

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF HASKETON PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON 13th November 2025

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

Final Minutes

Present: Will Longe (WL) (Chair), Iain Whyte (IW) (Vice Chairman), Parish Councillors (PCllrs), William HELM (BH) Ann Turner (AT), Martin SMITH (MS) and Beccy Batley (RB), and Steve LECKIE (SL), (Hasketon Parish Clerk)

There was 1 member of the public (MOTP) in attendance.

1. **Welcome:** WL Chair opened the meeting and welcomed those in attendance.
2. **Apologies for Absence:** Apologies were received from Councillors Niki Field (NF), County Councillor Elaine Bryce, and District Councillor Dan Clery (DC), which were accepted.
3. **Declaration of Interests:** None declared.
4. **Minutes from Previous Meeting:**
HPC mtg 04/09/25 prev. circulated, were accepted, and approved as a true record and initialled by the Chair (WL).
5. **Co-option of Parish Councillor:** SL introduced Martin Smith to the Parish Council, and the Clerk SL gave an overview of the expected role of a councillor. He then explained there were certain forms to be completed and handed some information out.

6. Matters Arising from the Previous Minutes:

OUTSTANDING FROM PREVIOUS

130325

13. **Highways:**

i) Speeding – BH addressed EB concerning progression of the speeding issues both in Hasketon and in particular on the B1079. EB again agreed to support and an application and together with BH to organise a meeting with Highways to progress the issue.

RESULT: BH and Clerk to follow up with EB via email.

040925

8 **Report from District Councillor:**

Reports received and circulated. DC gave an overview of his report and took questions. He highlighted the Westerfield quarry action group, where it was anticipated 100 lorries would be travelling to and from the quarry. He stated there were other sites available for the commodity in Essex and that the Council had a plan for the next 20 years which catered for our needs. Therefore, the materials would need to be sold elsewhere. Routes have been fixed into Ipswich (A1214) then to Martlesham. Other routes are also possible. The quarry would operate between 7.30 and 5 Pm. It was agreed that WL (Chair) would draft a letter of support for the stop the quarry campaign.

ACTION:WL

RESULT Email sent by WL

11. Planning:

- i. To Consider Planning Application: DC/25/3067/FUL
Proposal: Installation of a Portakabin
Site address: Premises, Grundisburgh Road, Hasketon, Woodbridge, Suffolk IP13 6HJ

ACTION - Clerk
RESULT: GRANTED

At a meeting of the Hasketon Parish Council on Thursday 4th September 2025 it was resolved to offer no objections to the proposal.

The Council would like to seek reassurance that the following conditions are adhered to

2.0 Amount and Layout

2.06 The existing trees and hedges which surround the existing site provide a substantial screen to the premises when viewed from Grundisburgh Road. Previous applications have failed to accurately comply with this aspect.

3.0 Scale and Appearance

3.03 The walls are to be decorated grey with the windows and doors being white. In order to limit the impact on the skyline.

12. Village Amenities and Events:

Allotments- Clerk SL spoke about a possible grant for water on the allotments- East Suffolk Field to Fork scheme.

AIMS: Increasing the number of people engaging with new or existing local allotments, community gardens, green spaces or equivalents that offer the ability to grow produce.

Increasing the amount of locally grown food within the East Suffolk food system by producing it in your growing space and distributing it.

Broadening people's understanding of how to use fresh produce in their day-to-day cooking.

He considered the water supply issue, but opinion was that there were alternatives to a direct supply and NF produced a self-help option idea.

ACTION: Clerk to investigate this option.

RESULT – CLERK made application for external funds see also item12ii

Bus Shelter – see later item

14. CADENT Road Closure: - see later item 13iii

ACTION – Clerk/WL
RESULT item 13iii

19. Meeting with Patrick Spencer MP:

WL covered an email received by the Clerk concerning a visit to the Parish to meet parishioners. He gave an overview of the current discipline issues hanging over Mr Spencer. However, it was felt that he should be offered an opportunity to give a presentation and an

offer to visit the Parish. WL stated he was aware other areas were also providing opportunities, and the specific request did not prevent the offer.

ACTION:WL
RESULT Email sent
no further response

20. DONATION:

- i. SARS – RESULT – Donation made see later item.

