

# HOXNE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting held at Hoxne Playingfield Pavilion on  
Thursday 9 January 2025 at 19.30 hours

## Present:

Cllrs Caroline Abbott, Paul Ellis, Angus Herron, Marie Lagerberg, Richard Kruszewski, Bryn Lerwill, Jason Middleton, Chris Parkin, and Margaret Sills. Also in attendance Sarah Foote, Parish Clerk, one member of the public and County Councillor Lloyd

### 1. Apologies

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Garnham.

### 2. Declarations of Interests

Cllrs Abbott and Parkin declared an interest in agenda item 11c – donation to St Peter and St Paul with St Edmund Church.

### 3. Public Forum

County Councillor Henry Lloyd reported that rural service grant from central government had been cut. Cllr Lloyd briefed the Council on possible devolution. Cllr Lloyd also reported that the Parish Council's traffic proposals were actively under consideration at the County Council.

4. The minutes of the meeting held on 5 December 2024 were approved and were signed by the chairman.

5. Matters arising from minutes of 5 December 2024 – none.

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

### 7. Planning

a. Public comments relating to planning application DC/24/05268.

b. The following planning application was considered:

Ref	Location	Application
DC/24/05268	Shreeves Farm, Heckfield Green	Residential development of 40 no. dwellings (including 14 local needs 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)

It was unanimously agreed to recommend refusal of the application as presented. It was noted that the site is allocated for development in the adopted Hoxne Neighbourhood Development Plan. The planning application had inaccuracies and was not in conformity with Hoxne Neighbourhood Development Plan Policy HOX13:

1. The number of proposed dwellings exceeds those allocated in policy HOX13 in the Hoxne Neighbourhood Development Plan and the proposed dwellings do not provide the necessary number of accessible/adaptable homes.

2. The Flood reports submitted with the application pre-date the recent flood impact on the village and should be reviewed and referenced to the Section 19 report by Suffolk County Council (November 2024).

3. It is not evident where the intended provision for the school is allocated and confirmation of this condition of Policy HOX13 is required

4. There was a lack of positive environmental measures including an explanation of why rainwater harvesting is not feasible. Water management and use of top soil for contamination is not viable as presented.

5. The proposed vernacular build forms are not typical for the village and the designs should be checked against the Hoxne Neighbourhood Development Plan Design Guide for conformity.

6. The application stated there are bus services and services in the village to support the development. There are no scheduled bus services through the village, there are limited services in the village.

Furthermore, it was agreed to ask for the developer to confirm when the affordable houses will be built as opposed to market value homes.

c. To note the following planning determination:

Ref	Location	Application
DC/24/05357	Birch Farm, Syleham Road	Notification under Schedule 2 Part 6 Class A(2) or Class E(2) of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015

Signed 

Dated 6/2/25.

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		<p>Application to determine if prior approval is required for a proposed: Erection, Extension or Alteration of a Building for Agricultural use The Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015 (as amended) - Schedule 2, Part 6 - Erection of straw barn, lean-to extension for machinery/straw, 2no lean-to extensions to existing agricultural building and link extension straw barn between two buildings. Application GRANTED.</p>
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### 8. Flood Management

a. Correspondence from the River Waveney Trust regarding natural flood management schemes was considered. It was agreed that Councillors Sillis and Lagerberg would meet with the representative from the Trust.

b. The Suffolk County Council section 19 Flood Investigation Report – no response had been received to date.

### 9. Highways

a. Update on the submission of Hoxne Traffic Management Proposal 2024 to Suffolk County Council for speed limit changes – the county councillor had reported progressing as per above. In a subsequent discussion it was agreed to ask the county councillor about fees for any speeding fines the County Council may be able to introduce and enforce, when these may come in and if they would be passed to the parishes.

b. Purchase of additional vehicle activated sign – Suffolk Highways had given approval to two further locations on Green Street and provided a quotation of £300 for the erection of posts. It was agreed to proceed.

c. Receipt of £500 of District Councillor Locality Funding towards the purchase of the above was noted.

### 10. Asset Management

a. Community Orchard – volunteers were required at an event to be held on 18 January at 10.00 am in morning. The event had been publicised. Low level hand shears and secateurs should be brought to the event. There would be no working at heights. It was noted the entrance gate also needed some repair.

b. Management of Heckfield Green – a request would be made to MSDC to ask for the hedge to be thinned width ways on the road side edge to enable improved visibility.

### 11. Finance and Governance

a. The current financial position was reported as £21,317.

b. It was agreed to make the following payments:

Amount	Payee	Details	Power
£491.60	S Foote	Clerk salary January 2025	LGA 1972 s112
£336.04	HMRC	PAYE	LGA 1972 s112
£27.90	S Foote	Clerk's expenses January 2025	LGA 1972 s111
£21.60	Sword and Trowel	Payroll service	LGA 1972 s111

c. Grant request towards providing tools to be used to maintain the churchyard for St Peter and St Paul with St Edmund – it was agreed to make a payment of £200.

d. Budget for the 2025/26 financial year and precept demand – councillors considered budget proposals for the forthcoming financial year which included statutory costs and projects to be delivered in the village such as traffic calming schemes and examined the required level of reserves the council should maintain. It was noted that the precept was last raised in 2023 however for the last three financial years had remained at a rate lower than that of 2021. It was agreed to request an increased precept of £23,160 which would equate to £59.04 per year for a band D property (£39.36 for the 2024/25 financial year). This amount would enable funds to be accumulated to deliver traffic calming schemes and address inflationary increases in other areas of expenditure.

### 12. Correspondence

The following correspondence was noted:

Received	From	Subject
02.01.25	Suffolk Association of Local Councils	Devolution Update
03.01.25	Mid Suffolk District Council	Town and Parish Update January 2025
10.12.25	Suffolk Police and Crime Commissioner	Police and Crime Plan Consultation

Signed .....

Dated .....

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- 13. Hoxne Post Office Stores – there was no update from the Community Benefit Society.
- 14. Urgent matters and matters for information – none.
- 15. Date of next meeting was noted as Thursday 6 February 2025 at St Edmund’s Hall.

**Meeting closed 21:19.**

Signed .....

Dated .....