

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF HASKETON PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON 9th January 2025

At 6.30 pm in the Victory Hall, Tymmes Place, Hasketon, Suffolk

Final Minutes

Present: Stuart Dack Chairman (SD), Parish Councillors (PCllrs), Ann TURNER (AT), Councillor William HELM (BH), Niki Field (NF), William Longe (WL) and Steve LECKIE (SL) (Hasketon Parish Clerk).
County Councillor Elaine Bryce (EB).
There were 2 members of the public (MOTP) in attendance.

1. **Welcome:** Chairman SD opened the meeting and welcomed those in attendance.
2. **Apologies for Absence:** Apologies were received from Councillors Beccy Batley (RB), and District Councillor Dan Clery (DC), which were accepted.
3. **Declaration of Interests:** None declared.
4. **Minutes from Previous Meeting:**
HPC mtg 21/11/24 prev. circulated, were accepted, and approved as a true record and initialled by the Chairman (SD).

5. **Matters Arising from the Previous Minutes:**

211124 Hasketon Parish Council Meeting

Item 12 Village Amenities and Events:

- vii. Benches – Two new benches obtained. Proposed to add two new Plaques. SL agreed to complete the purchase. SD proposed a sum of £200 be allocated to cover the costs.

ACTION – CLERK.
STILL OUTSTANDING

Item 12 Village Amenities and Events:

ii Play Area

SD proposed a subcommittee for future development of the play area. NF and SL to meet outside of the Council meetings to further provisional plans.

ACTION – SD
STILL OUTSTANDING

iv Tree Management – Quotes to be obtained by SL for potential tree survey and cutting. RB offered to provide a potential provider.

Quotes in process for next two weeks.

ACTION – CLERK.

v Car Park/Amenities area – Hedgerow still required to be cut.

Being chased through ESSL.

ACTION – CLERK.

vii Benches – One new bench to be bolted in place by IW in the near future, currently in the play area.

ACTION – CLERK//IW
STILL OUTSTANDING

6. Invitation to Members of the Public to speak:

MOP spoke about the imminent closure of B1079 Grundisburgh Road from Pinnars Lane. EB stated it was a UKPN closure. WL was aware of UKPN works due to upgrade of systems. MOP queried the publishing of accounts and whether draft copies could be issued before the Parish meetings? SL explained that no accounts were published till they had been verified, and this occurred upon receipt of bank statements in the week before the meeting. SD stated he was happy with current system but asked if advice could be sought from SALC.

ACTION - Clerk

MOP queried whether spending money on the Play Area was the best use of the Parish Councils money? SD explained that a subcommittee was set up to discuss these options but stated he welcomed the input of parishioners. A leaflet drop or stand at the Village Fete may assist this process.

There was a query about the Air ambulance and SD indicated a contribution had been made by the Council. SL indicated that the air ambulance had agreed to provide sessions in the use of life saving techniques including the DeFib. WL stated he was interested in the training. IW indicated there had been some demonstration at last year's Fete. WL indicated there was no Defib at Grange Farm shop and SL proposed the Parish should support a new device at that location. SD supported this and tasked prices to be obtained and presented at the next meeting.

ACTION - Clerk

Speed was another issue raised on the B1079 and EB stated she supported possible road restrictions. She again stated it was £8-10000 for a traffic regulation to be enforced. There was general discussion about SAVID and ANPR advice letters. EB agreed to speak to highways regarding Police mobile cameras. It was agreed that the top of Pinnars Lane was a vulnerable location.

ACTION - Clerk

7. Report from District Councillors: DC not present but his report has been circulated.

8. Report from County Councillor: EB gave an overview of her report which was circulated. She stated the council has launched an online consultation to explain its current financial position and give Suffolk residents an opportunity to share their views on proposed Council Tax changes and spending priorities.

One of the main issues was devolution which was subject of the County Council meeting. This was about a government reorganisation to deliver a plan for the best method of delivering a Public Service. This would mean a combination of Norfolk and Suffolk. There needed to be cost savings through economies of scale.

She indicated that there was money from the Locality Budget that was to be used for flood water works at Top Road but there was no current timescale. There would be investigations before initial work.

NF spoke regarding warm homes and spoke about the possible use of Heat cameras. AT stated she may be able to obtain equipment and would report back on their use. SD stated there would need to be control of the devices.

9. Planning:

- i. Updates on previous applications:
DC/24/2250/FUL - Redundant Agricultural Buildings at Shimmens Lot, Boulge Road, Hasketon, Suffolk. This application had been approved despite objections at the referral Committee meeting. SL indicated he had not been informed of the meeting, but it was not a requirement. SL had liaised with Councillor Colin Hedgley.
- ii. Planning constitution changes affecting how you respond to Planning Applications.
SL Indicated he had circulated an email regarding advice circulated re comments to be submitted regarding planning applications. SD felt the Parish currently provide comments in line with the suggested guidance.

9. Finance:

i. Summary of Accounts since 24/11/24 (attached)

Clerk reported an overall balance of £14925.22 being £10321.58 Savings account and £4603.64 current account.

It was resolved to approve and adopt the accounts as presented.

**Proposed SD
Seconded IW**

Accounts

Clerk confirmed the accounts had been checked and approved by AT

ii - Approval of Invoices and transfers.