ACTION - Clerk
RESULT:Monies sent

7. Invitation to Members of the Public to speak:

BH introduced a MOP who was proposed as an additional tree warden to the Parish Council. [Dr Debbie Verrill]. She spoke about her personal work in tree planting and conservation. It was unanimously agreed to accept her in the role supporting BH. SL obtained personal details.

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

9. Report from County Councillor: EB not present, but report to be circulated upon receipt.

10. Planning:

- i. Updates on previous applications: See item 6
- ii. 3 modern dwellings on agricultural land Hasketon Road, Burgh.

SL gave details because of an email sent to the Clerk. General discussion about application. Clerk directed to ask which Parish received the application Currently pending. DC/25/3431/OUT - Outline Application - Use of land for the erection of a phased development comprising 3 x No. dwellings and formation of vehicular accesses.

ACTION – CLERK.

- iii. Call for sites – East Suffolk Local plan.

SL stated that work had begun on a new East Suffolk Local Plan, with work planned to begin in 2025 and adoption of the Local Plan anticipated in 2029.

The new Local Plan will set out a spatial strategy seeking to ensure that future needs are met, identifying sites for development and setting policies against which applications for planning permission are determined. The new Local Plan will replace the Waveney Local Plan adopted in 2019 and the Suffolk Coastal Local Plan adopted in 2020, which both plan for the period up to 2036. The Local Plan will plan up to at least 2044.

This includes undertaking a Call for Sites, through which we will invite submissions of land to be put forward for consideration for allocation in the Local Plan. This is the very start of the process, and later decisions on preferred site allocations will be informed by a range of evidence and assessments and consideration of a strategy and vision for the plan, as well as by public consultation which will be undertaken during preparation of the plan. The submission form and associated guidance can be found here <https://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/new-local-plan>

The Call for Sites will take place from Monday 20th October 2025 until Friday 9th January 2026, and we will be undertaking a range of publicity and communication at the start and

during the Call for Sites.

There was general discussion about the possibilities in the future within the Parish.

11 Finance:

i. Summary of Accounts since 25/09/25 (attached)

Clerk reported an overall balance of £13594.19 being £11571.99 Savings account and £2022.20 current account.

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

**Proposed WL
Seconded RB**

Accounts

Clerk confirmed the accounts had been checked and approved by AT

ii - Approval of Invoices and transfers.

Online invoices SINCE 040925 amounted to £2182.12.

YEAR TO DATE £7735.59

**Proposed SD
Seconded RB**

Unpaid invoices:

Admin/Clerk Expenses (period 10/07/25 to 040925) £70.20 which covers mileage.

Admin Costs:

06/10/25	McAfee	Subscription and VPN	YEARLY		£109.99
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A further invoice for Fence rails and screws was presented for £34.14 by Councillor Iain Whyte.

It was resolved to approve the invoices for payment.

SL -CLERK requested transfer of funds £2000 to balance the accounts

It was resolved to approve the invoices for payment and the transfer.

**Proposed – WL
Seconded – BH**

iii. Draft Budget for 2025-26.

SL Clerk/RFO gave the following comments and recommendations:

The predicted expenditure for 2026/27 is anticipated at £14570.
[+10% £16027]

This is currently £1087 more than 2025-26, due to the higher estimated costs for grass and hedge cutting services.

The indicative expenditure for 2025-26 is estimated to be £11600 which is under budget forecasting.

The current HPC account balance is £13594.19

The HPC precept application for 2026-27 will be £9,372.

The balance for 2025-26 together with the predicted income for 2026-27 will mean a potential total of £12700 + £9612 = £22312.

This will mean the budget will be within the recommended balance of 2.5 times the annual precept: £9,372 [predicted] x 2.5 = £23430.

None of the Draft earmarked sums which amount to £7000 have been spent during this financial year. These are one-off capital expenditures i.e. Play area upgrade, Village Hall Upgrade, and other earmarked reserve expenditures.

These figures do not include potential grants during the forthcoming year.

