

# **Minutes of a Meeting of Hacheston Parish Council Held on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> July 2025 at 7pm**

## **1. Present**

Cllr. James Hardy (Chair)                      Cllr. Chris Hurlock                      Cllr. Leslie Judd  
Cllr. Terry Mee                      Cllr. Linda Montgomery

## **Apologies for absence**

Lucy Lavender (holiday)      Accepted

Graeme Hall                      Absent

## **In Attendance**

Four representatives regarding the Ancona solar farm at Glevering Park and two members of public, all of whom left after the Public Forum.

Lydia Kindred (clerk)

County Cllr. Stephen Burroughes sent his apologies and offered to attend a separate meeting online if Councillors wished.

## **2. Minutes of Extraordinary Meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> June 2025**

These were approved as a true record & signed by the Chair.

## **3. Matters arising**

None

## **PUBLIC FORUM**

*Reports from the District and County Councillors have been circulated and  
published on the community website*

Representatives from Grupotec and their consultants attended the meeting to provide an update and respond to questions regarding the proposed Ancona Solar Farm. Following the public consultation held in March and subsequent discussions with local residents, the proposals have been revised several times. The planning application is expected to be submitted within the next 7–10 days and the Parish Council will share a link to the project website once the finalised plan has been published. An Extraordinary meeting will be called when the consultation is live.

The representatives confirmed that no part of the site will drain onto Easton Lane. A network of swales has been designed to manage surface water effectively, reducing the volume of water leaving the site compared to current conditions. The largest swale is located in the south-east corner of the site, where the natural land gradient channels runoff. While the developer is only required to ensure surface water drainage is not worsened, the proposed design aims to deliver an improvement. Similarly, the project's Biodiversity Net Gain measures will significantly exceed the minimum requirements, particularly in relation to habitat enhancement.

Although there has not yet been strong demand for a permissive footpath around the site, Grupotec indicated they would be open to considering this if there is sufficient interest.

All residents along Easton Lane have been contacted directly and provided a copy of the revised plans. Feedback has been welcomed and taken into account when preparing the final submission.

If approved, construction of the solar farm is not expected to begin before 2028.

## **4. Chair's report**

None

## 5. Clerk's report

The clerk today attended a Town and Parish Planning Forum at East Suffolk Council which was very useful.

A meeting has also been held today between Parish Councillors and representatives from Balance Power regarding the proposed battery storage facility in Hacheston. FAQs will be shared on the Council's website.

The clerk & Cllr Judd attended SALC's AGM and 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary event on 1st July.

The clerk and Chair met SCC Highways Liaison Engineer in June to discuss traffic and highways issues in the village and the clerk provided updates on these.

The clerk attended a Suffolk County Council briefing on Devolution & Local Government Review. A mayoral election is expected in May 2026. Two consultations are currently running asking whether Suffolk should move to a single or multiple unitary councils. Details are on the village website and everyone is encouraged to respond.

The statutory public inspection period for the Council's financial records ended on 14<sup>th</sup> July and no requests were received. The external auditor has confirmed receipt of the Council's Exemption Certificate.

The Council's investment in the CCLA Public Sector Deposit Fund continues to perform steadily, growing by around £100 per month. The risk is still minimal and the fund is still rated AAA by Fitch.

Framlingham's Neighbourhood Plan Review is underway. The Town Survey regarding possible sites for development is open until 21st July. Future development in Framlingham will likely affect Hacheston.

The Village Hall Committee is no longer asking us to ask our contractor to mow the verge between the hall and the road. Details of Sizewell C funding available for community events has been shared with the Village Hall Committee

The clerk has started researching suitable planters for neat Streetview but ones geared towards Parish Councils are in excess of £400 each. She will speak to the District Councillor who is thought to have contributed towards similar schemes.

## 6. Financial Matters

6.1) The following payments were agreed:

| Amount    | Payee      | Details                                 |
|-----------|------------|-----------------------------------------|
| £1,157.02 | L. Kindred | Pay                                     |
| £284.39   | HMRC       | PAYE* <i>to be paid before 22/07/25</i> |
| £240.00   | G. Whiting | 3 x mows                                |

6.2) Payments and receipts since the last meeting were noted:

ICO Data processor fee £47.00 (Direct debit)

02/06/25 £3.58 Barclays Interest

*It was also noted that three payments were made to SLCC not SALC on 30/05/25. The clerk is liaising with SLCC to get these refunded and will try to refer to SALC as the Suffolk Association of Local Councils in future payment references to help Councillors identify the correct payee more easily when setting up payments. The Chair will set up all payments to be secondary authorised by another mandate.*

6.3) Bank balances & CCLA deposit funds:

Community Account: £482.73

Premium Account: £3,721.62

CCLA Account £26,313.61 (31.05.25)

6.4) The bank statements and bank reconciliation as at 30.06.2025 were noted and signed by the Examining Councillor.

6.5) The year-to-date accounts were noted and were in accordance with the budget. The CIL balance is £19,813.344 of which around £6,000 is committed.

**6. Speed Indicator Device Risk Assessment**

It was agreed to adopt this Risk Assessment and to ensure that any volunteers involved in moving the SID read and confirm their acceptance of it.

Cllr. Hardy then signed the form as our current SID volunteer.

**7. Governance changes**

Changes from the Smaller Authorities Proper Practices Panel (formerly known as the Joint Panel on Accountability and Governance) were noted. The Clerk has attended briefings on a new AGAR Assertion. Assertion 10 will require councils to confirm good digital and data practices. Hacheston has moved to a gov.uk web domain and is currently moving to gov.uk email addresses. The clerk has started carrying out a data review and will then work on drafting an IT policy. Other data policies will require revision too. It was agreed to ask an IT company to help Councillors set up their new email accounts if necessary. It was agreed that the Council will engage the services of a professional company to advise it and lead on the new Assertion 10 requirements. The clerk will contact Breakthrough Communications to start this process.

**9. Correspondence was considered:**

As part of their six monthly Section 19 Flood Report review, Suffolk County Council's has asked for updates on Parish Council recommendations. It was agreed that the Parish Council will begin work on a Village Emergency Plan. The Council has already signed up to SCC's Community Self-Help Scheme, and Cllr. Montgomery will attend the necessary training to work safely alongside highways and to lead community work parties. She cannot make the July training date and the clerk will seek additional dates. Notification was received from Barclays advising that interest rates will reduce to 1.20% in August.

A letter from East Suffolk Council regarding local affordable housing needs and community-led housing was noted. The number of individuals and families registered on the Gateway housing platform seeking homes in Hacheston was also acknowledged.

The clerk reported on the Council's re-enrolment obligations under the Pension Regulator. She confirmed that all necessary steps will be completed within the required timeframes.

A notification from CCLA regarding changes to its corporate ownership was received. This was noted and is not expected to have any adverse impact on the Council.

**10. Councillors reports on any actions**

None

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

Progress on draft Emergency Plan

Updates on Assertion 10

**12. Date of next meeting**

It was noted that the next scheduled meeting is on 17th September; however, an Extraordinary Meeting is likely to be called beforehand to consider upcoming planning applications. There being no further business, the Chair thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 8.50pm.

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

**Chair**

**Date**

