

HOXNE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting held at Hoxne Playingfield Pavilion on
Thursday 5 December 2024 at 19.30 hours

Present:

Cllrs Caroline Abbott, Alan Garnham, Angus Herron, Marie Lagerberg, Richard Kruszewski, Bryn Lerwill, Jason Middleton, Chris Parkin and Margaret Sills. Also in attendance Sarah Foote, Parish Clerk, three members of the public and District Councillor Hicks and County Councillor Lloyd.

1. Apologies

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Ellis.

2. Declarations of Interests

Cllr Kruszewski declared a pecuniary interest in planning application DC/24/05177

3. Public Forum

County Councillor Henry Lloyd reported that councillor and public comments were invited regarding the County Council 2025/26 budget and provide further details to his report which had been circulated to members ahead of the meeting. Cllr Middleton asked for repainting of white lines in the centre of the road on B1118. Cllr Lloyd committed to looking into this.

District Councillor Matthew Hicks provided details of the waste collection schedule for Christmas and new year 2024/25. Details of the Pride in Place grant funding scheme were given. It was agreed to submit an application for a dog litter bin close to footpath by Hoxne Service Station. Cllr Hicks drew attention to the MSDC Supplementary Planning documents as detailed later in the minutes of the meeting. A discussion then took place on traffic movements through the village which resulted from poultry processing on Eye Airfield and the proposed expansion of the factory.

4. The minutes of the meeting held on 7 November 2024 were amended and then agreed as approved and would be signed by the chairman.

5. Matters arising from minutes of 7 November 2024 – none.

6. **Vacancies on the Parish Council** – one vacancy remained on the parish council and no applications had been received.

7. Planning

a. The following planning application was considered:

Ref	Location	Application
DC/24/05100	Mulberry Cottage, Green Street	Construction of a two bay cartlodge to the front of the property and gym/store to the rear

It was noted that description was misleading and it should read gym/store to the rear of the property and not be presumed as rear of cartlodge. It was noted biodiversity and planting plan should be adhered to and the suggestion of one bird box was possibly not appropriate and should be increased.

DC/24/05177	Barn A, Corner Farm, Green Street	Application under S73 for the removal or variation of a condition following grant of DC/23/04429 dated 05/03/2024. Conversion of an existing agricultural barn to form 1No dwelling with associated parking and landscaping. To remove Condition 10 (Biodiversity Nett Gain Plan). The condition as imposed does not meet the tests of national policy, as detailed in the supporting document, on the basis it was not enforceable at the time of determination, nor was it relevant to the permission sought by reason that BNG was only to be applied to development of small sites submitted from April 2024.
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Cllr Kruszewski left the meeting at 19.56 It was agreed the Parish Council did not wish to support the removal of the condition as it was of importance to ensure biodiversity was enhanced in the location (five votes in favour, one against, two abstentions).

b. There were no other planning matters.

8. Flood Investigation

a. Information on DEFRA Property Flood Resilience grant fund was noted and had been made available to parishioners.

Signed 

Dated 9.1.25

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b. The Suffolk County Council section 19 Flood Investigation Report – a response had been received to the Parish Council's dissatisfaction of the report. The response from the County Council implied the document contained measures that could be undertaken and the Parish Council felt it did not. It was agreed the Parish Council needs to receive information on the causes of the flooding and solutions and these must be provided at County Council level as the Flood Authority. It was agreed to ask for an explanation of where in the report causes and solutions could be found and why measures could not be introduced to deal with overwhelming amounts of rain and make the suggestion the Flood Authority look at a more holistic view of why the flooding was happening and what can be done to prevent it. It was also agreed to ask who was responsible for the overall plan for water across the county. Cllr Silis commented that recent works on the footpath adjacent to Hoxne Service station appeared to not be of a high quality and could create more flooding and not alleviate.

9. Highways

a. Update on the submission of Hoxne Traffic Management Proposal 2024 to Suffolk County Council for speed limit changes – Cllr Kruszewski confirmed that the County Councillor and highways engineer had supported the first part of the process, and the scheme was now with officers at Suffolk County Council for their approval which, if successful, would result in drawings being produced. The costs for these technical drawings would be advised by Cllr Lloyd to the Parish Council. Once the drawings were completed a public and statutory body/stakeholders consultation would take place. Costs were required in order to inform the Parish Council's 2025/26 budget and precept request.

b. Purchase of additional vehicle activated sign – application forms had been submitted for the two additional locations. Earlier in the meeting, Cllr Hicks had committed some funding towards to the new VAS.

c. Application to the County Councillor's Locality Budget – it was agreed to submit an application for £750 of funding towards the purchase of the additional VAS. It was noted that there had been three further accidents in locality during last ten days.

10. Asset Management

a. Parish Investment Infrastructure Plan – Cllr Middleton provided a draft document and asked for feedback to enable the document to be further considered at the February meeting. The document would then need to be expanded to include infrastructure needs.

b. Community Orchard – volunteers were required at an event to be held on 18 January at 10.00 am in morning. Low level hand shears and secateurs should be brought to the event. There would be no working at heights.

11. Finance and Governance

a. The current financial position was reported as £23,779.56

b. It was agreed to make the following payments:

Amount	Payee	Details	Power
£491.60	S Foote	Clerk salary December 2024	LGA 1972 s112
£651.08	HMRC	PAYE	LGA 1972 s112
£40.70	S Foote	Clerk's expenses December 2024	LGA 1972 s111
£468.00	R Williams	Street Caretaker salary October/November/December 2024	LGA 1972 s111
£120.00	Carl Leader	Community Orchard cut September/October/November	LGA 1972 s111

c. The external audit report for year ending 31 March 2024 was noted and restatement of the figures for 23/24 would be completed.

d. The spend to date report was noted and early consideration was given to 2025/26 budget and precept, noting the estimated tax base and some of the requirements of the council during the next financial year.

12. Correspondence

The following correspondence was noted:

Received	From	Subject
13.11.2024	Suffolk Accident Rescue	Letter of thanks for donation
20.11.2024	County Councillor	Locality Funding Budget Submissions
24.11.2024	Suffolk Association of Local Councils	DEFRA Property Flood Resilience grant fund
29.11.2024	Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils	Adoption of the Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils Housing Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) and Intensive Livestock and Poultry Farming SPD

13. Hoxne Post Office Stores – members of the Community Benefit Society reported that the building had been re-valued and negotiations with the property owner continued to progress. The concept of a Public

Signed *[Signature]*

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Works Loan was unlikely to be progressed as interest rates were increasing and the repayments would not be affordable. The CBS were to look at private funding and a share offer for the community as opposed to the previously sought pledges.

14. Urgent matters and matters for information – none.

15. Date of next meeting was noted as Thursday 9 January 2025 at St Edmund's Hall.

Meeting closed 21:07.

Signed 

Dated 9.1.25