£22312 - £14570 = £7742. The council should retain a balance of approximately 20% which means the Earmarked sums should be no more than £5420.

iv. Precept 2024-25

The Clerk SL gave the following details:

Having reviewed the Council's tax base for the coming year, the tax base for Hasketon Parish Council will be 189.33 Band D equivalent properties.

This means that if your precept requirement was to be the same as for the current year 2025/26 (i.e.£9,134.73), this would result in a charge of £48.25 for a Band D property and this charge will show as -2.53% change on the 2026/27 Council Tax bills against the Parish element.

If the Parish Council wished to keep its tax charge the same as 2025/26 (i.e. £49.50) which would show as a 0% change on the 2026/27 council tax bill, a precept of £9,371.84 would need to be requested.

At present, the Government has not indicated that there will be any council tax referendum limits for town and parish councils in 2026/27.

There was discussion about the pros and cons of an increase. The Council expressed concerns that money needed to be justified but there was a common agreement that there should not be a negative charge.

SL stated he had made enquiries with East Suffolk Council and as stated above there was no limit to possible increase. Various possible increases were discussed but at this time there was no agreement. SL indicated the deadline for submission was after the next meeting in January 2026 and that serious thought should be given to the matters.

A 4.99% increase would mean a return of £9840 – new charge £51.97 which would result in an increase of £705.

It was resolved to approve a precept in January 2026

vii SALC – SL stated subscription fees would increase by 3% in April 2026 and Internal Audit fees would be £237 for a standard audit for the Parish [less than £25000]. SL also advised that SALC were struggling to obtain auditors and the Council would need to be prompt to secure a place.

vii Personnel Matters. – Nothing noted

12. Village Amenities and Events:

i. Play Area Report.

a) Repairs- ROSPA report.

SL indicated he had emailed the ROSPA report [MS given explanation of process] and explained the risk Matrix. He emphasized the issue of liability regarding the report. IW gave his concerns about some of the reporting. He pointed out that some issues could not be resolved due to age and other points were clearly health and safety issues. It was agreed to visit the site and access what need to be done to remedy some of the items.

ACTION – MS/IW

b) Maintenance contract

SL indicated that there was a proposal to appoint two maintenance personnel as discussed last year. WL indicated he knew the persons, but the issue was personal liability. SL tasked to research costs and possible cover. In principle the idea was sound.

ACTION – CLERK.

c) Subgroup meeting.

Nothing to progress till assessment completed. General agreement that new equipment would be very costly and not necessarily what is required at this time

ii. Allotments – Water initiative/maintenance

SL gave an overview of research carried out in relation to a water supply project. He stated that WL had indicated the two persons known to him could do the construction. It was assessed that the material and labour would probably be about £1200. SL to request external funding and present at the next meeting. It was agreed that if funds became available that work should commence as soon as possible to capture rainfall.

ACTION – CLERK.

SL reported some damage caused by a tractor servicing the rear of a property in Tymmes Place noted by An Allotment user. Damage not permanent. Discussion about the possible use of new hedgerow as a boundary.

iii. Bus Shelter/noticeboard and village sign

IW gave an overview of costs and materials and was directed to carry out the relevant repairs as soon as possible on the bus shelter.

ACTION – IW.

iv. Victory Hall

IW stated nothing to report at this time.

v. Amenity Area/Car Park – grass/hedge cutting

SL stated last grass cut had been made this year and hedge cutting was due.

vi. Benches

Bench in play area still outstanding as a replacement on the corner of Tymmes Place.

vii. Trees – new purchases

BH stated new Hedgerow and saplings available. Some replacement required for existing hedgerow and new trees in car park area which had died.

viii. Footpaths/Public Rights of Way/Bridlepaths- Suffolk mapping project.

SL indicated he had forwarded an email re digital mapping and in particular for BH. He explained that Suffolk County Council has reached a major digital milestone in putting the county on the map. It has completed the Definitive Map and Statement (DM&S) consolidation project, using modern background mapping to prepare the updated legal record of public rights of way (PROW) such as footpaths, bridleways, and byways in Suffolk.

ix. War Memorial - Nothing to report

x. Grit Bins

SL bins should have been filled; however, they had not been checked. Some clearance around the bins may be required

xi. Rewilding – Updates

NF had sent an email concerning a colleague at the University of Suffolk who is running FREE community workshops to build bat recorders.