Online invoices amounted to £1236.41 + 408

**Proposed SD
Seconded IW**

DATE	C/DD/OL		To Whom Paid	.	
28/11/2024	OL	SD	steve LECKIE [CLERK]	PAY (NOV 24)	242.85
28/11/2024	OL	SD	steve LECKIE [CLERK]	EXP 03	81.9
28/11/2024	OL	SD	Rebecca BATLEY	REMBRANCE WREATH	20
03/12/2024	OL	SD	EAST ANGLIAN AIR AMBULANCE	CHARITY DONATION	100
09/12/2024	DD	DD	TESCO	MOBILE PHONE	9.56
17/12/2024	OL	SD	steve LECKIE [CLERK]	PAY (DEC 24)	341.3
17/12/2024	OL	SD	HMRC	QUARTER 4 EMP CONT	188.8
17/12/2024	OL	SD	PKF LITTLEJOHN	AUDIT INV	252
DATE	C/DD/OL		To Whom Paid	.	
09/01/25	DD	DD	TESCO	MOBILE PHONE	9
09/01/25	OL	SD	ESSL	GRASS CUTTING	399

Unpaid invoices:

Admin/Clerk Expenses (period 21/11/24 TO 09/01/25) **£46.80** which covers mileage.

It was resolved to approve the invoices for payment.

**Proposed – IW
Seconded – NF**

iii. Draft Budget for 2025-26.

Provisional draft figures were presented by SL who explained that the predicted expenditure for 2025/26.

PRECEPT		9135		
VAT	557.2	600		
ALLOTMENTS		140		
EARMARKED RES			7000	
SPEND	2200			
BUDGET 25-26			13483	
INTEREST		140		
CURRENT	4603.64	2400		
SAVINGS	10321.58	10360		
	14925.22			
		22775	20483	2292

iv Precept 2024-25

The Clerk SL stated that a precept of £9,134.73 had been requested and acknowledged.

vii AGAR update – SL: The AGAR results were now published from PKF Littlejohn. There were no discrepancies noted. The noticeboard and web site were updated.

vii Personnel Matters.

vi Clerk matters.

i. Online accounting update

SL gave a presentation on accounting software to support the AGAR and VAT returns giving greater flexibility electronically and with total reliability.

Emails had been circulated and SL stated he felt Scribe was the best option with Cloud access. He presented costs and there was consensus that this was a step forward for the Council.

Proposed – AT
Seconded – IW

ii. HMRC authorisation

SL stated he had given access to SALC to deal directly with HMRC through a code set to the Chair.

11. Government consultation on remote attendance:

i. **SLCC Response to the issue.**

SL indicated he set an email regarding the support by the SLCC for remote attendance. SD was not sure how this would fit in with public attendance, but SL indicated it may allow them to 'dial in' also to the meetings.

NALC had also reported support on the issue.

ii. **SLCC response required 'Strengthening the Standards and Conduct Framework For Local Authorities in England'**

SL indicated he set an email regarding the proposals which requested a response to this consultation by 26th February 2025. The SLCC had also sent a reminder for Councils to respond with views.

12. Village Amenities and Events:

i. Play Area

It was suggested that the Parish Fete could be used for further consultation. SD added that no work would be undertaken without support and that the Council sought the most appropriate solution.

ii. Allotments- SL fees had been received and that there was still one allotment vacant.

ACTION – SD

iii. Village Hall – SL stated he had consulted with IW prior to the meeting concerning the Defib that needed new pads and that usually the battery was replaced at the same time.

ACTION – CLERK.

The dishwasher issue was raised again but IW stated the stance was the same about service of the equipment. AT indicated there had been an offer to provide that support. Further consultation required before agreement.

iv. Tree Management – Quotes in progress by SL for potential tree survey and cutting.

ACTION – CLERK.

v. Car Park/Amenities area – Hedgerow still required to be cut but being chased by SL. Lighting options still under discussion but options had now been proved for potential

ACTION – CLERK.

vi. Footpaths –BH reported concerns on Footpaths 25 as trees down. BH agreed to report the slippery slope and possible steps at Blacksmiths Road.

There was general discussion regarding the sheep that had been mauled by a dog in the village. Sd suggested possible display of Country Code posters. AT suggested more specific signs directed at owners of dogs which was supported by WL. IW stated that landowners had a duty to protect stock possibly with an electric fence.

vii. Benches –One new bench to be bolted in place by IW in the near future, currently in the play area. See Item 5.

ACTION – CLERK//IW

viii. Bus Shelter/noticeboard- PENDED

ix. War Memorial- PENDED

ix. Grit Bins – PENDED

xi. Rewilding -NF stated the local parishioner who had been advising was leaving the village but had suggested some more wildflowers. Crocuses were also suggested for the area. Grass cutting was sought earlier for the wild areas. Wildflowers in the local churchyard were sought as a source of possible seeds. A further flower bed is to be planned near the Victory Hall.

ACTION – NF

13. Highways:

- i. Bus service proposals
SL updated the email concerning the proposals put forward by Bredfield Parish Council concerning a potential bus service. The main issue seemed to be the funding of the potential project. There was a consensus of support.
- ii. Speed Data.
This was discussed at point 6 but SL indicated an email had been forwarded concerning the submission of speed data for the Road Safety Forum.

14. Grant Requests:

- i. Air Ambulance update – See item 6.

15. Suffolk Cloud:

SL indicated Suffolk Cloud would continue its support but had been absorbed by a larger consortium. An email had been circulated prior to the meeting.

16. Training:

SL indicated the item was the offer of training for our new councillor if required. SL provided some literature for consultation by WL.

17. Direction of policing in Suffolk – Consultation

SL indicated he had circulated an email regarding a request from the Suffolk Police and Crime commissioner to give your thoughts on the plan before it is formally adopted. The consultation is an opportunity for councils and residents to express views on the draft plan and assure you all views and comments will be considered. The consultation will run until 9am on Monday 20 January 2025.

18. Date of Next Meeting and close 13/03/25 close 20.53 hrs

Signed:Chairman. Date.....

Steve LECKIE Parish Clerk