

HOXNE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on
Thursday 5 November 2015 at St Edmund's Hall at 19.30 hours

Present

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

The Parish Council received a presentation from Hoxne Playingfield Management Committee. Mr Golding gave an overview of the Committee's income and expenditure particularly in relation to the redevelopment of the play equipment. The Committee continues to fundraise towards running costs, but currently expenditure is higher than income. Mr Golding thanked the Parish Council for their offer to purchase a bench (as detailed in a list of items the Committee supplied to the Parish Council in August) but a parishioner had since kindly donated a bench. Mr Golding stated there was a need for ongoing support by the community for the work the Committee were trying to do at the playingfield and hoped that the Parish Council would be able to offer financial support.

The Clerk advised, as per Standing Orders, that the Parish Council could not revisit a resolution until six months had passed or if three Councillors requested in writing for the decision to be revisited.

The meeting opened at 19.48

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr M Procter and accepted by the Council. ✓

2. Order of Business

Councillors were content with the order of business.

3. Cllrs Brawn, Pitt, Searle, O'Connor and Knights all declared a non-pecuniary interest in agenda item 9A – 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

Mid Suffolk District Council - Cllr Gibson-Harries gave details of the fund which the Playingfield could apply to, as a one off, to support some of their costs. The Playingfield Management Committee would submit the relevant forms directly to Mid Suffolk District Council.

Suffolk County Council – Cllr Guy McGregor reported that the Care UK Residential home was now open in Eye. Cllr McGregor had spent time with the new County Surveyor (Mr Mark Stevens) and felt vindicated with his criticism of the Highways contract and how badly it was organised and managed.

A parishioner made comment on planning application 3763/15 – Downbridge Barn.

5. Confirmation of Minutes

The Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 1 October 2015 were amended (one sentence deleted) and agreed by Councillors. The minutes were duly signed by the Chairman.

6. Matters arising from Minutes of 1 October 2015

1904/18 – a response was awaited on the possible use of the Heckfield Green Phone Kiosk.

7. Planning

a. The following planning applications were considered:

Ref	Location	Application
3661/15	Rose Cottage, Denham Road	A single storey extension to form annexe.
It was unanimously agreed to recommend approval of this application.		
3763/15	Downbridge Farm, Abbey Hill	Erection of two single storey extensions to dwelling. Erection of detached cartlodge with two garaging spaces and a workshop/store and a guest en-suite bedroom.
It was agreed that the Parish Council would be happy to support the application for the extensions to the dwelling. However, it was agreed to recommend refusal of the cartlodge as presently designed and configured and the design should be revisited and a location to the south of the house would be preferable to minimise visual impact. It was further recommended that the Leylandi hedge ought to be retained for screening of the new building (seven votes in favour, two against, one abstention).		
b. The following planning determinations were noted:		
Ref	Location	Decision
2742/15	South View, Denham Road – conversion of garage to annexe.	Planning Permission GRANTED

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2766/15	Bridge House, Low Street – construction of new bridge to provide access between garden and orchard	Planning Permission GRANTED. It was noted that Land Drainage Consent was required and the applicant was to consult with SCC Flood Planning.
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c. Other Planning matters:

Cllr Procner had raised that when approval was given to erect a large new poultry shed at Burnt House Corner, there was an elaborate scheme of planting as a planning condition. Cllr Procner wondered if this planting had been carried out, as in his opinion, it was not visible. *Action: It was agreed the Clerk would contact the business owner.*

8. Appointment of St Edmund's Hall Representative (Trustee of St Edmund's Hall)

It was unanimously agreed that Cllr Clive Baxter would represent the Parish Council on the Hall Committee. *Action: Clerk to write to St Edmund's Hall.*

9. Donation Request

a. Friends of St Peter and Paul Church – upkeep of Churchyard. The request was discussed in detail and the asset of the churchyard was commended. It was proposed and agreed (nine votes in favour, one against) to donate £350 towards the upkeep of the churchyard. However, Councillors are keen that future donations requests include details of how any monetary assets the Friends hold have been earmarked for specific projects and that full accounts for the previous financial year are also provided. *LGA 1972 Section 214.* Cllr Pitt wished for it to be recorded that she was not happy that the Parish Council had not received the full accounts and that the grant application was, therefore, not, in her opinion, fully transparent.

b. Royal British Legion – Poppy Wreaths for Remembrance Service. It was agreed nine votes in favour, one abstention) to donate £50 for the supply of one wreath to the Parish Council. *LGA 1972 Section 137.*

10. Reports from the Chairman and Clerk

The Chairman reported:

Green Street – data had been provided by the County Council on the temporary build out which had been analysed by Cllr Whiting. 90% of people speed from west bound, with cones it improved to 84% speeding (over 30 mph) and with speeds greater than 40 mph the temporary build out had reduced the speeding from 26% to 9%. Councillors would study the data and the matter would be discussed at a future meeting.

The Swan Public House – the tenants had surrendered their lease and Enterprise Inns would actively seek new tenants.

Vehicle Activated Speed Sign – would be moved to the downhill slope of Abbey Hill next. It was noted that the pole on Green Street to mount the VAS was obscured by hanging branches. *Action: Clerk to speak to landowner.*

Cllr Searle stated that the Parish Council's purchase and deployment of the Vehicle Activated Sign and the continued lobbying of the County Council for an effective build out demonstrate that the Parish Council had been trying to action the biggest outcome of the Parish Plan but it had been hard work and progress had been slow.

11. Correspondence

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

Received	From	Subject
29.10.15	Suffolk Police	Suffolk Local Policing Information Evening event – 10 December
22.10.15	Suffolk Association of Local Councils	Parish Councils: the case for the Right of Appeal in the Planning Process
22.10.15	Suffolk Association of Local Councils	LAIS1383 Cities and Local Government Devolution Bill.
15.10.15	Suffolk Association of Local Councils	LAIS Up to Date October 2015
13.10.15	Suffolk County Council Highways	Grit supply for winter 2015
10.10.15	Parishioner	Traffic in Low Street

12. 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 November 2015	101231	LGA 1972 S112 (ii)
£147.03	Mr J Lambert	Street Caretaker salary November 2015	101232	LGA 1972 S111 (i)

13. Consultations

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Land to the south of Eye Airfield – Development Brief. Cllr Bush has considered the amended Development Brief and it was agreed to respond with the following points: The main vehicular access was still situated in an already dangerous location, there was no evidence of any consideration for increased size of the school and medical facilities and that the Parish Council remains concerned for the size of the development and effect on the local community. *Action: Clerk.*

14. Reports

Brakey Wood and Footpaths – Woodland Trust would repair gate that had been broken on main entrance to Brakey Wood.

Hoxne Playingfield – meeting would take place next week. After a discussion, and following the presentation at the start of the meeting, it was agreed that the Clerk would write and confirm that the Playingfield Committee had rejected the offer of the purchase of a bench and that the Parish Council would be happy to consider future request for a donation in the next financial year (as per the Grant Awarding Policy). *Action: Clerk.*

St Edmund's Hall – no report.

Suffolk Association of Local Councils – nothing to report.

15. Matters of report by individual Councillors

Cllr Whiting talked Councillors through the data sets that he had created for west bound traffic in both Green Street and Goldbrook, as downloaded from the Vehicle Activated Sign. Copies of the data are appended to the minutes and available from the Clerk on request. .

16. Urgent matters and matters for information

Date of next meeting: Thursday 3 December 2015 at St Edmund's Hall

The meeting was closed at 21.42