

**Annual Meeting of the Parish for Hasketon Parish**  
**on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2023 at 6.10 pm**  
**Final Minutes**

**Present:** Stuart Dack Chairman (SD), Parish Councillors (PCllrs), Niki Field (NF), Iain Whyte (IW) (Vice Chairman), and Steve LECKIE (SL), (Hasketon Parish Clerk).

Also present were County Councillor (CCllr) Elaine Bryce (EB) and District Councillor (DCllr) Colin Hedgley (CH).

There were no members of the public (MOTP) in attendance.

**1. The meeting was opened** at 6.10pm by the Chairperson who welcomed everyone to the Annual meeting of the Parish.

**2. Apologies for absence:**

Apologies were received from Ann Turner (AT) and Chris Everson (CE), due to work commitments.

**3. Minutes of the last Annual Meeting of the Parish:**

Minutes from the 2022 had been previously circulated. SL indicated the outgoing chairperson had endorsed the minutes prior to his exit, however they were accepted by the meeting on the night.

**4. Chairman's Report and Finance:** (Attached)

In Summary SD welcomed the Parish to hear his first report as Chair of Hasketon Parish Council.

He referred to the sad passing of the late Queen which occurred during his first meeting and that it had been a busy year with 6 full council meetings and 5 extraordinary meetings at which we have reviewed and commented on 22 planning applications.

He noted a meeting with Philip Ridley Head of Planning, to better understand why some of our objections had been overruled. This was a productive and informative meeting. He extended ongoing thanks to District Councillor Colin Hedgley for his continued support, advice, and guidance.

He referenced the installation of a commemorative bench and picnic table on the village green/car park. The bench was placed around the newly planted oak which was in support of the Queen's Green Canopy initiative. 'We are truly grateful to local resident Charlie Ralph who kept the tree watered'.

In the light of the cost-of-living crisis, particularly in the cost of electricity and fuel the Council set up a warm room initiative with the church. The village hall was opened for free once a week as an opportunity for villagers to meet and socialise in a warm space. He thanked all the volunteers who gave up their time to supervise these sessions, and the Hasketon breakfast club returned every other Sunday morning with a lot of hard work.

The Council agreed to subsidise the individual cost of breakfasts. It was very well supported and the cost to the council was just over £2000.

Further to our aim to improve the amenity of our village there has been a programme of planting spring bulbs and rewilding areas of the green and plans to establish a community orchard. There is an ongoing rewilding scheme with help from villager Nicola Coe.

A comprehensive picture of the 40 footpaths that crisscross the village, and which can be enjoyed by many villagers and visitors daily has been clarified. Several improvements have already been made from replacing signage to clearing paths.

The Council are now registered with the Information Commission.

Our financial position remains very strong, and stated he was pleased that it was unanimously agreed to keep the Council Tax precept the same as in previous years, which in effect is a year-on-year reduction. The Council supported the following Charities with small donations; SARS - £50 St Elizabeth Hospice - £50 Citizens Advice East Suffolk - £50. Later in the year the Council welcomed a new councillor, Chris Everson.

Looking to the future, the Council remain committed to improving the recreation area, car park and providing financial support to improve the village hall access and kitchen facilities. However, some frustrations remain; The B1079, speeding and water leaks remain unacceptable. County Councillor Elaine Bryce is committed to assisting in these issues.

SL gave an overview of the End of Year Accounts (period 01/4/2022 to 31/03/2023)

Clerk reported an overall balance of £28637.91; being £25115.47 Savings account and £3522.44 current account. The amounts also include approximately £2500 CIL monies which have yet to be allocated.

**5. Comments/Questions from Residents:**

None Present

**6. Close of Meeting:**

There being no other business the Chairperson SD declared the annual meeting of the Parish closed at 6.20 pm

Signed: .....CHAIRMAN

Date.....