HOXNE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting held at Hoxne Playingfield Pavilion on
Thursday 5 November 2026 at 19:30 hours

Present:
Cllrs Paul Ellis, Marie Lagerberg, Bryn Lerwill, Jason Middleton, Chris Parkin (Chair), Richard Kruszewski and Pasco Warner. Also in attendance Ginny O'Hegarty Parish Clerk/RFO, County Cllr Sally Mittuch, and three members of the public.

1. **Apologies** were received and accepted from Cllr Angus Herron. District Cllr Hicks had also provided apologies.
2. **Declarations of Interests** None received.
3. **Public Forum:**

a. County Cllr Mittuch provided the following updates:
- **Crisis and Resilience Fund**: A fund to support residents experiencing financial hardship and to help build long-term financial resilience. The fund is available to those earning less than £30,000 per annum and with savings of less than £1,500. A similar fund is available through the District Council for residents who are in receipt of benefits.
- **Asylum Accommodation**: A proposal for a referendum on asylum accommodation has been put forward. However, as this is a national issue, the referendum may not proceed.
- **Family Hubs**: An eight-week consultation is taking place on family hubs, which will include services such as school nurses and maternity care.
- **Blocked gulleys**: Work to investigate and address blocked gullies is ongoing.
- **Driver support**: Free driver support is available for residents aged over 60 offering free driving assessments and road safety workshops.
- **The Swan Inn**: The County Council is continuing to work on issues relating to The Swan Inn.
- **Hoxne Road Markings**: Cllr Mittuch commented positively on the new road markings in Hoxne.

b. A member of the public attended the meeting to raise concerns regarding The Swan Inn falling into disrepair and the lack of a barrier across the carpark. Potential tenants of The Swan were welcomed to the meeting and the Parish Council will keep the situation under review.

4. **The Minutes of the meeting held on 1 October 2026** were approved and signed.
5. **Matters arising from the Minutes of 1 October 2026** were noted:
- Suffolk Water Recycling Transfer and Storage: Council had written to the Planning Inspectorate to express its concern regarding the increasing demands of water from the Hoxne area being transferred to other parts of the region.
- Eye Road Traffic Surveys: Council had contacted Highways to remind them that traffic surveys had been undertaken on Eye Road and requested a further speed survey following Highways' installation of the blue advisory sign.
- Parish Council Facebook account had been set up.

6. There had been **no applications to the vacancies** on the Parish Council.

7. **Planning**

a. Council considered the following **planning applications** received from Mid Suffolk District Council:

Ref	Location	Application
DC/26/04613	The Old Forge, Nuttery Vale, Hoxne IP21 5BD	Application for works to trees in a Conservation Area – Two Ash to crown raise and reduce the leaning weight towards the property, 20% thinning, remove ivy. Conifer to be removed to ground level. Four Willow stems heavy lean over the garden and shed to be removed to stump. Comments deadline: 16/11/2026
It was unanimously agreed to support the application.		

Signed …….

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DC/24/05268	Shreeves Farm, Heckfield Green, Hoxne IP21 5AA	Re-consultation re residential development of 40 dwellings (incl. 14 affordable homes), vehicular access, roads, paths, parking, garaging, public open spaces, landscaping, drainage infrastructure and associated works (following demolition of existing piggeries, workshops, barns, silos, hardstanding areas and other structures). Comments deadline extended to: 06/11/2026

It was unanimously agreed to recommend refusal of the application in its current state as a number of concerns raised previously by the Parish Council have still not been addressed. The application in its current form contains inaccuracies and does not comply with Hoxne Neighbourhood Development Plan Policy HOX13.

1. Water management has still not been addressed adequately in the application and does not comply with the Sustainable Drainage Regulations. The direction of flow is into a watercourse that has the potential to exacerbate flooding in times of high water. The Parish Council also has concerns about whether point A ringed in orange on the Google Maps extract included on page 17 of the FRA Addendum Part 2 will be sufficient to manage flows as the biggest flow of water will be at this location.

