

# HOXNE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting held at St Edmund's Hall, Hoxne on  
Thursday 8 January 2026 at 19.30 hours

## Present:

Cllrs Caroline Abbott, Paul Ellis, Richard Kruszewski, Marie Lagerberg, Bryn Lerwill, Jason Middleton, Chris Parkin (Chair), and Margaret Sillis. Also in attendance Ginny O'Hegarty, Parish Clerk, County Councillor Henry Lloyd, no members of the public.

## 1. Apologies

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs Herron and Warner. District Councillor Hicks also provided his apologies.

## 2. Declarations of Interests

Cllr Parkin declared an interest in application DC/25/05449.

Cllr Abbott declared an interest in applications DC/25/05084 and DC/25/05085.

Cllr Kruszewski declared an interest in application DC/25/05234.

## 3. Public Forum

County Councillor Henry Lloyd reported that:

- A new Sizewell C skills bursary is open to applications.
- Millions of pounds of investment is to take place in Suffolk's bus network over three years.
- More funding is available for residents through the warm homes scheme up until the end of March.
- LionLink, a new public consultation, will launch shortly on National Grid's proposals for onshore cabling on heathland along the coast.
- A full Suffolk County Council meeting is scheduled for 12<sup>th</sup> January to discuss the Government's request for views on delaying local elections in 2026.
- A Cabinet meeting is scheduled for 9<sup>th</sup> January which will include discussion regarding changes to the 20mph guidance.
- £1,300 has been allocated to Hoxne towards a new SID and/or new posts for SIDs.

4. The minutes of the meeting held on 4 December 2025 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

## 5. Matters arising from Minutes of 4 December 2025 meeting.

The Clerk was asked to investigate with SALC whether a Neighbourhood Plan is a legally binding document. The Clerk had been advised a Neighbourhood Plan becomes legally binding once it has passed independent examination, been approved by a local referendum, and is formally adopted. At that point, it carries the same legal weight as the Local Plan.

6. To consider any applications for co-option to the vacancy on the Parish Council. There had been no applications to the one remaining vacancy on the Council.

## 7. Planning

a. The following planning applications were considered:

Ref	Location	Application
DC/25/05449 It was agreed to support the application.	Woodlands, 50 Low Street, Hoxne IP21 5AS	Notification of works to trees in a Conservation Area Turkey Oak - Remove leaning tree to ground level Sycamore - Push back overhang from house Comments deadline extended to 10/01/2026
Council agreed to support the application.		

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DC/25/05084	Abbey View Cottage, Cross Street, Hoxne IP21 5AL	Full Planning Application - Link 2No. dwellings (Abbey View and Abbey View Cottage) to create 1No. dwelling to be known as Abbey View. Erection of rear extension. Erection of fence to side and front and gates to drive. Erection of garage to side (following demolition of existing garage). Comments deadline extended to 10/01/2026
Council agreed to support the application.		
DC/25/05085	Abbey View Cottage, Cross Street, Hoxne IP21 5AL	Application for Listed Building Consent - Works to facilitate linking of 2No. dwellings (Abbey View and Abbey View Cottage) to create 1No. dwelling to be known as Abbey View. Erection of rear extension. Erection of fence to side and front and gates to drive. Erection of garage to side (following demolition of existing garage). Comments deadline extended to 10/01/2026
Council agreed to support the application.		
DC/25/05234	Noble Brook, Green Street, Hoxne IP21 5AZ	Householder Application - Extension of a culvert by approx 12 mtrs. Comments deadline extended to 10/01/2026
At 19:49 Cllr Kruszewski left the meeting. Council queried whether the culvert would exacerbate any existing problems but otherwise agreed the Parish Council had no reason to object to the application. Cllr Kruszewski returned to the meeting at 19:53.		
DC/25/05457	Goldbrook Plants, Goldbrook, Hoxne IP21 5AN	Householder Application - Erection of a two storey extension & link extension to outbuilding to be converted. Replacement windows and doors, new external surfaces, new solar panels. Comments deadline extended to 10/01/2026
Council agreed to support the application.		

b. The following planning determination was noted:

Ref	Location	Application
DC/25/04689	The Stables, Low St, Hoxne IP21 5AR	Discharge of Conditions Application for DC/25/00915 - Condition 3 (Materials), 4 (Biodiversity Enhancements), 8 (Cycle Storage), 9 (Construction Management Plan) and 10 (Air Source heat Pump) - Conditions Satisfied

c. There were no other planning matters.

