Neighbourhood Plan Guidance Draft Document Consultation on Climate Change and Guidance for housing- noted but of little relevance to HPC. It was agreed to ask residents for their views on carrying out a Neighbourhood Plan though and the enhanced level of CIL funding available for parishes with 'made' plans was noted.

Barclays notification of interest rate reduction by 0.1%

**11. Councillor reports**

No additional reports

**12. Matters to be raised at the next meeting**

Financial year- end procedures: accounts, internal audit, CIL report, policy review, officer appointment etc

Consider applying to SCC for licenses and purchasing planters for verges along The Street.

**13. Meeting Close**

The next meeting was confirmed as the Extraordinary Meeting on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> April to primarily discuss the Glevering Park Solar Farm application. The Annual Meeting of the Council will be held on 21<sup>st</sup> May.

There being no further business, the Chair thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 9.30pm.

**Signed:** .....

**Chair**

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**Date**