2. The number of proposed dwellings is 40 whereas the number allocated in Policy HOX13 in the Hoxne Neighbourhood Development Plan is 38. In addition, the affordable homes as proposed are still clustered together instead of being spread throughout the development which also goes against the Hoxne Neighbourhood Development Plan. Details should be provided as regards what the accessible/adaptable homes will be as just one bungalow has currently been proposed.

3. Speed remains a concern and has not been addressed. As identified by the Parish Council previously, access to the proposed dwellings will be situated within the national speed limit area thereby the number of accidents has the potential to increase. Details should be provided as to whether the developer will contribute towards highway safety and request Suffolk County Council extend the 30mph limit to include the access points to the development.

4. It is still unclear whether a green area has been provided for children.

5. The limited services within the village are still reduced with the closure of the village pub.

6. Scant attention has been applied to the vernacular with the current build forms not being typical for the village and with no evidence of an attempt to blend the dwellings in with the locality.

7. No details have been provided as to how construction traffic will be managed safely and no details of the methodology have been provided.

8. Details need to be provided regarding the measures that will be undertaken to ensure roads are kept clean and drains kept free of debris to avoid drain blockages given the history of flooding within the village. Suffolk County Council will need to ensure this is adhered to.

9. It is still not evident where the intended provision for the school is allocated and confirmation of this condition of Policy HOX13 in the Hoxne Neighbourhood Development Plan is required.

DC/26/04443	23 Low Street, Hoxne IP21 5AR	Notification of works to trees in a conservation area – Fell one Eucalyptus. Comments deadline extended to: 06/11/2026

It was unanimously agreed to support the notification.

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b. Council noted the following **planning decisions**:

Ref	Location	Application
DC/26/03674	Land at Gissings Farm, South Green Road, Hoxne	Discharge of Conditions Application for DC/26/00316 - Condition 1 (Surface Restoration) and Condition 2 (PROW Management Plan): Conditions satisfied subject to implementation in accordance with the wording of the conditions
DC/26/04019	40 Church Hill, Low Street, Hoxne IP21 5AT	Notification of works to trees in a conservation area - Fell one Ash. Mid Suffolk District Council does not wish to object
DC/26/04005	Pump House, Goldbrook, Hoxne	Notification of works to trees in a conservation area - Cut back 1 group of trees to ensure a 1m clearance from and over the kiosk. Mid Suffolk District Council does not wish to object
DC/26/03699	Fir House, Church Hill, Hoxne IP21 5AT	Householder Application - Installation of an EV charging point. Granted
DC/26/03782	17 Cross Street, Hoxne IP21 5AJ	Application for works to trees in a conservation area - Hazel reduction. Mid Suffolk District Council does not wish to object
DC/26/03009 and DC/26/03010	Athene Cottage, 7 Cross Street, Hoxne IP21 5AJ	Householder Application and Application for Listed Building Consent - Repairs to existing building and creation of rear single storey extension. Granted

c. There were no other planning matters.

8. Highways

a. Update regarding **proposed 20mph speed limit**. The Traffic Regulation Report was passed by the portfolio holder for highways on 19 October. The Design Engineer will progress with the job pack for the project which will be designed to full Department for Transport guidance for a 20mph speed limit with repeater signs spaced at approximately 200m intervals.

b. Update regarding **redundant SID**. The SID has been donated to Brome and Oakley Parish Council.

c. **Grit bins** – It was agreed that all Councillors would volunteer to distribute salt/grit on the highway and those Councillors who had completed the Community Self Help training would be covered under SCC Highways' insurance.

d. Update following site visit at **Church Hill** in connection with proposed signage at the entrance. Further discussions would be held by Councillors with nearby residents regarding potential road markings.

9. Severe Weather Management

a. Update regarding **flood/severe weather management** matters. The name of the Flood Group was changed to the Emergency Planning Group. The group will meet before the next Parish Council meeting to work on the Community Emergency Plan. Council approved the purchase of a mobile phone for use during emergencies.

b. Update regarding preparation of a list of **proposed equipment** to be forwarded to Cllr Mittuch and the Community Liaison Manager for consideration. This will be discussed by the Emergency Planning Group at their next meeting.

c. Update following **autumn litter pick and pre-winter maintenance**. The litter pick went very well. Council agreed that a list of routes including footpaths would be helpful for future litter picks. Cllr Parkin volunteered to speak with the Scout Group Leader in this regard.

