

# Hacheston Parish Council

## Minutes of a Meeting of Hacheston Parish Council held at 7pm on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> November 2025

### 1. Present

Cllr. Linda Montgomery (Vice-Chair)      Cllr. Chris Hurlock      Cllr. Leslie Judd  
Lydia Kindred (Clerk)      8 members of public

*With the Chair absent, Cllr. Montgomery agreed to chair the meeting despite only being elected Vice-Chair at the last meeting.*

### Apologies for absence

Cllr. James Hardy (health issue) Cllr. Terry Mee (family issue)

County Councillor Burroughes sent his apologies as he was attending another meeting.

### Co-option

Alan Perry was co-opted as a Councillor and completed his Declaration of Acceptance of Office. The clerk will notify East Suffolk Council and prepare an induction pack.

### 2. Minutes of Meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> September 2025

These were approved as a true record and signed by the Vice-Chair in the absence of the Chair.

### 3. Matters arising

None

## PUBLIC FORUM

### Update from Rev. Ann Kember – All Saints Church

Rev. Ann Kember provided an update on the current status of All Saints Church. The church is classified as a 'Festival Church', holding six services per year. However, there are currently no Churchwardens and no Parochial Church Council. Although all residents were invited to the Festival opening event last year, only 12 people attended.

The Rev. has been in discussion with the Diocese regarding the future of the church. Three potential options are being considered:

1. **Full closure**, with the Diocese taking on responsibility for the building.
2. **Becoming a Chapel of Ease**, meaning it would no longer function as a parish church but could still host marriages and burials by special licence. It would be overseen by the nearest PCC (Parham), though Parham's PCC is already significantly stretched with ongoing major works, including a large roof repair.
3. **Merging the parishes**, forming "*Parham with Hacheston*".

Rev. Kember emphasised the need for increased local support. Volunteers are sought to attend approximately three meetings per year and help with cleaning the church and maintaining the churchyard. *Cllr. Montgomery offered to join this working group and assist with cleaning.* The Rev. will draft an article for the parish website, digital mailshot and the next parish newsletter, which will be delivered to all households.

## Solar Farm Consultation

A member of the public asked about the Ancona solar farm application. With the consultation deadline now extended to February- six months after the Parish Council last discussed the application- she requested that the Council hold a further planning meeting to reconsider it and invite all residents.

## Bloomvyle Planning Application– Agent’s Update

Representatives for the Bloomvyle application (item 7.2) presented amendments made in response to the Parish Council’s previous objections. They highlighted that other consultees have supported the proposal and stated that surface water run-off would be reduced compared with the current situation, owing to permeable paving and additional water-retention measures exceeding statutory requirements.

### 4. Chair’s report

Deferred

### 5. Clerk’s report

The Clerk attended briefing sessions on East Suffolk Council’s Local Plan Review, the call-for-sites process and Local Government Review and Assess Management. The call-for-sites period runs until 9 January.

A draft form has been prepared for residents to help develop the Community Emergency Plan. It asks residents to note any skills, equipment or assistance they could offer in an emergency and whether they would need extra support. This can be issued alongside the parish newsletter to all households.

The Clerk has completed the Pensions Regulator’s re-enrolment declaration.

Two residents raised concerns about large numbers of felled trees along Marlesford Lane near the river. The Clerk contacted ESC and confirmed that no permission was required.

SLCC has returned payments totalling £324.24 that were intended for SALC.

The Council laptop is becoming slow and unreliable. Provision for replacement may need to be included when setting the next budget.

### 6. Financial Matters

6.1) The following payments were approved:

Amount	Payee	Details	Reference
£22.80	Suffolk Association Local Councils	Payroll services	30412
£100.00	G. Whiting	Mowing	7407
£208.40	Hacheston Village Hall	Room hire 2025	451

6.2) Receipts since the last meeting:

08/09/25	£9.29	Barclays	Interest
30/09/2025	£5,020.00	ESC	Precept instalment

6.3) Payments since the last meeting:

01/10/2025	Hacheston Village Hall	Donation	(standing order)
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6.4) Bank balances & CCLA deposit funds as at 31.10.2025:

Community Account:	£4,045.87
Deposit Account:	£30.91
CCLA funds 30.09.25:	£26,690.98

6.5) The bank statements were reviewed and the bank reconciliation signed by the RFO and Examining Councillor.

6.6) The year-to-date accounts was reviewed and was generally in line with the budget. It was noted that administration costs are higher than budgeted due to

unforeseen additional costs associated with the new Assertion 10 obligations such as professional services and the website accessibility review.

It was also reported that the Council still has £200 of charitable donations that it can allocate before the financial year end.

## **7. Planning applications**

### **7.1 DC/25/3854/FUL**

Proposal: Multiple extensions to existing bungalow with repairs made to existing materials. Erection of new detached garage on Northern boundary of the site.

