

HOXNE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on
Thursday 7 January 2016 at St Edmund's Hall at 19.30 hours

Present

Cllrs Edward O'Connor, Clive Baxter, John Brawn, Phillip Bush, Michael Knights, Hannah Mayhew, Mick Procter, Steve Rich, Rod Searle and Richard Whiting. Also in attendance four members of the public.

1. Apologies

None.

2. Order of Business

Councillors were content with the order of business.

3. Cllr Knights declared a pecuniary interest in agenda item 7 – Planning Application Ref 3486/15. The Clerk informed Cllr Knights he would need to leave the meeting when any discussion took place on the planning application.

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

19.32 Cllr Knights left the meeting.

A parishioner spoke on planning application 3486/15. They expressed concern for the height of the proposed development, particularly the bell tower and how this would be visibly intrusive when viewed from the Eye Road where as the current buildings were not. It had been noted by the parishioner that the environmental report with the application referred to hedges and trees and that the hedges on the eastern boundary were the parishioners and not the applicants and as such consideration should be given to this.

The applicant then spoke on the application and explained the intention was to relocate the business. They had received a number of complaints over the years and felt it would be advantageous to have houses on the site rather than expand the business already situated there.

19.35 Cllr Knights returned to the meeting.

5. Confirmation of Minutes

The Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 3 December 2015 were agreed (one amendment) by Councillors. The minutes were duly signed by the Chairman.

6. Matters arising from Minutes of 3 December 2015

1909/14 - It was agreed that the concerns about visibility on junction at Low Street/Goldbrook should be referred to Suffolk County Council Highways. It was also agreed that the Clerk and Chairman would meet with the Area Highways Officer to discuss a range of issues including standing water in Goldbrook, Syleham Road junction, and blocked drains by the school. *Action: Clerk.*

7. Planning

a. The following planning applications were considered:

Ref	Location	Application
3486/15	Waveney Valley Joinery, Daganya Farmyard, Nuttery Vale	Demolition of existing workshops and erection of two new dwellings
19.42 Cllr Knights left the meeting. After detailed consideration, it was agreed to recommend REFUSAL for the application on the grounds that the site was unsuitable for residential development (outside the village development envelope), there was no proven need for housing of this size within the parish, the loss of local employment would be regrettable and additional traffic arising from such a development would be undesirable in the narrow road which was Nuttery Vale. 19.53 Cllr Knights returned to the meeting.		
4338/15	Parkside, Eye Road	Erection of stable block, cartlodge and entrance gate, and re-siting of oil tank (following demolition of double garage and greenhouse)
It was unanimously agreed to recommend SUPPORT with a codicil that the weather boarding should preferably be stained black or dark brown to conform with common 'local practice'.		
4300/15	Land to rear of Market House, Low Street	Erection of a detached dwelling, garage and green house
Outline permission had already been supported by the Parish Council, however, it was noted that the maximum ridge height had now increased and there were some other technical differences with the new application. After detailed consideration, it was agreed to recommend SUPPORT for this application (seven votes in favour, three against).		
4371/15	Chestnut Tree Farm, Denham	Demolition of listed building (previously approved under

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	Road reference 1707/14)
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It was noted that this permission had previously been granted and had been resubmitted to run alongside a revised application for a new building which was still to be received. It was agreed (eight votes in favour, one against and one abstention) to recommend SUPPORT for this application.

b. The following planning determinations were noted:

Ref	Location	Decision
3763/15	Downbridge Farm – erection of two single storey extensions to dwelling.	Planning Permission Granted

c. There were no other planning matters.

8. Clean Up Sunday

The date for the 2016 Village Spring Clean was agreed as Sunday 3 April at 10.00 am. Cllr Knights would enquire with St Edmund's Hall Committee about hire of the kitchen and toilets and refreshments would be served after the Litter Pick. *Action: Cllr Knights. Action: Clerk to produce posters and publicise event.*

9. Procedural

External Audit - the Clerk explained the changes to the audit system which would take place in 2017/18. The Sector Led Body (NALC) offer for audit provision was considered and it was agreed that the Parish Council would not opt out and establish their own external audit panel at this stage but await further details of the contract arrangements and costs involved should an external audit be called after 2017.