They provide all equipment and lead the workshop, and participants go home with a bat detector that connects to your smartphone. She believed that there were lots of bats in the village and that people who would be interested.

She requested funding for hall hire for 3 hours. She stated she would organise it for an evening in January probably.

It was agreed to fund from the existing budget for rewilding

ACTION – SL/NF

13. Highways:

i. Speeding- SL stated there had been no progress regarding the issues of speeding despite some good work by councillor BH. Both would continue to progress their contact with County Councillor EB. WL indicated just prior to the meeting he had received an email from her with apologies. WL agreed to pursue efforts to meet with her outside of this forum and together with BH progress the matter.

SL gave an overview of the issues for the benefit of new Councillor MS.

ii. Highways survey rural transport survey/forum

The next session is on Wednesday 19th November 11-12pm and will cover the topic of Winter Maintenance.

SL also indicated that the latest Drainage and Flooding recording and slides of the session are now posted on the dedicated Suffolk Highways page.

iii. Cadent

SL gave an overview of the plans for the repair to the high-pressure Gas main. He stated he had attended meetings with WL which had resulted in liaison with local businesses. CADENT had offered compensation to local businesses but communication had broken down with the Public House. Meeting are being held every Wednesday at the Victory Hall but attendance of parishioners had been very light.

A gesture of good will had been offered to compensate the community and SL asked what the council would like to do. He was unaware whether monies could be offered or an actual fixture. The amount was also not specified. SL indicated AT had ideas for the Emergency Funds. There was also discussion about Defibrillators.

It was agreed that fencing of the green was still an expensive item and was asked to seek an offer of financial help.

ACTION – CLERK.

14. Hasketon Fete 2026

WL requested the item to try to start potential planning for next year as he felt it was an important event for the community. IW gave an overview of the issues which had resulted mainly from a lack of general support as it was quite labour intensive. There was common agreement that the Parish should try to make every effort to support the event and progress this in the new year.

15. Emergency Planning:

AT unfortunately exited the meeting prior to this item due to personal commitments but had indicated that she had attended an online session relevant to the new plans. To be addressed at a future date.

ACTION – AT.

16. Training:

SL offered training for new Councillor MS, which he indicated could be done online through SALC. WL expressed an interest in similar training and also additional training for the Chair. SL stated he would provide dates via email.

ACTION – CLERK.

17. Charity:

i. Donations: - Citizens Advice/Headway

SL gave an overview of requests previously circulated.

Amounts were given consideration, and it was unanimously agreed to donate £100 to each charity.

Proposed IW

Seconded RB

ACTION – CLERK.

ii. Letter of thanks - SARS - Clerk SL indicated an email had been received of thanks and read from it.

18. Rural Services Network:

SL indicated he had directed an email prior to the meeting for rural services. The Rural Services Network brings you the latest developments affecting rural communities, from fair funding and digital inclusion to SEND reform and youth opportunity. These stories highlight both the challenges rural areas face and the action being taken to deliver real change. The email contained a link for a digital membership covering relevant articles for rural communities.

Membership includes access to extensive publications packed with invaluable resources including our funding digest, as well as our exclusive meetings and events.

19. East Suffolk new trading policy:

SL indicated that various consultations have been undertaken with town and parish councils working towards a new Street Trading Policy for the East Suffolk district. This new policy has now been approved by the Licensing Committee and will soon come into effect.

With publication of the notice due in the next few days, and for the statutory period of at least 28 days following that publication to pass, the policy will take effect from **1 December 2025**.

The effect of the policy is to require persons to obtain consent from East Suffolk Council to trade on consent streets for purposes of a community event only, and to prohibit street trading on prohibited streets with effect from 1 December 2025.

The new policy can be found on our website which contains details of the consent and prohibited streets – <https://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/business/licensing/other-licences/street-trading/>

For those of you that would usually submit an application for a 'single event street trading licence' for events such as Christmas market or town food festival, you will now have to apply for a Consent as part of a community event.

SL stated this had been previously circulated by email.

20. Date of Next Meeting and close: 08/01/25 close 21.00HRS

Signed:Chair. Date.....

Steve LECKIE Parish Clerk