

HACHESTON PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of Meeting
of Wednesday 29th January 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 Councillor Graeme Hall (health).
Councillors sent their best wishes to him.

In Attendance

Lydia Kindred (clerk) District Councillor Sally Noble (until item 4)
Linda Montgomery (during item 4)
County Cllr. Stephen Burroughes sent his apologies.

There were no declarations of interest.

- 2. The minutes of 27th November 2024 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 District Councillor apologised for her inability to attend Parish Council meetings regularly, as they coincide with East Suffolk's full Council meetings. She has recently joined the Sizewell C Southern Transport Forum and reported on some of the challenges already arising from the Sizewell C project. She noted that, despite the Park & Ride facility being located within Hacheston's curtilage, the village is not currently on the priority list of affected parishes.

As Chair of the Community Partnership, she encouraged the Parish Council to apply for funding through this scheme. She also informed the Council that her Enabling Communities Budget will be renewed in April and highlighted East Suffolk Council's *Nature at Work* grant scheme.

4. Chair's Report

The Chair has received the three new solar-powered Speed Indicator Devices and Connect appliances. He aims to erect one on the pole near Garnetts Gardens later this week.

The Chair and five residents planted ESC's community bulbs on verges across the village on 15th December. This was postponed from 8th December due to Storm Darragh.

Linda Montgomery arrived during this item. As per agenda item 1, she was co-opted on to the Council. The clerk will send her an induction pack and notify East Suffolk Council that she has filled Hacheston Parish Council's final seat.

5. Clerk's Report

Planning application DC/24/3484/FUL *Demolition of existing outbuilding and erection of new single storey dwelling - Land rear of Phoenix House & Fieldgate House The Street Hacheston* has been permitted.

ESC has recently published new village profiles with data from the 2021 census. A PDF copy has been requested for the website.

The Parish Council has supported the applications to register Fairfield Green and the allotments as Assets of Community Value and residents have been contacted via the digital mailshot to advise them of the consultation period.

The three new Speed Indicator Devices have been added to the Council's Assets Register and insurance policy. There is no additional premium due in this regard.

Dates that the mobile library will be visiting the village in 2025 have been published on the website and notice boards. Information about the 50% grants for loft insulation has also been published.

At an Extraordinary Council meeting in January, Suffolk County Council agreed to request inclusion in the Government's Devolution Priority Programme.

The Clerk produced laminated warning signs for the footbridge, advising that it is slippery when wet. However, these have not lasted well and the Chair will look into more permanent signage.

6. Financial Officer's Report

6.1) There were no additional payments to approve.

6.2) The following payments have been made since the last meeting:

Amount	Payee	Details
£176.00	Hacheston Village Hall	Meeting room hire 2024
£42.00	SLCC	Annual membership fee
£239.80	HMRC	PAYE to 5th January
£200.00	East Anglian Air Ambulance	Donation agreed November
£1,036.93	L. Kindred	Pay to 31st December and backdated NALC pay increase
£7,690.57	Elancity	3 x Evolis Vision Speed Indicator Devices
£1,308.00	Elancity	Connect devices & 2 year subscription

6.3) Funds received to 31.12.2024:

Barclays £24.85 Interest

6.4) The bank balances as at 31.12.2024 were noted as being:

Current Account: £376.80

Premium Account: £2,461.70

CCLA Account £35,748.93

£10,000 was drawn down from the CCLA account on 24th January to ensure there were sufficient funds to pay the Elancity invoices.

6.5) The bank reconciliation as at 31.12.2024 was reviewed and signed by the Examining Councillor.

6.6) The accounts to 31st December 2024 were noted. The Council holds £31,292.44 of CIL funding currently and noted that the first funds (£3,587) expire in October 2026. However, £14,250 of CIL funds have been committed to date (painted roundels and SLOW markings, SIDs, connect plus devices and subscriptions, upgraded poles for solar panel SIDs), leaving a balance of £17,042.

The clerk advised that the Council's spending for the year is currently £18,817. If this goes above £25,00 before 31st March, the Council will be required to have an External Audit.

6.7) Review Bank Mandate

Currently Councillors Hardy and Mee are the Council's only banking mandates. It was agreed that Councillor. Judd should also be added and the clerk will request the necessary forms from Barclays.

7. Forecast for 2024-2025 and budget for 2025-2026

Draft figures circulated were considered and approved. This will be published on the website.

8. Precept for 2025-2026

Having considered the levels of reserved and general funds, plus the budget and implications of the 100% second home Council tax surcharge, Cllr. Hardy proposed that the Council asks for a precept equal to an increase of 5% (£10,040, which is equal to £52.53 per Band D property). This was seconded by Cllr. Hurlock and carried unanimously.

9. It was agreed to accept NALC latest Financial Regulations with modifications as circulated. These will be published on the website.

10. Highways issues and safety mitigation:

The Clerk has identified village gateways approved in principle by Suffolk County Council (SCC). A street licence application must be submitted at a cost of £160 per location, detailing the required gateways and the chosen contractor. If granted, the Council agreed to purchase two 1.5m white wooden gateways (model 183/0020) at £940.11 each for the northern village entrance. Installation costs of up to £5,000 were approved, and the Clerk will seek quotes from SCC-approved contractors. Once obtained, these will be circulated for approval before submitting the licence application.

The thicker poles required for SIDs with solar panels must be installed by Suffolk County Council at a cost of £600 each. The clerk has taken photos of four existing sites and will provide SCC with the What3Words locations.

Cllr. Lavender reported on recent communication with Campsea Ashe Parish Council regarding traffic data. It was agreed that data from the new SIDs would be compared with SCC's 2024 traffic survey data to assess any increase in traffic following the start of Sizewell C construction.

11. Funding request from the Village Hall Committee

It was agreed not to donate £1,252.98 of CIL funds to the Village Hall Committee for improvements to play equipment at present, but to advise them of some alternative funding sources which could be considered.

12. Charitable contributions

Charitable donations over the past three years were reviewed and Councillors agreed not to make any additional grants presently. Grant applications will be considered as and when received.

13. Correspondence:

HMRC Notification of late filing penalty: The Clerk reported that, following intervention by SALC's Finance Manager, the penalty has been successfully waived.

ESC Planning Committee Updates: The Council noted changes affecting Parish Council responses to planning applications.

Devolution in Suffolk: Updates were received from SALC regarding the ongoing devolution discussions.

Environmental Group request: Councillors agreed to establish an environmental group, 'Hacheston for Nature', to promote biodiversity and nature conservation projects within the village. The Parish Council can also apply for funding for relevant initiatives. This will be advertised in the letter about volunteering opportunities in the village that will be sent to residents.

Barclays Interest Rates: Notification of interest rate reduction from 1.40% to 1.35% from 11.03.2025

14. Councillors Reports

Village Hall Updates: Cllr. Hurlock agreed to provide a report after each Village Hall Committee meeting to keep the Parish Council informed of relevant developments and improve communications between the two groups.

Volunteer Letter: Cllr. Lavender requested an update on the resident letter seeking project volunteers. The Clerk is drafting this and will circulate it for feedback shortly.

Parking on Verges: Cllr. Hardy reported concerns about vehicles parking on verges opposite Streetfield, which may cause damage if this continues.

15. Matters to be raised at the next meeting

Consider installing planters along verges on The Street, possibly using funding from the Community Partnership or Nature First scheme.

16. Meeting dates in 2025

29th January 19th March

21st May (Annual Meeting of the Parish & Parish Council AGM)

16th July 17th September 19th November

There being no further business, the Chair thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 9.25pm.

Signed:
Chair

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Date