

MINUTES OF MEETING OF HASKETON PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON THURSDAY 9th SEPTEMBER 2021
At 6.30pm in the Victory Hall, Hasketon, Suffolk

Final Draft Minutes

Present: Councillors (Cllrs) A McWhirter (AM) (Chairman), I Whyte (IW), (Vice Chair), S Butters (SBu), Stuart Dack, (SD), Jemima Withey, (JW), Ann Turner, (AT), Beccy Batley, (RB), David Keeble, (DK) Hasketon Parish Clerk and Gemma Williams (GW), newly appointed Parish Clerk. Also present was District Councillor (DCllr) Colin Hedgley,(CH), and County Councillor (CCllr) Elaine Bryce, (EB) (joined the meeting at 6.36pm)

1. **Welcome:** Chairman A. M. opened the meeting at 6.30pm and welcomed all and introduced G.W. the newly appointed Parish Clerk and welcomed her to the Council and her new role. He reminded all that GW and DK would overlap for a 2 month period to help GW familiarise herself with the role.
2. **Apologies for Absence:** None received.
CH advised EB would be attending but likely to be slightly late due to prior commitments.
3. **Declaration of Interests:** Cllr SBu declared her interest as an allotment holder.
4. **Minutes from the previous meeting:** Minutes of meeting held on 8th July 2021 and extraordinary meetings on 22nd July 2021 and 10th August 2021, all previously circulated, were accepted and approved as a true record and initialled by the Chairman.
5. **Matters arising from the previous minutes:** None
6. **Invitation to Members of the public to speak:** None present.
7. **Report from District Councillor:** The report from CH was previously circulated. CH emphasised the City of Culture bid by Great Yarmouth Borough Council, a successful fly tipping prosecution by East Suffolk Council (ESC), the resale of the old Council offices at Melton Hill, the Grandad Loan Scheme and the Bug Hotel outside the new Council Offices in Melton. The full report is attached.
SD suggested the report should be published on Hasketon Happenings (HH). Clerk advised it is already posted with the minutes on the PC website and confirmed with CH that he has no objections to it being posted on HH.
JW queried the change in policy regarding green bin contents and collections. CH advised this was a result of economics in sorting the contents
8. **Report from County Councillor:** The report from EB was previously circulated. EB highlighted the Suffolk County Council (SCC) response to the Afghan refugee crisis, the climate change crisis and environmental issues. She also mentioned the new Fire Officer appointment and new state of the art fire fighting equipment purchases et al. The full report is attached.
In reply to SD regarding the plight of Afghan refugees EB said SCC were still working through the legal aspects of helping refugees and none had been accommodated in Suffolk at present.
IW highlighted the many, mostly empty, diesel buses being used in rural areas and asked whether thought has been given to employing electric buses for these routes. EB responded that SCC was working to identify the need and was looking at next spring to address this issue.
AM raised the ongoing issue of highways and the long-standing concerns regarding the

8. Report from County Councillor: (cont'd)

B1079 and Manor Road for local residents. He gave a brief background to the Parish Councils' efforts over several years to find a resolution as yet to no avail.

B1079. AM stated that following a meeting with CCllr Mary Evans and SCC Highways Staff a way forward was agreed but subsequently it was discovered changes in traffic signs could not be utilised and the white lining agreed now appears to be subject to further costs than initially stated. DK (Clerk) requested clarity on why the PC is required to fund this work given SCC is the authority responsible for highways and the required actions are necessary due to a combination of a design fault and the road collapsing. EB said she would follow up with the Highways staff and report back.

Manor Road: Clerk highlighted the view of several residents who had contacted the PC with concerns regarding both volume and speed of traffic using this road as a 'rat run' to avoid the roundabout junction with the A12 at Dobbies (B1079/A12). He commented that traffic surveys did not always reflect the true experience of local users. Suggestions for residents were for a speed limit for the whole length of Manor Road, a 'no entry' sign at the junction of the B1079 and Manor Road, or 'access to Hasketon only' signs to reduce traffic using this road.

IW had responded previously pinpointing specific areas of concern and commenting on the speed survey results which can be misleading and is open to interpretation.

