# Hacheston Parish Council

## Draft Minutes of a Meeting of which was held at 7pm on Wednesday 18th November 2026

**1. Present**

Cllr. Chris Hurlock Cllr. Terry Mee Cllr. Linda Montgomery Cllr. Alan Perry

Lydia Kindred (clerk) 2 members of public and County Councillor Steve Molyneux

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr. James Hardy (Chair) and Cllr. Leslie Judd.
As Vice Chair, Cllr. Montgomery agreed to chair the meeting.

**2. Declarations of Interest**

None.

**3. Minutes of Meeting held on 3rd September 2026**

These were approved as a true record.

**3. Matters arising**

None.

**PUBLIC FORUM**

The Couty Councillor advised that he had funds remaining in his Locality Budget which the Council could apply for.

**4. Chair's report**

Cllr Montgomery raised the difficulties caused by the current shortage of Councillors and again referred to the potential benefits of working more closely with a neighbouring Parish Council to share resources and enable the Council to have a greater impact.

**5. Clerk's report**

East Suffolk Council (ESC) has updated its Local Plan timetable, with adoption targeted for April 2029.. The Call for Sites was reopened from 5th October to 16th November and a public consultation is currently expected to begin in June 2027.
An ESC Officer has offered to attend our next meeting to discuss the Village Hall becoming an Approved Rest Centre and Community Emergency Planning.
Discussions are continuing with neighbouring Parish Councils, Sizewell C and East Suffolk Council regarding a possible safe walking and cycling route to Campsea Ashe railway station. The project remains at an early stage.
The new dog waste bin has been installed along the main road near to the footpath to the allotments.
SALC subscriptions will increase by 3% for 2027/28.
No further complaints had been received regarding the new bin collection system.
The Government has announced a £100 energy payment for households in Council Tax bands A–D from January 2027, with additional funding available for households experiencing acute energy pressures. Further information will be shared with residents when available.
East Suffolk Council's out-of-hours number has changed to 01284 776100.
Suffolk County Council has renewed its consent to devolution, allowing work towards a Norfolk and Suffolk Mayoral Strategic Authority to continue.
No CIL payment is due to the parish in ESC's latest six-monthly allocation.

**7. Finances**

7.1) The following payments were considered and approved:

| Amount | Payee | Details |
|---|---|---|
| £100 | G. Whiting | Mowing & strimming October- Ref 7545 |
| £200 | All Saints Hacheston | Donation for painting. *Agreed at item 9.* |
| £54.00 | Suffolk Association Local Councils | 12 months Payroll services Ref 31729 |
| £TBC | East Suffolk Services Ltd | Dog bin and installation on Main Road (Invoice awaited, c.£380) |

7.2) Receipts were noted:
East Suffolk Council £6,000 2nd half precept
Barclays £12.18 interest

7.3) Payments since the last meeting were noted:
£250.00 Pear Space/Suffolk Cloud Website
The £500 six-monthly Village Hall donation was returned as the account had been closed. The Village Hall Chair has been contacted and Cllr Mee has set the payment up manually as he was unable to set up a new Standing Order.

7.4) Bank balances & CCLA deposit funds were noted:
31.10.26 Community Account: £628.56
31.10.26 Deposit Account: £5022.16
05.10.26 CCLA funds: £27,738.87

7.5) Bank statements and bank reconciliation
These were reviewed, and were signed off by the Examining Councillor .

7.6) The year-to-date accounts were reviewed and were considered against the budget at item 11.

**8. Village Sign Project**

Councillors considered suggestions submitted by residents, together with quotations and a black-and-white mock-up of the proposed sign. It was agreed to commission a colour design, with the wave crest also included, at a cost of £150, which would be deducted from the cost of the sign if an order is placed. Subject to the design being satisfactory, Councillors agreed to proceed with this company.
A response from the Village Hall Committee regarding the existing sign being erected on Fairfield Green was considered. Cllr. Hurlock had contacted the person who made the original sign. He has kindly offered to remove it and carry out some necessary remedial work free of charge. Councillors agreed that the Parish Council would cover any associated costs of moving and re-erecting the sign. A quotation for a new oak post was also approved.

**9. Painting of All Saint's Church**

Having considered guide prices for other work by the artist, it was agreed to donate £200 to All Saints' Church for the painting. It was agreed that the Parish Council would retain ownership of the painting but would offer it to the Village Hall on a free long-term loan, on the basis that it would be returned to the Parish Council if no longer required. The clerk will draw up a loan agreement and Cllr. Perry will ask the Village Hall Committee to consider the proposal at its next meeting.

