

HACHESTON PARISH COUNCIL
DRAFT Minutes of Meeting
of Wednesday 10th April 2024

1. Present

Cllr. James Hardy (Chair)
Cllr. Lucy Lavender

Cllr. Chris Hurlock
Cllr. Terry Mee

Cllr. Leslie Judd

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Cllr. Graeme Hall (ill health). District Cllr. Sally Noble also sent her apologies as she had another meeting.

In Attendance

Lydia Kindred (clerk) Rev. Ann Kember (until item 4) and one resident

There were no declarations of interest.

2. The minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 22nd May 2024 were approved as a true record of the meeting.

3. There were no matters arising.

PUBLIC FORUM

Cllr. Burroughes' report was noted and has been published on the village website. Rev. Kember reported on changes to All Saints Church. Permission has recently been given by the Bishop to change the status of the church to a 'Festival Church'. This means that regular services will not be held here. However the church will remain open every day and will also be available for baptisms, weddings and funerals. In addition a minimum of six services must be held there annually. Rev. Kember hopes that residents will attend these services even if they were not regular church-goers previously and that the church will be seen as a community building and a village asset. On Saturday 28th September there will be a special open day at the church to which all residents will be invited. There will be talks on the history of the church, activities for children, bell-ringing and refreshments.

Rev. Kember talked about difficulties with maintenance of the churchyard and a lack of volunteers. She will make a formal application to the Parish Council for some financial assistance with this now that the legislation has changed and Parish Councils are allowed to donate to the church. She also talked about proposals for a monthly community breakfast, for the church to give back to the local community and will discuss this further with the Village Hall Committee.

4. Chair's Report

The Chair has met with a trustee from Hacheston United Charities and received an update on their negotiations with the Village Hall regarding the possible dissolution of HUC and disposal of its assets. There are some problems reaching agreement on a way forward. The Chair talked through three possible options for the assets and also discussed the possibility of registering the allotments, Village Hall and land as Assets of Community Value which would give the local community first refusal to purchase these if they were sold. The Chair also advised on low-interest rate loans that are available for Parish Councils which might be of interest if the Charity sells off its assets.

The Chair is awaiting quotations for the village sign but advised that one company did not wish to quote because it was for a Parish Council.

The Chair has been in contact with a representative from the Suffolk Community Foundation regarding the funding available from the Sizewell C development. She was not aware that the Park and Ride is actually located within Hacheston. He also shared

his concerns that Marlesford Lane will be used as an alternative cut-through when the Park & Ride is in action.

5. Clerk's Report

The Clerk confirmed that the end of year and AGAR papers have been sent to the external auditor but that their report is still awaited.

The SLOW markings and 30mph roundels commissioned by the Parish Council and County Council were painted on roads across the village last week and some positive feedback from residents has already been received.

Since the last meeting, Cllr. Andrew Markham has sadly resigned from the Council due to his increased workload.

6. Financial Officer's Report

a) The following payments were approved:

Amount	Payee	Details
£254.20	HMRC	PAYE to 5 th July 2024
£80.00	G. Whiting	Grass cutting and strimming 17 th June
£1,095.20	L. Kirk	Pay to 30 th June 2024
TBC*	Suffolk County Council	Painted SLOW markings and 30mph roundels

* This invoice is awaited but as the works have been completed, Councillors agreed to pay 50% of these costs, up to £2,210, using CIL funds, when the invoice is received.

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

c) Funds received since the last meeting were noted:

03.06.2024 £121.49 Interest

d) The bank balances as at 24.06.2024 were noted as being:

Current Account: £1,294.27

Premium Account: £16,776.51

CCLA Account £25,000

e) The bank reconciliation as at 24.06.2024 was reviewed and signed by the Examining Councillor.

f) The accounts to 24th June 2024 were noted.

g) The CCLA has confirmed safe receipt of the £25,000 to open the Public Sector Deposit Fund account. The following sums of income have been re-invested:

June £28.59

July £107.02

The clerk has asked for access to the client portal so that she can view income received directly.

7. NALC's Financial Regulations will be deferred for consideration at a future meeting.

It was noted that this must be done before 31st March 2025.

8. Councillors considered comments from the internal auditor and NALC's recommendations regarding using gov.uk domain names and email addresses.

It was agreed to purchase a gov.uk domain name from Suffolk Cloud at a cost of £150 for two years. It was also agreed to purchase gov.uk mailboxes from Suffolk Cloud at a cost of £300 for 20gb of storage, with no limit on the number of addresses available. The clerk will submit an application for a government grant towards these costs.

9. Highways issues and safety mitigation:

9.1 It was agreed to purchase 30mph signs and repeater signs to replace faded and/or damaged ones across the village. Two have been identified as being in need of replacement currently, but Councillors are to report back with details of others that would benefit from being replaced. It was noted that these can only be replaced through the

Community Self-Help Scheme when in a 30mph zone. 300mm 30mph signs cost £11.50 each, and 450mm ones cost £24.50 each, with a shipping cost of £15.

It was also agreed to contact SCC to seek a licence to allow entrance gateways to be installed next to the Hacheston sign near Garnetts Gardens. **ACTIONS** Clerk to seek the thoughts of the residents closest to this location and then to contact SCC regarding the licence, with a view to sourcing the gateways directly from a manufacturer if granted.

9.2 Cllr. Hardy gave an update on the Speed Indicator Devices. He is awaiting a phone call from Westcotec regarding the SID which still has its intermittent fault.

10. Consider correspondence received:

Casual Vacancy notice from East Suffolk Council – Cllr. Markham’s vacancy can now be filled via co-option.

An email regarding noisy drain grids along The Street was noted. The resident has also contact the Police Commissioner regarding speeding in the village and the response will be sent to Councillors. This lead to some discussion on the number of times that the Speed and Safety team visit the village.

There was also some discussion on extending the 30mph speed limit. The clerk reiterated that this is a large and costly project and it would only be possible if the area meets SCC’s criteria.

A letter from Citizens Advice Bureau with an update and asking for a donation was noted. It was agreed to donate £100.

11. Reports from Councillors on actions:

Cllr. Lavender reported that unfortunately she was not able to make the most recent Southern Park & Ride meeting and she will be away for the next Sizewell Transport Forum in August. She stressed the importance of these meetings and asked if another Councillor could attend.

Cllr. Hardy reported on two serious accidents at the Hacheston roundabout in recent weeks. He will ensure they are both recorded with Suffolk Police so that they are then recorded on the Crashmap website. This data is used to identify accident hot-spots to then initiate extra highways safety measures.

Cllr. Hardy expressed frustrations that items reported on SCC’s online reporting tool have been removed without him having received a response. He will forward the reference numbers to the clerk to raise with SCC.

12. Matters to be raised at the next meeting:

Financial Regulations

Updates from Sizewell transport meetings & Suffolk Community Foundation regarding funding eligibility.

The date of the next meeting was confirmed as being Wednesday 25nd September at 7pm. There being no further business, the Chair thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 8.25pm.