The PC deliberations concluded improving visibility at the junction of Blacksmiths Road and Manor road would assist, in addition to footway improvements and extending the 40 mph speed limit for the whole of Manor Road.

Clerk to respond to Keith Sampson, SCC Highways, who is preparing a submission to the Police for their comments.

ACTION - Clerk

9. Finance:

i. Annual Returns: 2020-21 The Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2020-21 Part 2 has been completed, and the necessary documents displayed and submitted to the external auditor, PKF Littlejohn, as instructed. An acknowledgment has been received and HPC have complied with the necessary regulations.

ii. Summary of Accounts since 8th July 2021. Copies of the accounts have been previously circulated. The current account balance stands at £3591.02 and the Savings account £38651.39. These figures include significant earmarked sums for the play area and Victory Hall improvements, plus other necessary maintenance works i.e War Memorial railings, tree surgery et al. it was resolved to accept and approve the accounts summary as presented.

Proposed – AT
Seconded – JW

iii. Approval of Invoices and Transfer of Funds. Outstanding invoices amount to £801.95 as shown on the accounts summary page plus a further invoice for £60.00 has been received from SALC (Clerk training modules) on 8th August which is not shown on the summary but is due. Invoices for payment are as follows;

Clerk salary (July/August)	£417.30
Clerk Expenses /Admin costs to 3/9/2021.....	£177.90
(this includes the Quiet Lanes postage costs and replacement battery fitting to Laptop)	
SALC invoice (x2)	£120.00
Iain Whyte (Paint /Brushes for Bus shelter repainting)	£51.04
Iain Whyte (play repairs/Fencing)	£95.71

Total£861.95

Clerk recommended a transfer of £2000.00 from the savings account to the current account, and if the tree surgery and play area costs were undertaken before the November meeting a further transfer may be necessary. It was resolved to accept and

- iii. Approval of Invoices and Transfer of Funds.
approve the invoices and transfer as presented. Proposed – AT
Seconded – JW
- iv. Financial Control Check. The accounts have been checked by SD and certified as correct
- v. Clerk Matters. a) AM confirmed GW and DK work in tandem for a two month period to assist with the handover of Clerk and RFO responsibilities.
b) It was resolved that the current payroll arrangements with SALC would continue with GW. GW has the relevant forms and these should be returned to SALC asap. **ACTION - GW**
c) 2021-22 Pay Award. DK advised that the Unions have rejected the most recent pay offer and no agreement has yet been reached. When agreed the award will be backdated to April 1st 2021.

10. Planning:

- i. Planning Application DC/21/3846/PN3 – Conversion of a Barn to form a dwelling. Oak Tree Farm, Chimney Pot Lane, Hasketon. Clerk advised that the PC had previously received notifications for an PN3 application for two Barns and subsequently another for one barn. The assumption is this application is an application for the other barn. It was resolved to offer no objections. Proposed – AT
Seconded - SD
- ii. Clerk provided updates on previous applications and appeals. Clerk advised this information was not to hand.

DCllr CH and CCllr EB left the meeting at 7.10pm.

11. Village Amenities and Events:

- i. Allotment Report. SB reported one of the allotments has not been tended for some while and she is unsure if the current tenant will renew the tenancy.
- ii. Play Area Report.
a) Annual Safety Inspection. SB reported the Safety Inspection had been carried out this past week. IW commented several minor repairs were needed and would probably show up in the report however some of these were already in hand. He reported he had completed some cleaning of the equipment and has purchased the fencing materials for the necessary fencing repairs. Play area improvements were still in abeyance and IW will update the schedule of improvements and repairs that he prepared prior to COVID. The playhouse is popular with small children and suggested we purchase an area of Astro turf to place underneath the house to stop the ground becoming so worn. It was resolved to authorise up to £150.00 for the purchase of said Astro turf. Proposed – IW
Seconded - SD
In respect of new equipment two pieces of equipment had been mentioned to him, a spider swing and roundabout. He would investigate costs. **ACTION – IW**
- iii. Victory Hall Report. IW reported the hall was reopening and would soon be fully functional again. The refurbishment of the kitchen is under consideration again. **ACTION- IW**
- iv. Defibrillator. IW reported this has now been registered with The Circuit, The National Network and connected to the East of England Ambulance Service.
- v. Centenary Hedge Plaque. SB and IW have agreed a position for the plaque on the Play area end of the Victory Hall. **ACTION – SB/IW**
- vi. Tree Management. DK reported he has not yet been able to engage a Tree Surgeon to carry out the required work. AT offered to ask one of her contacts. **ACTION – Clerk**
- vii. Car Parking /Amenities area. IW reported that the tarmac area outside the Victory Hall, which is PC property, is breaking up and would need replacing soon. He will

- vii. Car Parking /Amenities area. (cont'd)
obtain quotes.

