

DRAFT Minutes of Hacheston's Annual Parish Meeting

Hacheston Village Hall
8pm on Friday 12th May 2023



1. Chairman's welcome

Nikki Markham as the newly elected Chair of the Parish Council welcomed everyone to the Parish Meeting. There were 15 members of public present as well as five Parish Councillors.

2. Apologies for absence were received from Michael Dawe.

3. The Minutes of 2022's Annual Parish Meeting were noted

4. There were no matters arising.

5. A verbal report was received from the retiring chair of Hacheston Parish Council.

Adrian Revill gave a verbal report on the Parish Council. Last year saw the start of some new initiatives for the Council and a change in emphasis in its work. The running of the council involved a considerable workload. In November it secured have secured the services of Lydia Kirk, an experienced and energetic clerk. She steered the Council through an internal and external audit and the updating of its procedures.

A new village website has been launched, a newsletter has recently been produced and the Parish Council is assembling a residents email list. The Council is trying to involve more people with its work and improve communications with residents.

He concluded by saying that he thinks that the future is bright for Hacheston. The effects of the pandemic are being shaken off, thanks to developments in the village the council has funds to enrich the lives of the community and there is a different political balance in local government. After 5 years, he is now stepping down from the Council but sent his best wishes for its future.

The current Chair thanked Adrian for all of his services to the village and noted that he would be very much missed on the Parish Council.

6. Malcolm Robinson provided a report from the Hacheston Village Hall Committee.

There were no changes to the Trustees but it was noted that Michael Dawe will step down at the AGM on 26th May. The Annual Return was submitted to the Charities Commission in December 2022 and the Village Hall now has a safeguarding policy in place. Regular hirers are now back and the

hall is in use every weekday, but hires for one-off event are still low after the pandemic. The hall is now 15 years old and more repair and maintenance issues are arising. The VHC is grateful to the Parish Council for its continued financial assistance to maintain Fairfield Green.

- 7. A very comprehensive report was received from Hacheston Parochial Church Council.** This was available for residents to peruse.
- 8. A written report was received report from the Corrance School Trust.** There have been 3 events to raise funds for the Trust and 16 grants totalling £800 have been awarded.
- 9. A written report was received from Hacheston United Charity.**
- 10. A written report was received from the Village Recorder, via the Suffolk Local History Council.**
- 11. A written annual report was received from County Councillor Stephen Burroughes.** Cllr. Burroughes also gave a brief verbal report in which he thanked Adrian Revill for all his time on the Parish Council and noted what a good job he had done as Chair. Cllr. Burroughes confirmed that he had stood down as a District Councillor last week but is still Hacheston's County Councillor. He was pleased to report that SCC has appointed a new Highways contractor who will start in October. 200,000 new trees have been planted across East Suffolk in an attempt to help reduce the district's carbon footprint.
- 12. There was the opportunity to ask questions of the above and many residents had questions to ask Councillor Burroughes.** Most of these questions concerned the speed and volume of traffic going through the village. There were also questions on flooding in the village, pavement inadequacies and extending the footpath along the old railway line. It was agreed that there would be a discussion evening with a representative from Suffolk County Council's Highways Department and hopefully also Suffolk Constabulary and East Suffolk Council so various traffic-calming measures and village aspirations could be discussed and viable options mooted. It was agreed that residents could also use this opportunity to further consider possible projects to spend the village CIL funding on.

Cllr. Burroughes will organise a date with a Highways Officer and the Parish Clerk and this will be advertised throughout the village.

Copies of all written reports have been filed with the minutes and will be placed on the village website.

Nikki Markham thanked everyone for coming and closed the meeting at 9.40pm