Parish Councillor Vacancy – with regret, the resignation of Ellen Pitt from the Parish Council was noted. It was agreed to ask the District Council to issue the papers to start the co-option process. *Action: Clerk*

10. Reports from the Chairman and Clerk

The Chairman reported:

Green Street – further traffic surveys would be carried out from 9 January. Councillors were encouraged to view the temporary build outs when they were placed on Green Street.

11. Correspondence

The following items of correspondence, previously circulated for information, were noted:

Received	From	Subject
23.12.15	1 st Fressingfield Scout Group	Letter of thanks for donation towards replacement mini-bus
21.12.15	Suffolk Association of Local Councils	Shaping the Future of Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service – Public Meetings 2016
18.12.15	Suffolk Police, Change Team	Parish Council match funding for PCSOs
Concern was expressed that central government had reduced the funding of the Police Service to such an extent that Parish Councils were being asked to fund Police Officers in their areas.		
18.12.15	Community Action Suffolk	Most Active Community Competition 2016
17.12.15	Suffolk Association of Local Councils	Council Tax Referendums
09.12.15	Suffolk County Council	Temporary Traffic Order – C520 Goldbrook (18 Jan)
09.12.15	Suffolk County Council	Temporary Traffic Order – B1118 (18 Jan)
07.12.15	Mid Suffolk District Council	Increase in charges for litter and dog litter bin emptying
07.12.15	Suffolk Association of Local Councils	Suffolk Policing Review

12. Financial matters

a. **Financial Statement.** The Clerk reported the bank balances as; Current Account £12,043 and the Business Account as £5,658.

b. **Payments:** It was agreed to make the following payments.

Amount	Payee	Details	Chq No	Power
£365.74	Mrs S Foote	Clerk's salary January 2016	101242	LGA 1972 S112 (ii)
£147.03	Mr J Lambert	Street Caretaker salary January 2016	101243	LGA 1972 S111 (i)

c. Budget for 2016/17

The budget for the 2016/17 financial year was agreed and is appended to the minutes. It was agreed (eight votes in favour, two against) to increase the Precept to £14,790 which Councillors believed would represent a 2% increase.

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

14. Reports

Brakey Wood and Footpaths – no report.

Hoxne Playingfield – no report.

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St Edmund's Hall – Cllr Baxter reported on a successful New Year's Eve party. A heat curtain had been fitted on the entrance door and the main hall floor had been repainted. Air conditioning units may be fitted in the main hall and an outside area developed for smokers.

Suffolk Association of Local Councils – Councillors were asked to consider taking on the role of attending the Area Meetings on behalf of the Parish Council.

Vehicle Activated Sign – Cllr Whiting provided data for the last two months; Abbey Hill in November the average speed was 32 mph in both directions and in Goldbrook in December (outside Rosebank) the average speed was 28 mph but maximum speeds of 50 mph and 70 mph respectively were recorded. 85% of the vehicles did not exceed the speed limit. Detailed data would be available on the Parish Council website.

14. Matters of report by individual Councillors

Cllr Mayhew reported that a parishioner with a property in Heckfield Green was concerned about the state of the green area outside their property. It was advised to contact the District Council who owned this piece of land.

Cllr Prochner asked, given the vacancy on the Parish Council, if it could be made known that by joining the Parish Council you can bring your own views to the meeting and you do not have to agree with proposals put forward. The whole idea of the democratic system was that a wide range of views on a range of subjects is brought to the table, debated and voted on. .

Cllr Brawn – expressed concern for flooding in the village and asked who was responsible for clearing debris from the river near Swan Bridge. It was agreed that the Chairman would contact the Land Drainage Board.

The Chairman added that the Environment Agency survey which had cost £10,000 proved the Hoxne may be more prone to flooding if the work was carried out rather than not. *Action: Clerk.*

15 .Urgent matters and matters for information. None.

Date of next meeting: Thursday 4 February 2016 at St Edmund's Hall

The meeting was closed at 21.10.