

**HACHESTON PARISH COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of Meeting**  
**of Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> January 2024**

**1. Present**

Cllr. James Hardy (Chair) Cllr. Chris Hurlock Cllr. Lucy Lavender Cllr. Terry Mee

Apologies for absence were received, and accepted from Cllr. Andy Markham (holiday) and Cllr. Graeme Hall (recovering from an operation).

County Cllr. Stephen Burroughes and District Cllr. Sally Noble also sent their apologies.

**In Attendance**

Lydia Kirk (clerk)

Two members of public: Colin Garrod and Robert Shaw

**2. There were no declarations of interest.**

**3. The minutes of 15<sup>th</sup> November 2023 were approved as a true record of the meeting.**

**4. There were no matters arising.**

**PUBLIC FORUM**

Mr Garrod explained that he has recently purchased a building plot in the village and was keen to find out more about how that area was affected by flooding during Storm Babet.

Councillors had a discussion regarding the height above sea level at various points in the village and shared their experiences of the recent flooding.

Mr Shaw attended the public flooding meeting at Framlingham on 21<sup>st</sup> January and provided a detailed report of the meeting, including details of who was on the panel, questions asked and some of the responses given. The Chair thanked him for this.

Both the District Councillor and County Councillors sent a written report. Cllr. Noble would like to organise a clinic in the village for residents to meet with her. Cllr. Burroughes hopes to attend the next Parish Council meeting with a SCC Highways Engineer to discuss highways safety measures in the village.

**5. Clerk's Report**

SAL's annual conference in December was very useful and included a Q & A session with Milestone, SCC's new highways contractor.

All of the narcissi bulbs given through the East Suffolk in bloom scheme have now been planted, and thanks were noted to all the residents who helped with this.

The clerk has now completed her Community Self-Help training which means that she can be the approved person at work parties near the highways to clear verges, clean signs, cut hedges etc

Legislation has recently changed and Parish Councils are now able to financially support churches with maintaining their churchyards and some other costs.

The clerk circulated details of some bus shelters and prices. It was noted that these did not include installation costs.

Three residents have returned their Community Speedwatch application forms so far.

**6. Financial Officer's Report**

a) The following payments were approved:

Reference Number	Amount	Payee	Details
P27	£327.92	East Suffolk Services	Dog waste bin
P28	£297.40	HMRC	PAYE to 5 <sup>th</sup> January
P29	£66.48	L. Kirk	2 XSID batteries (eBay)
P30	£1,267.28	L. Kirk	Pay to 31 <sup>st</sup> December 2023 plus backdated NALC pay rise from 01.04.2023
P33	£42.84	SLCC	Membership fee (shared between 5 Councils)

- b) Payments made since the last meeting were noted :
- £22.80 SALC £22.80 Payroll services  
£120.00 Suffolk Cloud Website hosting and support  
£165.00 Hacheston Village Hall Hall hire 2023
- c) Funds received since the last meeting:
- 04.12.24 £103.84 Interest Barclays
- d) The bank balances as at 31.12.2023 were:
- Community Account: £4,174.66  
Premium Account: £35,797.12  
It was noted that £31,415 of these funds were reserved.
- e) The bank reconciliation as at 31.12.2023 was reviewed and signed by the Examining Councillor.

