HOXNE PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of meeting held at Hoxne Playingfield Pavilion on Thursday 6 August 2026 at 19.30 hours

Present:
Cllrs Richard Kruszewski, Marie Lagerberg, Bryn Lerwill, Chris Parkin (Chair). Also in attendance Ginny O'Hegarty, Parish Clerk/RFO, County Cllr Sally Mittuch, and one member of the public.

1. Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs Paul Ellis, Angus Herron, Jason Middleton, Margaret Sillis and Pasco Warner. District Cllr Matthew Hicks had also provided apologies.

2. Declarations of Interests None received.

3. Public Forum County Cllr Mittuch had provided a written report for July which will be added to the website and includes information regarding:

- Reversal of the Climate Emergency Declaration by Suffolk County Council (SCC) will lead to less government funding to combat climate change in the county.
- Improvements have been made to SEND funding.
- Adult social care services provided by SCC were judged as 'Good' by the Care Quality Commission.
- As wildfires are expected to become more frequent, parishes are advised to update their Emergency Plans to include fire.
- Energy Efficient Grants towards air source heat pumps, ground source heat pumps and loft insulation are available.
- Cranswick's egg incubation unit in Weybread has been accepted despite concerns that plans have been compared to an historic baseline. The local MP has been asked to investigate a number of concerns regarding the planning process.
- A strategy is being worked on to make Eye safer for people as there are 11,000 vehicle movements through the town each day. Hoxne Parish Council highlighted that an HGV ban in Eye would have a negative impact on surrounding villages.

4. The Minutes of the meeting held on 2 July 2026 were approved and signed.

5. Matters arising from the Minutes of 2 July 2026 meeting were noted:

a. The Infrastructure Working Group had submitted a response to the joint local plan scoping consultation on behalf of the Council.
b. Council had submitted a response to EcoPower Suffolk Solar Statutory Consultation in support of Brome and Oakley Parish Council citing the concerns of Hoxne including deer collision issues. An update would be submitted to address water capture.
c. Details of flood resilience support for listed property owners had been added to the website.

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

7. **Planning**

a. Council considered responses to planning applications received from Mid Suffolk District Council:

Ref	Location	Application
DC/26/03009 and DC/26/03010	Athene Cottage, 7 Cross Street, Hoxne IP21 5AJ	Householder Application and Application for Listed Building Consent - Restoration of existing building and creation of new single storey rear extension.
Council considered the applications and had no objections.		

b. Council noted the following planning decisions:

Ref	Location	Application
DC/26/02285	Moat House, Green Street, Hoxne IP21 5AZ	Installation of 20 photovoltaic panels on the south facing roof of an existing outbuilding. Granted.

So signed and approved at the meeting of 3rd September 2026

DC/26/02409	46 Low Street, Hoxne IP21 5AS	Notification of works to trees in a conservation area. MSDC does not wish to object.

c. Council agreed to make representations to the MP, District and County Councillors regarding the implications for local communities arising from the expansion of the Cranswick meat processing factory at Eye Airfield.
d. There were no other planning matters.

8. Highways
a. Update on **Eye Road and B1118 / Green Street projects**. The contractors had completed the line painting on Eye Road. The surface dressing on the B1118 had commenced but the new Slow signs had not been remarked. Cllr Kruszewski had followed up with Highways. Part of the resurfacing had come away at the top of Low Street but it did not meet Highways' threshold for this to be rectified.
b. Update regarding **proposed 20mph Speed Limit**. The advertisement notices will be posted on site on 7th August and the advertisement will last for three weeks.
c. Update regarding the request to SCC to fund the **changing of an uneven road surface sign to a warning triangle** advising of the possibility of agricultural vehicles ahead. The Community Liaison Engineer is continuing to work on this and will be requesting access to the incident report relating to the location.
d. The results of the latest **B1118 ANPR data report** showed 90% of vehicles travelling between 30-34mph. The highest speed recorded was 55mph.
e. Council approved the purchase of an **additional Speed Indicator Device** with an additional battery and would request a funding contribution from the LHB allocation. Council agreed to defer consideration of a third site and post until later in the financial year.
f. Council decided a **rota system for moving the SIDs** was not required. Cllr Kruszewski will continue to move the devices and Cllr Lerwill is willing to provide cover when required.
g. The Clerkl had received confirmation that the unstable **SID post on Abbey Hill** would be replaced.

