

# HOXNE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on  
Thursday 3 December 2015 at St Edmund's Hall at 19.30 hours

## Present

Cllrs Edward O'Connor, Clive Baxter, John Brawn, Phillip Bush, Michael Knights, Ellen Pitt, Mick Procter, Steve Rich, Rod Searle and Richard Whiting. Also in attendance District Councillor Gibson-Harries (left 19.52), County Councillor McGregor (arrived 19.51, left 20.30) and eight members of the public.

### 1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr Mayhew and accepted by the Council.

### 2. Order of Business

Councillors were content with the order of business.

3. Cllr Knights declared a non-pecuniary interest in agenda item 8A – Fressingfield Scout Group Donation request.

Councillors were reminded of the requirement to update their Registers of Interests as Appropriate. All those present were reminded of the newly enacted Openness of Local Government Bodies Act 2014 and that the meeting may be filmed or recorded by any member of the public.

### 4. Public Forum

A parishioner made comments on the broadband provision in the village.

Another parishioner made comment about the state of the Old Baptist Chapel. It was agreed the Clerk would again contact MSDC Planning Enforcement. *Action: Clerk.* The same parishioner also commented on the provision of equipment at the playingfield and suggested some mini goal posts be provided. It was advised that this matter should be referred to the Playingfield Association.

### 5. Confirmation of Minutes

The Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 5 November 2015 were agreed by Councillors. The minutes were duly signed by the Chairman.

### 6. Matters arising from Minutes of 5 November 2015

It was agreed that the concerns about visibility on junction at Low Street/Goldbrook should be referred to Suffolk County Council Highways. *Action: Clerk.*

### 7. Planning

#### b. The following planning determinations were noted:

Ref	Location	Decision
3088/15	Horham Business Park – provision of external storage	Planning Permission Granted
3661/15	Rose Cottage, Denham Road – single storey extension	Planning Permission Granted

#### c. Other Planning matters:

Ref 3763/15 Downbridge Farm, Abbey Hill. It was noted that the application had been amended to seek permission only for the extension to the house and not for the erection of a cart lodge as well. As the Parish Council had previously considered the extension to the house acceptable, and the cart lodge element had been withdrawn, it was agreed no further comments needed to be submitted.

### 8. Donation Requests

The following donation requests were considered:

a. Fressingfield Scout Group – had requested a donation (£150) towards the cost of replacement mini-bus. It was unanimously agreed to make the £150 donation. *LGA Section 137. Cheque No 101240.*

b. Hoxne Playingfield Association – this donation request was reconsidered from the September meeting – Min Ref 1900/7 (where it had been resolved to purchase a bench for the playingfield as per their request letter of 6 August) per Standing Order 7A. A lengthy discussion took place and it was recognised that the playingfield, an open space within the village was a valuable asset that has to be funded in some way and the Parish Council should, if possible, assist with this. However, it was also discussed (and as suggested by a Playingfield Association Member) that the running costs of the pavilion should be covered by hirers of this facility. It was proposed to make a donation of £350 towards the maintenance of the new play equipment and agreed (nine votes in favour and one against). *LGA Section 137. Cheque No 101241.* It was also requested that the Clerk chase for a response to a previous letter to confirm the status of the Parish Council representative on the Playingfield Association and if they became a Trustee of the Playingfield. *Action: Clerk.*

### 9. Reports from the Chairman and Clerk

The Chairman reported:

Green Street – Suffolk County Council Highways Engineers were impressed by the reduction in speeds when the temporary build out was in place. They now wanted to construct another one in same place to double check the results as well as an additional build out closer to the centre of the village to see what difference that might make.

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Edward O'Connor (Chairman)

Date: 3.12.15

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Hartismere Hospital – he had attended a meeting which detailed the beginning of a long process to at last do something worthwhile with the building which had cost £4m. It was hoped that both Ipswich Hospital and the Norfolk and Norwich would provide funding to provide some of their services at the site.

The Swan Public House – the existing lease would finish on 7 December. Enterprise Inns already had interest and in the meantime were hoping to install a temporary tenant for a few months to get pub trading again.

The Clerk:

Requested permission to attend a training session on new external audit regime at a cost of £12.50. This was unanimously agreed.

Provided Councillors with the meeting dates for 2016 and the date for the Annual Parish Meeting was agreed as 14 April 2016.

### 10. Correspondence

The following item of correspondence, previously circulated for information, was noted:

Received	From	Subject
24.11.15	Suffolk Association of Local Councils	External Audit – sector lead body for audit procurement

### 11. Financial matters

**a. Payments:** It was agreed to make the following payments. The Clerk reported the bank balances as: Current Account £13,657 and the Business Account as £5,658.

Amount	Payee	Details	Chq No	Power
£365.74	Mrs S Foote	Clerk's salary December 2015	101235	LGA 1972 S112 (ii)
£147.03	Mr J Lambert	Street Caretaker salary December 2015	101236	LGA 1972 S111 (i)
£38.74	Mrs S Foote	Clerk's expenses November + December 2015	101237	LGA 1972 S111 (i)
£100.00	Suffolk County Council	Posts to mount Vehicle Activated Sign	101238	Highways Act 1980, s274A
£34.00	Anglia Book-Keeping	Payroll months 4,5,6 and 7.	101239	LGA 1972 S111 (i)

### b. Budget for 2016/17

Initial consideration was given to the budget for the next financial year. Cllr Searle suggested a budget heading be created for the maintenance of open spaces; Heckfield green, the playingfield, Low Street Green, the churchyard and the community orchard. This budget would recognise that the Parish Council may continually going to have expenditure on items for 'ground maintenance' of one kind or another and not make so many ad-hoc donations. Other donation request could be considered, but the budget for this could be lowered from £1,000 to £500. Cllr Searle, therefore, proposed a new budget expenditure item be created (maintenance of open spaces) of £1000 and the budget for donations be reduced to £500. This resolution was not agreed (four votes in favour, six votes against).

An extension to the area currently covered by the Street Caretaker was also discussed. This would be further considered at the January meeting when the budget was finalised.

**12. Consultations** - The consultation on the Future of Suffolk Fire and Rescue service was noted.

### 13. Reports

Brakey Wood and Footpaths – the Woodland Trust had undertaken further work on the trees in the Wood.

Hoxne Playingfield – Cllr Bush would give a report when he received the minutes of last Committee Meeting.

St Edmund's Hall – Cllr Baxter reported on an increase in the cost of Film Nights, *from May 2016.*

Suffolk Association of Local Councils – Cllr Pitt reported on her attendance at the Area Meeting. She had heard Suffolk County Council budget presentation and confirmed the County Council would not be increasing the Council Tax. However, budgets remained tight. Cllr Pitt had raised concerns for the spend on education in the county and how there was a lack of parity for children in this county.

### 14. Matters of report by individual Councillors

Cllr Procner – following the dumping of approximately 50 tyres in Wittons Lane, asked parishioners to be vigilant for fly-tipping. Cllr Procner also asked for PCSO Long to look at the parking outside the school which he considered to be dangerous and for the standing water on the B1118, opposite the Syleham Road to be reported to Highways. *Action: Clerk.*

Cllr Rich – asked for the standing water at the bottom of Nuttery Vale, near the bridge and kennels, to be reported to Highways. *Action: Clerk.*

Cllr Pitt – was concerned about vehicles parking at top of Low Street. *Action: Clerk to contact PCSO Long.*

**15. Urgent matters and matters for information.** None.

Date of next meeting: Thursday 7 January 2016 at St Edmund's Hall The meeting was closed at 21.00.