7. **Cllr. Hardy has asked for two quotations to repair the village sign but not received these as yet.** He will continue to chase this and report back.
8. **Consider subscribing to Scribe software at a cost of £120 per annum** *This will be deferred for now, to see how easy to use the clerk finds this software with another of her Parish Councils.*
9. **Local actions post-Storm Babet were discussed in the public forum.** As Mr Shaw reported, Framlingham Town Council has commissioned a consultant to produce a flood report for the town which should be ready much sooner than SCC's report. It was agreed that the clerk should ask Parham and Marlesford Parish Councils if they would like to work together to fund commissioning a report for their villages. East Suffolk Council have now paid most flood grants and residents who haven't received theirs yet should contact the clerk. In order to get a flood prevention grants of up to £5,000, a chartered surveyor's report is needed. Property owners would have to carry out at least one recommendation from the report in order to recoup up to £500 of the surveyor's costs back from their grant funding.
10. **Cllr. Hardy circulated copies of the latest Speed Indicator Device's data which suggests that speeding is increasing.** SCC's tube traffic surveys in the village have also now mostly been carried out. The survey near Easton Lane did not record properly and will be re-done later this month. Two of the other surveys were short of one day's worth of data, and because of this, SCC will deduct the cost of one survey. The clerk has sent the traffic survey data received so far to the local Highways Engineer Officer for his comments. This will also be considered at the next meeting, to which he and the County Councillor will be invited. At this meeting, they will also be asked about extending the 30mph limit at both ends of the village.
11. **Cllr Hardy reported that one of the Speed Indicator Devices continues to drain power very quickly, despite new batteries being purchased.** Councillors agreed to have this returned to the manufacturer for diagnostics and repair and noted the carriage costs and labour charge per hour.

Councillors discussed purchasing another SID. It was agreed that Cllr. Hardy will approach Westcotec for prices. A solar powered SID was considered but it was noted that the posts would then need replacing with thicker posts at a cost of £570 each to meet SCC's licensing requirements.

Purchasing a solar powered SID will be considered again when it is known if the 30mph speed limit can be extended to Rookery Farm.

12. **Councillors considered opening a Public Sector Deposit Fund with CCLA and received a report of merits and drawbacks of this scheme from Cllr. Mee.** His main concern was whether the funds would be in the scheme for long enough to earn enough income to warrant the extra work.

It was noted that £25,000 was needed to open the account but that this amount did not then need to be retained. It was agreed that the Council would open a PSDF account with the CCLA. Cllrs. Hardy, Lavender and Mee will be the authorised mandates on the account. The clerk will be an authorised agent with viewing access.

13. **It was agreed that the clerk will draft a newsletter to residents to accompany the CIL funding residents' consultation.**

Articles to include: traffic surveys, Speedwatch scheme, Councillor vacancy, dog waste bin, narcissi planting, SCC's reporting tool, volunteer work parties.

The draft will be circulated to Councillors with a view to distributing this in February.

14. **The forecast for 2023-2024 and budget for 2024-2025 was discussed and agreed at the previous meeting.**

15. **The precept for 2024-2025 was agreed at the previous meeting.**

16. **Councillors considered purchasing some maintenance equipment to be reimbursed through SCC's Community Self-Help Scheme.** Equipment such as wheelbarrows, secateurs, strimmers, bush cutters and edgers can be purchased. The clerk will collate a list of items the Council would like and check that these are eligible for reimbursement with the scheme's organisers.

Cllr. Hardy noted that the pavement works near the church are insufficient and that all the soil encroaching the path needs to be removed to widen the path. He also wondered who has cut the hedge near The Lodge as he believed there was a dispute over who was responsible for maintaining this. This will be added to the items to ask SCC at the next meeting.

17. **Correspondence received was considered.**

Cllr. Hardy will try to attend the East Suffolk Planning Alliance conference on 17<sup>th</sup> February.

Cllr. Lavender will confirm if she is able to attend the Sizewell C Forum on 9<sup>th</sup> April. The clerk will attend the Community Partnership meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> January.

18. **There were no additional updates from Councillors.**

19. **Matters to be raised at the next meeting:**

Newsletter feedback

Highways issues and safety measures

20. **The date of the next meeting was confirmed as being on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2024.** The 20<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> March will offered as alternatives if the County Councillor and Highways Officer cannot make this. Other meeting dates for the year were confirmed as: 22<sup>nd</sup> May (plus Annual Parish Meeting) 24<sup>th</sup> July, 25<sup>th</sup> September and 27<sup>th</sup> November.

There being no further business, the Chair thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 9.40pm.

**Signed:** .....

**Chair**

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**Date**