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10. General

a. To consider concerns regarding the deterioration and future of **The Swan Inn**. Potential tenants were welcomed to the meeting and the Parish Council will keep the situation under review.

b. Update regarding **dog waste bin** for Capons Lane and Syleham Road. Suffolk County Council have advised the Parish Council to erect its own post next to the existing footpath signpost. The Clerk was requested to obtain quotations for the work.

c. To consider and agree a budget for the purchase of grass seed and compost to improve the condition of the **Village Green**, and installation of a temporary barrier to prevent access while the grass establishes. Council agreed a budget of £200 for materials.

d. To consider **location for 2027 meetings**. Council agreed 2027 meetings would be held at St Edmund's Hall.

11. Finance and Governance

a. Council's **financial position** as at 31 October 2026 was reported as:

Unity Trust Bank current account	£2,962.14
Unity Trust Bank instant access account	£31,549.76
Total	**£34,511.90**

Receipts

Date	Details	Account	Amount
n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

Transfers

Date	From	To	Amount
30/10/2026	Instant Access account	Current account	£2,548.00

b. Council reviewed the **spend against budget** to 30 September 2026 and 31 October 2026 and noted anticipated year end overspends as follows:

	Budgeted	**Actual**	**Difference**	**Details**
Garage Rent	£600.00	£749.54	-£149.54	Rental increase
Clerk Expenses	£400.00	£508.00	-£108.00	Printer supplies

c. Council approved the following payments:

Payee & Details	**Amount**	**Power**
Clerk's Salary	£498.44	LGA 1972 s112
Street Caretaker's Salary	£218.40	LGA 1972 s111
HMRC - PAYE/NIC	£210.11	LGA 1972 s112
HMRC Underpayment relating to period ended 05/05/2026	£289.62	LGA 1972 s112
Clerk's Expenses - mobile phone data; home working allowance; printer cartridges; Diss Express	£80.79	LGA 1972, s111
Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal - wreath	£40.00	LGA 1972 s137
Community Action Suffolk - gov.uk domain and x1 mailbox (1 year)	£54.50	LGA 1972, s111
Community Action Suffolk - website hosting (1 year)	£70.00	LGA 1972, s111
C Leader – grass cutting	£80.00	Open Spaces Act 1906, ss.9 and 10
M Procner – telephone box repairs	£20.00	LGA 1972, s111
Cllr Parkin – litter pick refreshments	£6.28	LGA 1972, s111

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d. Council agreed the purchase of a flipchart easel, paper and marker pens was not necessary as Council had access to similar at the village hall.
e. Council approved awarding a grant of £250 to the Fressingfield Scout Group towards the purchase of additional tents. Council also approved awarding a donation of £100 to Citizens Advice Mid Suffolk (see agenda item 12 below).

12. Correspondence
Council noted receipt of the following correspondence:

Received	From	Subject
28/10/2026	Resident	Concerns regarding the deterioration and future of The Swan Inn - *Noted*
26/10/2026	Resident	Concerns regarding loose slats at the steps on the bank between the pavement and the monument on Abbey Hill – *Clerk will write to the developer*
22/10/2026	Resident	Concerns regarding Low Street Post Office and Diss Delivery Office's proposal to cease efforts to identify a replacement site – *Council will write to Diss Delivery Office to request it be kept open for the time being and advise the DO that the Shop Community Group is actively looking for sites*
19/10/2026	Resident	Concerns regarding a Public Notice published in the Diss Express on 16/10/2026 re Goods Vehicle Operating Centre License at Hoxne IP21 5BB - *The Traffic Commissioner's Office had confirmed that a Parish Council cannot make a representation unless it is the owner or occupier of affected land in the vicinity of the operating centre. The Parish Council would however raise its concerns with Highways regarding the size of road and the narrowness of the roads and junctions into the village*
01/10/2026	Citizens Advice	Request for a donation – *Council awarded a donation of £100*

13. There were no urgent matters or matters for information.
14. Date and location of next meeting – Thursday 3rd December 2026 at St Edmund's Hall, Hoxne.
15. Meeting closed 21:56.

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Signed …….

Dated …….