**10. Traffic & Speeding issues**

Cllrs. Perry and Judd and the clerk met County Cllr. Molyneux and the Highways Liaison Engineer to discuss highways and traffic issues in September. Updates were subsequently received regarding the church path verges, traffic surveys and village

entrance gateways. Cllr. Mee expressed grave concerns about locating a gateway sign at the location of the current southern entrance and speed signs.
The clerk had contacted Sizewell C's transport team regarding traffic concerns, and a meeting will be arranged following its forthcoming review of the latest traffic survey results.
SCC's ANPR team and Suffolk Police had also been contacted regarding speeding. The Police confirmed that there are three operational sites in the village: the B1116 The Street, the A12 and the B1078 Ashe Road, Lower Hacheston. They have advised that "enforcement will be carried out frequently at all three".
Cllr. Perry reported further near misses near the Church and Village Hall and advised that reporting these to Suffolk Police had proved difficult, particularly where there was no witness.

**11. Year End Projections and Budget 2027-2028**

The year-end forecast, draft budget figures and reserve levels were considered. Initial discussion took place regarding the draft budget and precept. It was noted that many of the Council's costs are fixed, although some areas, including donations and asset maintenance, could be adjusted. The budget and precept will be formally ratified at the January meeting.
The Council had previously agreed to purchase a new laptop for the Clerk and authorised her to proceed with the purchase.

**12. Speed Indicator Devices**

Data had been downloaded from the SIDs but had not yet been successfully processed. The SID near Garnetts Gardens is not currently working.
Cllr. Perry again offered to assist with monitoring the SIDs and processing the speeding data. This will be discussed with the Chair.

**13. Precept**

Correspondence from ESC re Band D precept figures was noted. If the Council keeps its precept the same, this would show as a 0.06% change for a Band D property.

**14. ESC Planning Changes**

The clerk attended ESC's latest Town and Parish Council Planning Forum on 16th September. It covered government enforced changes to the National Planning Policy Framework and planning decision process which came into effect on 31st October. These are national changes and are expected to reduce the number of applications considered by Planning Committees. ESC has also moved to one Planning Committee rather than separate north and south committees.
Schedule 1 applications will now be decided by Planning Officers under delegated powers and cannot follow the usual referral route to the Planning Committee.
Schedule 2 applications will normally also be decided under delegated powers but can be referred to the Planning Committee if the relevant triggers are met and the application passes the Gateway Test. This includes demonstrating a significant local economic, social or environmental issue or a significant planning matter, and having the agreement of the Head of Planning and Chair of the Planning Committee.
Councillors were disappointed to hear of these changes but noted that ESC had objected to them during the consultation period.

**15. Correspondence**

Email of concern regarding condition of allotments. *Councillors noted that this land is owned by Hacheston United Charities. They agreed that the allotments are not being kept in good order, but were pleased that the caravan there has now been removed.*

*Two residents have contacted a Trustee in this regard but not had a response. It was agreed to check who the current Trustees are.*
Invitation to the next Southern Transport Forum on Wednesday 2nd December 2026. *Cllr. Montgomery will attend.*
ESC Council Tax Base and Precept Request 2027-2028. *To discuss again in January.*
Email from ESC Re Supplementary flood risk and drainage information received from the applicant re BESS Power Storage Application. Documents provide additional background only, with no new technical assessment or change to existing conclusions. *ESC has confirmed no further consultation is proposed. Cllrs. had no further comments on this application.*
Reminder from ESC of the importance of having a Community Emergency Plan following the summer wildfires at Dunwich, and details of parishes across ESC area which do and do not have an approved plan. *To discuss again in January.*
Invitation from ESC to two online Be a Councillor Sessions to be held on 8th December and 7th January, ahead of the District and Parish elections on 6th May 2027. *Noted.*
ESC re cost breakdown for Parish elections in May. *Election costs for Hacheston are estimated at £1,175.70 for a contested election or £12.55 per nomination if uncontested.*
Invitation from ESC to a Local Plan focus group session for town and parish councils on 16th December. *The clerk will attend.*
Letter from Flooded People UK, a non-profit organisation offering free support to people affected by flooding. *Their poster will be displayed on the notice boards.*
Correspondence re excessive lighting at the Park & Ride site. *It was agreed to write to ESC's Enforcement Team to check the planning conditions are being met. Cllr. Montgomery can also raise this at the next Transport Forum.*

**16. Meeting dates 2027**

Meeting dates for 2027 were provisionally agreed as:
13th January 2027, 10th March 2027, 12th May 2027 (AGM and Annual Parish Meeting), 14nd July 2027, 15th September 2027 and 17th November 2027

The clerk will book the meeting hall and publish these on the website and notice boards. These are subject to change, and any changes will be advertised.

**17. Parish Councillors' reports on any actions**

Cllr. Perry reported that the new pickleball club at the Village Hall is very popular and is often oversubscribed. The annual carol church service will be on 23rd December, and the Village Hall bar will be open afterwards.

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

Community Emergency Plan
Traffic and speeding issues
Precept and budget
Progress on the two village sign projects

The next meeting was confirmed as being 7pm on 13th January 2027.
The Vice-Chair thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 8.35pm.