9. Flood Management
a. Update regarding flood matters:
- A litter pick had been carried out at Chickering Beck.
- Residents can register with www.floodalert.com to receive flood warnings however this only covers rivers. Cllr Lagerberg is investigating the details of a telemetry gauge which tracks rising water levels and would trigger a localised alert.
- Council understands there are new proposals regarding how water will be discharged from Shreeves Farm, however, there have been no updates to the drainage plans on Mid Suffolk District Council's (MSDC) planning portal since April. Council will investigate with the Head of Planning at MSDC.

b. Council agreed to submit a Locality Award funding application for an additional 6ft water gauge board (with post fixings) to be sited at Wittons Lane.
c. Council agreed the existing 6ft water gauge board would be sited just before the junction with Abbey Hill and attached to the new 20mph post once installed. The new 3ft temporary water gauge board would be sited outside Bridge House as agreed with the property's owners.

10. Asset Management
Council considered the purchase of a dog waste bin for Syleham Road at Havensfield Hens Corner, with funding from Pride in Your Place if available. Cllr Lagerberg will check whether there is currently a footpath post at the proposed location. Council agreed that if Pride in Your Place funding is not available the purchase would be deferred.

11. General
Cllr Parkin volunteered to attend the next Wednesday lunch and report back on the number of attendees. Cllr Kruszewski reported that the PCSO will be available at the café on a monthly basis, dates to be confirmed.

So signed and approved at the meeting of 3rd September 2026

Council agreed to write to Mid Suffolk District Council to request the hedging at the front of Heckfield Green opposite the school be replaced with a green alternative that is lower and allows clear visibility.

12. Finance and Governance

a. Council's financial position as at 31 July 2026 was reported as £28,302.28, including receipt of a street cleansing grant from Mid Suffolk District Council in the amount of £3,304.60.

b. Council ratified the following payment made between meetings:

Payee & Details	Amount	Power
Nest Pension	£25.51	LGA 1972 s112

c. Council approved the following payments and pre-approved a payment to C Leader for grass cutting upon receipt of an invoice:

Payee & Details	Amount	Power
Clerk's Salary	£469.80	LGA 1972 s112
Street Caretaker's Salary	£270.40	LGA 1972 s111
HMRC - PAYE/NIC	£145.53	LGA 1972 s112
Clerk's Expenses	£34.48	LGA 1972, s111
Nick Bobby Tree Services – Works to trees at Community Orchard (Approved 05/03/26, Minute 10.a)	£384.00	Open Spaces Act 1906, ss.9 and 10
Limelight Signs – 3ft Water Gauge Board (Approved 02/07/26, Minute 9.c)	£122.58	LGA 1972, s111
Society of Local Council Clerks – Clerk ILCA Course (Approved 06/11/25, Minute 12.c)	£35.28	LGA 1972, s111
Village Hall Hire paid on behalf of Garden & Produce Show (Approved 02/07/26, Minute 11.f)	£90.00	LGA 1972 s137

d. Council reviewed and adopted the following:

i. Safeguarding Policy
ii. Health and Safety Policy
iii. Equality and Diversity Policy

13. Correspondence

Council noted receipt of the following correspondence:

Received	From	Subject
29/07/2026	Resident	Should the village have a fire plan in place to include fire breaks on boundaries and an alert system to rescue/release pets, chickens etc. *Council agreed the Flood Working Group will broaden the village's flood plan to include fires and an alert system.*
29/07/2026	NALC	Nominations open until 25 September for Star Council Awards 2026/27 – Climate Response of the Year. *Noted.*
20/07/2026	Resident	Offer of 25 books for the telephone box on Denham Road if the intention is to use it for such a purpose and if there is a librarian nearby who would be willing to take on or share the task. *Council confirmed it is not currently planning to use this telephone box as a library.*

14. Urgent matters and matters for information. Parish Emergency Plan – see Correspondence above.
15. Date and location of next meeting – Thursday 3 September 2026 at Hoxne Playingfield Pavilion.
16. Pursuant to the Public Bodies Admission to Meetings Act 1960 the meeting was closed to the public and press to discuss a confidential contractual matter.
17. Meeting closed 21:16.

So signed and approved at the meeting of 3rd September 2026