

HOXNE PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of Meeting held at Hoxne Playingfield Pavilion on
Thursday 7 November 2024 at 19.30 hours

Present:

Cllrs Caroline Abbott, Alan Garnham, Angus Herron, Marie Lagerberg, Richard Kruszewski, Bryn Lerwill, and Chris Parkin. Also in attendance Sarah Foote, Parish Clerk.

1. Apologies

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs Middleton and Ellis.

2. Declarations of Interests

It was noted all members had an interest, as parishioners, in the agenda items relating to the Post Office Stores.

3. Public Forum

County Councillor Henry Lloyd and six members of the public were in attendance along with representatives from the Hoxne Community Stores

A member of the public asked questions about the planning conditions for Abbey Terrace development and the road surface on B1118 towards to Stradbroke

4. The minutes of the meeting held on 3 October 2024 were approved and signed by the chairman.

5. Matters arising from minutes of 3 October 2024 – none.

6. **Vacancies on the Parish Council** – one application had been received. It was unanimously agreed to co-op Dr Margaret Sillis to the Parish Council. Dr Sillis duly signed a declaration of acceptance of office and joined the meeting. One vacancy remained on the Parish Council.

7. Planning

a. The following planning application was considered:

Ref	Location	Application
DC/24/04583	50 Low Street, Hoxne	Notification of Works to Trees in a Conservation Area - Fell 1 No. Sycamore (T1), Crown raise 1 No. Lime (T2) to approximately 2.5m above ground level and Fell 1 No. Elm (T3)

It was agreed there were no reasons to object to this application.

b. The following planning determinations were noted:

DC/24/03683	40 Church Hill	Erection of single storey rear extension following part removal of existing structure. Installation of an air source heat pump to the front of the property – Planning Permission Granted
DC/24/03811	Trenchard, Cross Street,	Conversion of and extension to garage to form kitchen including alterations to windows. Erection of garage. (Retention of) – Planning Permission Granted.

c. There were no other planning matters.

8. Flood Investigation

The Suffolk County Council section 19 Flood Investigation Report had been received by the Parish Council. It had been hoped the report would suggest concrete solutions for actions to mitigate against future flooding. However, it was agreed this was missing from the report and there were no specific focuses for areas of the village worst affected or how any measures could be introduced by residents instead of expert opinion. Instead of asking what had the community done it had been hoped that the County Council would have been more proactive. A discussion took place around riparian ownership and how the report did not advise on what riparian actions were required. It was further noted there was no strategy in the report for where water flow should be slowed or rivers cleared to speed up. It was agreed representation would be made to the County Council.

The County Councillor commented that money and resources were lacking within the county council to do more Henry understood that grants had not been taken up as much as expected and that conditions which on the grants had been placed by central government.

It was also agreed to write to local straw hauliers to ask them to cover up their trucks to prevent spillage and drain blockage on Green Street.

9. Highways

a. Update on the submission of Hoxne Traffic Management Proposal 2024 to Suffolk County Council for speed limit changes - prior to the start of the meeting, the Working Group had met with County Councillor

Signed

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Henry Lloyd and he had been fully briefed on the Parish Council's wishes and had noted the submission previously made. On 27 November Councillors Lloyd and Hicks would meet with Highways Engineers to consider the submission and it was noted that Cllr Lloyd had been supportive of plans as presented.

b. Purchase of an additional vehicle activated sign – it was agreed to delegate a decision to the Traffic Working Group with an agreed budget of up to £5,000 to spend on the purchase of a new VAS. The Group would report back on their recommendation at the next meeting. It was agreed that the new VAS should also provide a data recording. It was noted that a new pole would need to be installed and this could possibly be funded from the County Councillor locality budget.

c. Locations for placement of vehicle activated sign – it was agreed to submit an application for sites between the repeater signs near to Church Close and the top of Church Hill on Green Street. The necessary resident consultation would take place prior to the forms being submitted.

10. Asset Management

a. Designs for construction of a memorial seat on Low Street Green – Cllr Gamham provided designs. Purchase and siting of the seat which would be set in gravel would be £2,500. It was agreed to include further consideration as part of the 2025/26 budget setting.

b. Parish Investment Infrastructure Plan – Cllr Middleton was not present to provide an update.

c. Correspondence relating to completion of Abbey Terrace development was noted.

11. Finance and Governance

a. The current financial position was reported as £26,181

b. The settlement of the Local Government Pay Award with effect from 1 April 2024 was noted.

c. Receipt of £720 of CIL funding was noted.

d. It was agreed to make the following payments:

Amount	Payee	Details	Power
£477.20	S Foote	Clerk salary November 2024	LGA 1972 s112
£322.68	HMRC	PAYE	LGA 1972 s112
£15.75	S Foote	Clerk's expenses November 2024	LGA 1972 s111
£30.00	RBL Poppy Appeal	Wreath	LGA 1972 s137
£25.00	R Williams	Street Caretaker expenses	LGA 1972 s111
£60.00	Community Action Suffolk	Website hosting – annual fee	LGA 1972 s111
£21.60	Sword and Trowel	Payroll Service months 4, 5 and 6	LGA 1972 s111
£252.00	P K F Littlejohn	External audit fee for year ending 31 March 24	LGA 1972 s111

e. Grant applications:

i. Hoxne Garden and Social Club – full application had not been received.

11. Correspondence

The following correspondence was noted:

Received	From	Subject
01.11.24	Mid Suffolk District Council	Town and Parish Briefing – details of local transport plan delegated to Transport Working Group to provide a response which the clerk would submit by end of November.
01.11.24	SALC	The Local Councillor October 2024

12. Hoxne Post Office Stores

Members of Hoxne Community Stores Ltd brought the Parish Council up to date; the recent government budget had confirmed no further community ownership funding, therefore alternative funding streams were still needed to safeguard the valuable and vital asset of a post office stores for the village, business plan now updated with front loaded costs removed with roof repairs, insulation, solar panels, garden works removed until 'up and running'. It was still the intention to ask the Parish Council to borrow via a PWLB loan and to raise other funds from selling of shares. Working Group (including members of Parish Council) had met several times to look at mechanics of loan and other case studies. It was thought the loan would work via the Parish Council borrowing £200k and Community Stores Community Benefit Society (CBS) raising £330k through shares and grants and the CBS would pay a premium for a 99-year lease. PC could buy building and CBS become tenant and lease payments cover loan repayments. It was confirmed that the CBS were unlikely to be in a position to repay the DMO/PWLB loan initially. In the event the project was not a success, the

Signed 

Dated 9.1.25.