### 8. Highways

a. Update on Eye Road and B1118 / Green Street projects.

Council noted the new 20mph policy and as guidance is awaited regarding the practical application of it, Council resolved to continue with its current course which was unanimously agreed. Once clarification regarding the conditions has been received, Council will consider a 20mph zone in Green Street. Buffers near the Church were considered a good idea.

b. Update regarding cleaning of signs. It was noted the cleaning equipment was not responsive in very cold weather.

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c. The Clerk was asked to provide costings to County Cllr Lloyd in connection with his LHB allocation of £1,300 towards a new SID for Hoxne.

**9. Flood Management**

To consider the location for a flood depth gauge board. The Clerk was asked to investigate whether it could be sited at the footpath post near the Swan public house and whether a street furniture licence would be required.

**10. Asset Management**

Update following the Volunteer Day at the Community Orchard and to consider the issue of overhanging branches. Council reported that the gate had been fixed and the memorial bench was in situ. Cllr Kruszewski will follow up regarding advice on dealing with the overhanging branches.

**11. Annual Parish Meeting**

To consider the format for the Annual Parish Meeting. Councillors were in favour of a less formal format for the meeting to be discussed further at the February meeting.

**12. Finance and Governance**

a. The Council's financial position at 31 December 2025 was reported at £15,032.23, which includes receipt of £363.84 from District Councillor Locality Funding towards registration of .gov.uk domain name, Council mailbox and flood water depth gauge board.

b. Council approved the following payments authorised between meetings:

Amount	Payee	Details	Power
£100.00	Lighthouse Women's Aid	Donation	LGA 1972 s137
£100.00	Suffolk Accident Rescue Service	Donation	LGA 1972 s137

c. Council approved the following payments:

Amount	Payee	Details	Power
£616.70	V O'Hegarty	Clerk's salary December 2025	LGA 1972 s112
£331.50	Mr R Woods	Street Caretaker's salary January 2026, including overtime related to course attendance	LGA 1972 s111
£207.05	HMRC	PAYE	LGA 1972 s112
£129.19	V O'Hegarty	Clerk's expenses – WFH allowance, mobile phone data, Microsoft 365 for Council laptop, stamps	LGA 1972 s111
£40.93	Mr R Woods	Street Caretaker expenses – mileage related to course attendance and reimbursement for replacement broom	LGA 1972 s111

d. Council considered the budget and precept request for the 2026/27 financial year. It was unanimously resolved that:

- The 2026/27 budget would be approved.

- The precept request would be £29,521. The parish council element for a Band D household will be £73.62 per annum an increase from £59.04 which equates to £14.58 per annum per Band D household, an increase of 24.69%

e. It was unanimously resolved to open a savings account with Unity Trust Bank providing online transfers between the savings account and the community account is possible.

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### 13. Correspondence

The following correspondence was noted:

Received	From	Subject
18/12/25	Transport Made Simple Group	Suffolk Bus Service Improvement Plan call for proposals. The Clerk was asked to respond requesting Suffolk's transport team consider providing a bus service for the residents of Hoxne.
15/12/25	Community Action Suffolk	An Introduction to Rural and Community-Led Housing - online presentation aimed at residents, parish councils and community organisations – Tuesday, 3rd February 2026, 2:00-3:00 pm
13/12/25	Resident	Notification of a van driving into a hedge on Low Street at the sharp bend heading out of Hoxne towards Oakley, and ongoing issues of speeding at this location. The Clerk was asked to liaise with the Community Liaison Engineer with a request for advisory maximum speed signs on the bend.
09/12/25	Communities Together East Anglia	Request for donation. The request was not approved.
08/12/25	BMSDC	Suffolk and Norfolk mayoral elections delayed. Noted by the Council.
03/12/25	St Elizabeth's Hospice	Request for donation. The request was not approved.

### 14. Urgent matters and matters for information.

- A community lunch club will take place from 11am to 1.30pm at St Edmund's Hall on the second Wednesday of each month starting 14 January 2026.
- Cllr Lagerberg will be attending a River Waveney Trust workshop in February.
- The inauguration of the installation of solar panels by Fressingfield Scout Group at their HQ will take place on 17 February. Cllr Abbott volunteered to attend.

**15. Date of next meeting** was noted as Thursday 5 February 2026 at St Edmund's Hall, Hoxne.

**Meeting closed 21.15.**