ACTION – IW

- viii. Footpaths. SD reported some paths have been cut whilst others appear to have been ignored. AT asked who has responsibility for hedgerow abutting footpaths. Clerk advised this is usually the landowner adjacent but the property deeds will usually indicate on who owns the hedge.

SD will check with SCC regarding why some paths are cut and others not.

ACTION – SD

- ix. War Memorial. DK reported he was still trying to find a painter to repaint the railings. IW suggested approaching Bridge Works regarding possibility of powder coating. DK will investigate.

ACTION – Clerk

- x. Benches. Nothing to report.

- xi. Bus Shelter. Paint and brushes have been purchased and IW and SD will undertake work as soon as time permits.

ACTION SD/IW.

- xii. Village Fete. IW reported a successful venture especially give the damp conditions. It was well supported and almost £2200 profit was made which made it a worthwhile event.

12. Highways:

- i. Traffic Issues – B1079 and Manor Road.

Refer to minute 8 of these minutes.

- ii. Potholes. SB advised that she had reported holes in Blacksmiths Road, Church and Pinnars Lane. Three had been repaired quickly the others not considered bad enough Yet and will be checked periodically.

Other Cllrs reported that whilst some repairs had been completed a few metres further down the road others had been left.

13. Quiet Lanes Scheme:

SD reported that things appear to be moving slowly at present possibly due to a change of personnel at the SCC end. Locations of signage has all but been agreed and we are awaiting installation.

14. To Consider Various Amendments/Consultations to Proposed Sizewell C Development:

DK reported there appears to be a steady stream of communications from the various groups concerned with the Proposed Sizewell C development, all of which are circulated to Councillors, the latest being the Water Consultation, various changes notified by the Planning Inspectorate and an event on the 19th September at Sizewell Beach organised by Stop Sizewell C. The PC has submitted its relevant comments and have not felt it necessary to make further comment.

15. East Suffolk Community Partnership:

This group currently have a consultation/survey amongst residents regarding traffic speeds and the DK has completed the survey reflecting the ongoing issues in Hasketon Parish (B1079 and Manor Road).

16. Grants:

Information regarding available grants has been circulated to Councillors and also posted on Hasketon Happenings, when relevant to local groups. Community Action Suffolk has advertised Suffolk Community Restart grants that is available to the voluntary sector organisations and clubs, at www.communityactionsuffolk.org.co.uk

17. Festival of Suffolk:

To celebrate the Queens Platinum Jubilee in 2022 communities are being encouraged to plan appropriate events and are inviting local Community Leaders to join an information webinar on either 28th September 2021 or 30 September 2021. AM will attend.

ACTION – AM

18. Training:

GW is undertaking an online Clerk training course with SALC which will cost £25.00 per session (plus VAT). She has completed two sessions and has two others to complete. Approval is requested for this training. It was resolved to approve this training.

Proposed – JW

Seconded – RB

19. Correspondence. (Lists attached)

Two items of correspondence received since between 4th and 9th September were raised by DK.

1 – A request from Suffolk Accident Rescue Service (SARs) for donations. It was resolved to make a donation of £50.00 to SARs.

Proposed – AT

Seconded - SD

2 – DK drew attention of Councillors to a number of correspondences received relating to an ongoing dispute involving an ex-Parish Clerk (not this Parish) and another organisation which he felt they should be alerted to in case they are contacted.

20. Date of next Meeting and close:

Thursday 11th November at 6.30pm in the Victory Hall, Tymmes Place, Hasketon.
The Chairman closed the meeting at 7.56pm.

Signed;**Chairman. Date**.....

David Keeble
Parish Clerk

