

# **DRAFT Minutes of Hacheston's Annual Parish Meeting**

**Hacheston Village Hall  
7pm on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2024**



**1. Chairman's welcome**

James Hardy, as Chair of the Parish Council, welcomed everyone to the Parish Meeting. There were three members of public present as well as four Parish Councillors and the Parish Clerk who was the minute taker.

**2. Apologies for absence were received from Leslie Judd, Graeme Hall and Andy Markham.**

**3. The Minutes of the 2023 Annual Parish Meeting were noted.**

**4. There were no matters arising.**

**5. A verbal report was given by the Chair of Hacheston Parish Council, with updates from the Parish Council over the past 12 months.**

**6. Malcolm Robinson provided a report from the Hacheston Village Hall Committee.** It has been a stable year for the VHC. They have become an employee as a result of recommendations from their auditor. The VH is building its reserves and several fundraising residents events have been held over the year. There number of volunteers is sadly dwindling.

**7. A report was received from Hacheston Parochial Church Council.** Lucy Lavender read sections of this out and the whole report was available for residents to peruse.

**8. There was no report from the Corrance School Trust.**

**9. A written report was received from Hacheston United Charity.** It was noted that its potential closure was not noted within the report.

**10. There was no report from the Village Recorder.**

**11. A written annual report was received from County Councillor Stephen Burroughes.**

**12. There was the opportunity to ask questions of the above**

Residents were keen to see what measures the Parish Council is taking to calm traffic in the village. The Chair confirmed that this is the Council's most pressing issue. Replacement and additional 30mph and SLOW road markings have been ordered. He is pushing for action on this and he will be having a meeting with the County Councillor and Highways Liaison Engineer as soon as possible to see what can be done and to see if CIL funds can be used for any other traffic-calming measures.

*Copies of all written reports have been filed with the minutes and will be placed on the village website.*

**James Hardy thanked everyone for coming and closed the meeting at 7.35pm.**

### **Hacheston Parish Council Chair's Report 2023-2024**

It has been a largely positive year for the Parish Council. Having co-opted Leslie Judd at our last meeting, we are now in the strong position of having a full cohort of Councillors and have seen increased levels of interest in the Parish Council in general over recent months.

I joined as a Councillor with Lucy Lavender and Andy Markham in July and in November I became Chair, following the resignation of Nikki Markham due to increased work pressures. We were sorry to say goodbye to Nikki and thank her for her hard work, enthusiasm, and positivity.

The Parish Council helped to disseminate information to residents after flooding experienced from Storm Babet and we were pleased to see how the village pulled together during this troubling time.

As over 5 houses in Hacheston were flooded internally, Suffolk County Council are required to carry out a Section 19 Flooding Report on this flooding. We hope this will be completed soon and we will share this with residents as soon as we are able.

The Parish Council participated in the East Suffolk in Bloom initiative, with daffodil bulbs being planted on verges across the main road in the village in autumn. We were lucky to have a good number of residents help plant the bulbs which was really encouraging and shows residents are happy to help with community projects. We enjoyed the fruits of their work in spring when the village was a blaze of yellow which was very welcome after a long, wet winter.

Over the year we have written two newsletters which have been hand-delivered to every house in the village. These help to improve the Council's interaction with residents and are an important way of ensuring people know what we are doing. We also encourage residents to sign up to our digital mailing list to receive occasional extra bulletins from us.

We have received additional Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funding over the year and have asked residents for their thoughts on how this should be spent for the benefit of the village. Measures to help calm traffic in the village have been identified as a clear priority from the survey results and we are in discussions with Suffolk County Council to see what can be done. We are looking into extending the 30mph limit on either side of B1116, or creating a 40mph buffer zone near Rookery Farm to help vehicles slow down before they enter the village.

We can confirm that a works order for all 30mph painted roundels and SLOW markings in the village to be remarked- plus also some additional ones- has now been placed. We are grateful to our County Councillor Stephen Burroughes for paying for half of this from his Locality Budget and hope this will help remind motorists that they are in a 30mph area.

I have been moving the Speed Indicator Devices around the various locations in the village and also collating the speeding data from the machines which shows speeding is a clear problem across the village. Unfortunately only one SID is currently working. We are also starting to see the effects of Sizewell C building works in the village and Cllr. Lavender has attended the last two Transport Forums. We are waiting for more information on the restrictions and likely implications of the planned Park & Ride in Hacheston.

We are pleased to have just received a clean audit from the internal auditor and thank him for his hard work and expediting his report so that it can be considered at our annual meeting. We will need a limited assurance review next year as the Council has received payments of over £25,000 in this financial year.

I would like to end by thanking all Councillors for giving up their time for the good of the village, also, to our clerk Lydia, for her support, knowledge and commitment without whom this council could not function.

I am looking forward to seeing what we can all achieve over the next 12 months.