

**HACHESTON PARISH COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of Meeting**  
**of Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> September 2024**

**1. Present**

Cllr. James Hardy (Chair)                      Cllr. Graeme Hall                      Cllr. Chris Hurlock  
Cllr. Leslie Judd                                      Cllr. Lucy Lavender                      Cllr. Terry Mee  
County Councillor Stephen Burroughes sent his apologies, noting that he now finds it difficult to attend meetings in person due to reduced mobility.

**In Attendance**

Lydia Kindred (clerk) and 4 residents

**There were no declarations of interest.**

**2. The minutes of 24<sup>th</sup> July 2024 were approved as a true record of the meeting.**

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

**PUBLIC FORUM**

A resident came to update Councillors on changes to his planning application that will soon be submitted. Pre-application advice has been sought and a fresh application is required as the existing building will no longer be retained. The footprint of the new building would be slightly larger but would still single storey. The visibility splay would also be improved.

Another resident provided an update from a meeting of Hacheston United Charities held on 24<sup>th</sup> September. The Trustees have agreed not to proceed with looking into closing the Charity currently, but to reassess this in May 2025. The resident will organise a meeting with interested parties to discuss this.

Another resident came to represent residents who were flooded during Storm Babet and was keen to hear of any progress on Suffolk County Council's Section 19 report. She also expressed concerns about blocked field drains near the substation and the pressure on the drain outside Fen Cottage which is fed into by 13 other drains.

**4. Chair's Report**

The Chair has spoken to the residents closest to the agreed entrance gates to the north of the village and he has no objections to them being installed. The Chair has looked at the damaged Hacheston sign near here but unfortunately it is not easy to straighten. He has assessed 30mph speed and repeater roundels in the village, noting those that would benefit from being replaced. There are some additional posts that do not have speed signs on and the clerk will ask SCC if repeater roundels can also be added to these.

**5. Clerk's Report**

We were successful in our East Suffolk in Bloom application and the clerk will collect the bulbs in October.

Cllr. Judd has confirmed that he is happy to be the Council's SALC representative.

The clerk gave an update on the planning breach on land opposite Low Meadows, ref ENF/24/0155/COND. East Suffolk Council will monitor the landscaping to ensure the hedging is planted when appropriate to do so. The Parish Council will also monitor.

The following planning applications have been permitted:

DC/24/2700/LBC internal insulation Church Cottage, The Street

DC/24/2078/FUL Replacement brick wall 2 West View Cottage, The Street.

The clerk advised that she would be asking SALC to reduce her weekly hours for Hacheston Parish Council down by an hour as the workload has decreased and she is currently spending less time on this Parish Council.

**6. Financial Officer's Report**

a) The following payments were approved:

Amount	Payee	Details
£1095.20	L. Kindred	Pay to 30.09.2024
£254.20	HMRC	PAYE to 05.10.2024
£446.37	Ansvar/Community Action Suffolk	Insurance
£80.00	Gary Whiting	Grass cutting
£252.00	PKF Littlejohn	Limited assurance review

- b) No additional payments have been made since the last meeting.
- c) No funds had been received to 31.08.2024
- d) The bank balances as at 31.08.2024 were noted as being:  
 Current Account: £1,183.37  
 Premium Account: £15,276.51  
 CCLA Account £25,246.17
- e) The bank reconciliation as at 31.08.2024 was reviewed and signed by the Examining Councillor.
- f) The accounts to 31<sup>st</sup> August 2024 were noted.

7. **The correspondence from Suffolk County Council seeking data for their Section 19 Flood Report on the village was noted.** Cllr. Hardy and Lavender have spent considerable time collating the photos and records, working to a very tight deadline. Councillors thanked them for their efforts. The draft report will be shared with Councillors and submitted to SCC as soon as possible.
8. **It was agreed to donate £500 to All Saints Church as a contribution towards the maintenance of their churchyard.** Councillors noted that maintenance costs might be significantly higher in the future with tree works and significant hedge cutting likely to be necessary fairly soon.
9. **Highways issues and safety mitigation:**  
 Unfortunately, the scheduled meeting with Suffolk County Council representatives to discuss highways issues and safety mitigation measures has not yet taken place. The Clerk will continue to follow up to arrange this meeting.  
 It was noted that police have recently increased speed checks within the village. The manufacturer of the Speed Indicator Device (SID) has collected it once again and identified the issue. Repairing the faulty part would cost over £1,000 plus VAT. In light of this, the Clerk will obtain quotes for new, solar-powered SIDs for Councillors to review. The Chair has yet to receive a definitive answer from the Sizewell representative regarding potential funding sources for additional SIDs but will continue to pursue this avenue.
10. **The insurance renewal for 1<sup>st</sup> October 2024 was considered and the policy was still considered suitable for the Council's needs.**
11. **The domain switchover to gov.uk site has now taken place and an auto-redirect from the Council's previous website is in place.** Councillors agreed the format of the new gov.uk email addresses and the clerk will confirm these with the web company.
12. **The External Auditor's clear report was noted and the Notice of Conclusion of Audit for 2023-2024 is on display.** This concludes the 2023-2024 audit process. An external audit was necessary as the Council's income exceeded £25,000 during that period.
13. **There was no additional correspondence to consider.**
14. **Reports from Councillors on actions:**  
 Cllr. Lavender will be going to the next Transport Sizewell Forum on 13<sup>th</sup> November.

Cllr. Judd will be going to the next SALC Area Forum on 1<sup>st</sup> October and the next Community Partnership meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> October.

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

Consider SID quotations

Update on new entrance gateway to the north of the village near Garnetts Gardens

Updates on SCC Highways site meeting

Possible co-option of a new Councillor

**16. The date of the next meeting was confirmed as being Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> November at 7pm.** There being no further business, the Chair thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 8.45pm.