

Annual Meeting of the Parish for Hasketon Parish
on Thursday 8th May 2025 at 6.00 pm
FINAL Minutes

Present: Iain Whyte (IW) (Vice Chairman), Parish Councillors (PCllrs), Ann Turner (AT), William HELM (BH), Will Longe (WL) and Steve LECKIE (SL) (Hasketon Parish Clerk).

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

1. The meeting was opened at 6.00pm by the Vice Chairperson who welcomed everyone to the Annual meeting of the Parish as the Chairperson was absent and resigned.

2. Apologies for absence:

Apologies were received from Stuart Dack Chairman (SD), and Councillor Niki Field (NF).

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

Minutes from the 2024 meeting had been previously circulated. SL indicated chairperson had endorsed the minutes last year, however SL gave an overview, and they were accepted by the meeting on the night.

4. Chairman's Report and Finance:

IW read the Chairman's report in his absence.

I begin with an apology. Due to an unfortunate clash of diaries, I am sorry that I can't be with you this evening.

It has been a relatively quiet year following last year's activity improving the drive and planting around the village hall. However, we had our usual 6 full parish council meetings held bimonthly and 3 extraordinary meetings. There were just **9 planning applications** in the last 12-month period relating to our village. These applications can be viewed at East Suffolk Plannings website. Just search Hasketon and all applications will come up. In addition, we also commented on and supported Bredfield Parish Council in their objection to a development at The Old Forge Bredfield. This application has been under consideration for over a year and was finally refused this year. The applicant has since appealed to the Planning Inspectorate, and we await their decision. We continue to make our objections clear primarily around the potential volume of commercial traffic that would use the lanes through Hasketon rather than try to cross the A12.

We have this year continued to improve the amenity of our village and it was wonderful to see last years planting of daffodils in full bloom in March/April.

We have had a few issues with **grass and hedge cutting** this year and we apologise that the car park, play area and village hall areas have not looked their best at times this last 12 months. Timing of cuts and poor communication by the contractor have led us to search for and appoint a different contractor who we hope will suit our needs better.

The **annual village litter pick** resumed this year. We haven't held this event since COVID. About 10 volunteers and 3 dogs turned up to help and 6 bags of rubbish were collected. This was quite heartening, not much rubbish in the village but a fair bit on Manor Road and Blacksmiths Lane. Thank you to everyone who helped out and to the Parish Clerk, Steve for organising.

I am pleased to report that we have purchased **2 new benches** to replace the 2 commemorative benches that have unfortunately weathered beyond repair. One is in place in the play area with the second yet to be placed near the notice board. Plaques have been ordered to ensure we continue to commemorate the respective families.

The defibrillator just by the front door of the village hall has been replaced with a newer version. We have made a £100 donation to the Air Ambulance, and they gave an offer of First Aid training which we are currently looking into.

The Emergency Contingency Plan mentioned last year has now been finalised and we are most grateful to everyone who has stood up to be contacted in the event of a village wide emergency. Hopefully we will never have to implement any part of it.

I would remind and encourage everyone to **report any defects** they may come across on the roads, footpaths or with road signage. It is simple to do via [Suffolk County Council - Report IT](#) A photo is always useful and usually helps speed up any decision to repair.

Regards **Parish Council matters**, Steve our Parish Clerk has continued to modernise the way we operate. Since moving to Online banking payments have been so much easier and quicker. He has now also adopted a local council specific software accounting system which will further simplify and make more efficient the various reports and accounts we need to produce. There is also a national consultation underway which may allow Parish Councils to adopt remote meetings. This method was used during the COVID lockdowns, and we believe will make it easier for villagers to attend a meeting from the comfort of their armchair rather than coming to the village hall in person. We await the outcome from Government of the consultation.

We have had a couple of **changes in Councillors** this period; Chris Everson resigned as a councillor in May last year and Will Longe joined us as a Councillor in Nov 24. We are very grateful to both for their time and commitment to the village. Councillors are all volunteers, and our focus is simply to do what is best for our village and residents.

I am pleased to also report that we have made **2 donations** this financial year.

- Air Ambulance £100
- The Parish Magazine £120

As we look forward **the next 12 months**, the council will continue to focus on the areas we feel will benefit the village the most.

- Continue the planting programme around the village hall
- Play Area – consider and develop an action plan for this amenity which now needs some work
- Continue to look at traffic management ideas. Specifically speed monitoring on the B1079 and possibly in parts of the village

Of course, **we would welcome your thoughts and opinions**. If you can, please do come to a meeting. Dates are published on our website; www.hasketonparishcouncil.gov.uk. Our next full meeting will be on 10th July at 6.30pm.

I will be standing down as Chair and as a Councillor from this meeting. I have enjoyed serving the village for the last 6 or 7 years but it is time to hand over to someone new.

I will finish by sincerely thanking all my fellow Councillors for their time and support over the years. I want to thank Steve our Parish Clerk who has made my job as Chair much easier.

The Parish Council then stated they would be sending their thanks through a card and personal gift via the services of Councillor Ann Turner.

SL gave an overview of the End of Year Accounts (period 01/4/2024 to 31/03/2025)

Clerk reported an overall balance of £10848.55; being £6358.09 Savings account and £4490.46 current account.

VAT to be claimed for a year is £1037.34. Total spend £12369.38.

5. Comments/Questions from Residents:

No comments.

6. Close of Meeting:

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

Signed:VICE CHAIRMAN

Date.....