

**DRAFT Minutes of a Meeting of
Hacheston Parish Council
Held on Wednesday 17th September 2025 at 7pm**

1. Present

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

Apologies for absence

Councillor Graeme Hall was absent. It was noted that under S.85 of the LGA 1972, having been absent for 6 months, Cllr Hall's seat would now unfortunately be automatically vacated. The clerk will notify East Suffolk Council of this.

In Attendance

District Councillor Sally Noble (until item 4)
Lydia Kindred (clerk)

County Cllr. Stephen Burroughes sent his apologies as he had two other meetings this evening.

Following the resignation of Cllr. Lavender, was agreed to elect Cllr Montgomery as the Vice-Chair.

2. Minutes of Extraordinary Meeting held on 19th August 2025

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

3. Matters arising

None

PUBLIC FORUM

The District Councillor gave a precis of her written report, including the latest on local government reorganisation, emergency plan support services and the Nature at Work scheme.

4. Chair's report

The Chair reported that he continues to charge and manage the roadside SIDs and to store those awaiting installation on new posts.

A conversation was held with a Hacheston resident regarding the extraordinary meeting on 19th August, in order to explain the process of that meeting and to clarify that it was not a public meeting.

The Chair noted that the deadline for submitting comments on the Ancona Solar Farm application via the ESC planning portal was extended to allow residents more time to respond, and that the consultation period has now closed. Out of over 180 households in the parish of Hacheston, 8 houses submitted comments: 6 against and 2 in favour of the application. One of the supporting comments came from Abbey Farm, a Grade II listed property close to the site. In addition, 3 objecting households on Easton Lane (within the parish of Easton) submitted responses. All other comments received came from households outside the parish of Hacheston. He could not see a response from Easton Parish Council on the portal.

5. Clerk's report

The clerk reported that Parham Parish Council has secured DEFRA funding for two or three natural flood management projects. These schemes are designed to slow the flow of water during flooding and should in turn provide benefits to Hacheston.

It was noted that SALC's payroll fees will rise by £7 per annum for quarterly payroll runs.

No update has yet been received on when Balance Power's battery storage facility planning application will go live; the clerk confirmed that residents on the mailing list will be notified by email once further information is available.

With regard to Speed Indicator Devices, the Clerk is still awaiting confirmation on the upgraded poles. The department concerned has indicated via autoresponder that they are currently very busy.

The clerk is trying to get quotations for the entrance gateway installation from companies who have the necessary permit to carry out works next to the Highways.

The clerk provided an update on Martyn's Law, which is expected to come into effect in late 2025 or early 2026. This legislation will require all organisers of public events to carry out terrorism risk assessments. Events with over 800 attendees will face more stringent obligations, but smaller events will also be subject to certain requirements, including basic training for event leaders and volunteers.

There is likely to be a site meeting to the Southern Park & Ride site in Hacheston on 26th September and Councillors were urged to let the clerk know if they can attend on behalf of the Parish Council.

6. Financial Matters

6.1) The following payments were agreed:

Amount	Payee	Details
£80.00	Gary Whiting	Mowing
£1,232.84	L. Kindred	Pay to 30.09.2025
£317.85	HMRC	PAYE to 05.10.2025 <i>Must be paid before 21.10.2025</i>
£576.00	TDP Limited	Bench for play area (agreed in principle at meeting held on 27.11.2024). It was agreed to use CIL funding for purchasing this community asset.
£508.40	Ansvar	Insurance from 1 st October 2025

It was noted that the insurance premium was fit for the Council's needs and covers its assets as well as public liability and employee's fidelity.

6.2) An approved payment since the last meeting was noted:

Breakthrough Communications- Data Compliance toolkit £594

6.3) To note bank balances & CCLA deposit funds as at 27.08.2025:

Community Account: £260.32

Deposit Account: £1,621.62

CCLA 31.07.2025 £26,503.20

6.4) The bank statements and bank reconciliation as at 27.08.2025 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.

6.6) It was noted that the National Joint Council for Local Government Services (NJC) has reached an agreement on rates of pay applicable from 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2025. Councillors agreed to backdate clerk's pay to the revised rate, equivalent to a 56p/hour increase, from 1st April as per the terms of her contract.

7. Assertion 10

The clerk has produced a report on Assertion 10 of the AGAR. Breakthrough Communications has been engaged to help navigate the new obligations and log in details were provided last week. It was agreed to ask Suffolk Cloud to carry out a Website Accessibility Review at a cost of £70.

8. New Councillors

It was noted that the Parish Council now has two vacancies and it was agreed that the some new Councillors are needed if the Council is to be sufficiently effective. The clerk will print some and display some photos and it was agreed that the poster should also be included in a village newsletter. The draft has been produced and is ready to be distributed when the battery storage application consultation begins. Cllr. Montgomery offered to help distribute the newsletter.

9. Correspondence

Various emails regarding the Ancona Solar Farm application and the Parish Council meeting held on 19th August were noted. The clerk has responded to these and also sent an email to all residents on the mailing list apologising for the oversight of not sending a digital notification of the planning meeting out. It was noted that the Parish Council is not obliged to do this and that the meeting was correctly advertised. The Parish Council is only a consultee on the applications and residents were encouraged to send their comments directly to ESC who is the local planning authority and makes the planning decision.

ESC's Notification of Casual Vacancy following Cllr. Lavender's resignation was noted. There has been no call for an election and so this post can be filled via co-option.

A request from a resident for the verge outside his house to be mown by the Council's mowing contractor was considered. It was agreed to ask for a price to trim this section.

It was agreed not to support the MP's request for for the Parish Council to host an informal public meeting with him and residents at present.

ESC Public Consultation on Community involvement in Planning Policy was noted.

The Pensions Regulator re-enrolment obligations were noted and the clerk will respond accordingly in November.

CCLA's notification of 0.1% changes to its charges were noted.

10. Councillors' reports on actions

Cllr. Montgomery reported that she has completed the training required for her to oversee work parties through the Community Self-Help scheme.

11. Matters to be raised at the next meeting

Draft budget planning

Newsletter/Councillor request response

Emergency plan

12. Date of next meeting

It was noted that the next scheduled meeting is on 19th November; however, a planning meeting will be convened earlier if the consultation period for the battery storage application begins before that date.

There being no further business, the Chair thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 8.25pm.