Site address: Blomvyle Hall Bungalow, Easton Lane, Hacheston

*(response extension granted until 20.11.2025)*

It was noted that contrary to the notice received from East Suffolk Council, this is not a retrospective application. Councillors unanimously agreed to support this application.

### **7.2 DC/24/4527/FUL**

Proposal: A phased full planning application for (1) the development of a 0.3 hectare solar farm with an equipment kiosk, (2) the conversion of two traditional agricultural barns into two dwellings including the rebuilding of a collapsed range, (3) the demolition of an employment building and an agricultural building, (4) the development of a new office building, (5) the conversion of traditional agricultural brick buildings to two dwellings, (6) the conversion of two traditional agricultural buildings to office use and ancillary office storage use, (7) the development of a building for use as a cycle shelter, (8) the conversion and extension of an existing agricultural silo to a dwelling, (9) creation of a vehicular route to connect with an existing vehicular access and (10) alterations to the existing vehicular access; creation of vehicle parking, associated infrastructure and landscaping

Site address: Land At, Blomvyle Hall, Easton Lane, Hacheston

*(response extension granted until 20.11.2025)*

Councillors discussed this application. Cllr. Judd was pleased to note that the Council's objections have been responded to in a satisfactory way and that the developer has engaged positively with the Parish Council throughout. As such, he proposed supporting the application. This proposal was seconded by Cllr. Hurlock but it failed to secure a majority vote. Cllr. Montgomery proposed objecting to the application but there was no seconder for this proposal.

## **8. Bench plaque**

Councillors agreed to add a plaque to the bench recently donated to Fairfield Green and agreed wording and a budget of up to £50 for this.

## **9. Additional mowing**

Councillors reviewed quotes for mowing two additional grass areas along The Street. It was noted that a third small area is currently maintained by a resident and should be added to the Council's schedule. The Clerk will ask the contractor whether this third section can be included for the quoted £20 per cut. If not, the Clerk is authorised to agree a cost of up to £30 per cut to include all three sections.

## **10. Bequest**

The Parish Council has received a bequest of a Suzuki Swift car. Following discussion, it was agreed that the vehicle should first be offered to residents at a reduced rate. If no resident expresses interest, it will be sold to a dealer. The Clerk will obtain three valuations and liaise with the Executor to ensure correct procedures are followed regarding the sale and probate requirements.

## **11. Year-end projections and draft budget figures for 2026-2027**

*Deferred*

**12. Correspondence**

Notification of a car being bequeathed to the Parish Council- *a copy of the relevant section of the Will has since been obtained.*

SCC regarding upgrading the SID poles- *the clerk has confirmed the locations and costs and the works have been ordered.*

Request from Citizens Advice Bureau for a donation- *It was agreed to donate £100.*

Invitation to next Sizewell Southern Transport Forum, which is being held on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> December at Stratford St Andrew- *Cllr. Montgomery will attend this.*

Hacheston Village Hall- Request for £1,000 funding from East Suffolk Council’s Outdoor Playing Space Fund- Shared Sport Pot- *Councillors confirmed their support for this.*

Additional complaint regarding communication for extraordinary planning meeting- *Councillors sent a response to this and have not had any further communications since* ESC Notification of Expired Casual Vacancy re Cllr. Hall- *this vacancy can now be filled via co-option*

ESC Call for Sites notification- *this is now open until 9<sup>th</sup> January.*

ESC Council Tax Base and Precept Request 2026/27- *this must be responded to by 27<sup>th</sup> January 2026 and will be considered at the next meeting.*

Invitation to Woods for Water - Recovering the Deben from Source to Sea event 28<sup>th</sup> November 3pm- 8pm.

Avian flu notification at Debach- *Hacheston is in the 10km surveillance zone.*

Patrick Spencer MP’s office suggesting a joint meeting with the Parish for him to meet residents, and perhaps to consider the Ancona solar farm application. *As the Parish Council is not a political body, Councillors did not feel this would be appropriate. Members of public are permitted to attend Council meetings and comment during the public session.*

**13. Councillors’ reports**

The upgraded Speed Indicator Device poles should be installed imminently, and the Chair has confirmed that he will remove the signage from the current poles before this is carried out.

Cllrs. Hardy and Judd attended a site meeting of the Southern Park & Ride in the village and these works are proceeding according to schedule.

**14. Matters to be raised at the next meeting**

Set the budget and precept for 2026-2027

Confirm meeting dates for 2026

The future of All Saints Church

**15. Next meeting**

This was confirmed as Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> January 2026.

Other meeting dates for 2026 are provisionally 18<sup>th</sup> March, 20<sup>th</sup> May (AGM and Parish Meeting), 22<sup>nd</sup> July, 16<sup>th</sup> September and 18<sup>th</sup> November but these will be agreed at the next meeting.

There being no further business, the Vice- Chair thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 8.10pm.

**Signed:** ..... ..

**Chair**

**Date**