

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF HASKETON PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON
Thursday 12th March 2026

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

Final Minutes

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

County Councillor Elaine Bryce.

There were 4 members of the public (MOTP) in attendance.

1. Welcome and Housekeeping: Mtg was chaired by the Vice Chair who opened the meeting and welcomed those in attendance.

2. Apologies for Absence: : Apologies were received from Will Longe (WL) (Chair), Councillor Niki Field (NF), and District Councillor Dan Clery (DC), which were accepted.

3. Declaration of Interests: IW declared that he would abstain during Planning Application DC/26/0642/FUL Due to its proximity to his residence.

4. Minutes from Previous Meetings: HPC mtg 08/01/26 prev. circulated, were accepted, and approved as a true record and initialled by the Vice Chair (IW).

5. Matters Arising from the Previous Minutes:

Vice Chair expressed concerns regarding this item. SL explained he had revised the items to show results but could circulate prior in a table format.

131125

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

****RESULT: see item 12ii a) It was agreed that a site meeting would be arranged between new maintenance staff and IW/MS to produce a working plan.**

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.

**** RESULT: IW stated he had obtained paint and timber was still being pursued. The work would completed shortly.**

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.

****RESULT: See item 18. A draft plan had been completed by AT who attended a course. It would encompass some templates down to household level. The document would be restricted, but awareness of it would be published via the web site and local media. SPOCs would be identified.**

MATTERS ARISING

191225

i. Play Area –

SL proposed that Parish appoint two maintenance personnel as discussed last year. WL had indicated he could recommend suitable candidates. SL stated that as liability was no longer an issue a contract should be offered for an initial 2-month contract for works.

It was resolved to approve a contract to be issued by the Clerk.

**** RESULT: Clerk had confirmed he had met two workers who would be given contracts to carry out the work required.**

ii. Allotments-

There was discussion regarding the water project proposed to make the area self-sufficient. SL stated the request heard earlier and agreed in Principle by EB should cover the costs. SL proposed the workers contracted for the Play area would be suitable candidates for construction. SL indicated he planned to request £1200.

BH then asked about Hedgerow, and it was agreed that a suitable use of the plants would be skirt the allotments and provide natural cover in the light of the recent damage caused by a vehicle crossing the area.

****RESULT: BH had visited the allotments and planted new shrubs and strimmed the redundant plot awaiting the new water project.**

080126

vii. Trees –

Quotes to be obtained. IW requested a heavy cut on the hedge at the rear of the Victory Hall.

ACTION – CLERK.

****RESULT: hedges cut and quotes being obtained. Clerk recommended the current suppliers for the work.**

6. Invitation to Members of the Public to speak:

A MOP expressed concerns regarding the Emergency Planning document and AT gave an overview of the next steps to be carried out. They went on to say they had concerns over the current Oil crisis and the implications for vulnerable residents. They expressed concerns that the general public had not been properly consulted regarding the Planning alliance document. they had made contact with the council who stated it was a first draft although it may not change.

2 MOP gave an overview of their plans as per item 9i. Members of the council asked questions regarding the proposal.

7. Report from District Councillor: DC not present – report circulated and post on the website.

8. Report from County Councillor: EB gave an overview of her report and spoke about Budgetary matters for statutory services. [77p on mandatory services leaving only 23p for the remainder] Eb confirmed elections would take place and she was standing for re-election. She thanked the council for their support. SL asked if monies granted by her would be forth coming and she stated that they would be made available. SL explained that the project couldn't take place without funds but was worried as the financial year was nearly over. Eb then stated she had pushed highways regarding the speeding issues on the B1079 after a meeting with them and WL. EB had been told the road complied with regulations and that police statistics did not support a change in the sped limit. She stated the regulatory framework met the needs. She then spoke of a document which proposed some highway changes which had been forwarded to the Clerk SL displayed the map and EB stated she would agree to fund this work but it had to be agreed by the Hasketon Council. BH challenged EB stating this really didn't address the issue and queried why traffic marking needed to be paid from an external budget. EB stated that highways funds did not cover this work. EB stated a simple project took 5 Years to come to fruition.

A general discussion took place by the Parish Council, and it was agreed that we should take the offer of the grant from EB to conduct the remedial work on the B1079. It was agreed to assess the outcome in the future months.

BH gave an overview of the damage caused by the recent diversions from the B1079 and impact on local residents. He requested a meeting with highways to discuss future plans. EB stated to the impending election she would attempt to organise this but stated it may have to wait.

There was discussion about the relevant signage and BH suggested a possible one-way system. IW asked how the issue could be escalated and EB stated she would pursue the matter.

9. Planning:

i) To Consider Planning Application: DC/26/0642/FUL

Proposal: Construction of 1no. self-build dwelling including creation of new vehicular access and parking area

Site address: Gull Farm, Low Road, Hasketon, Suffolk, IP13 6JQ

Following general conversation by the Council – **COMMENTS BY HPC**

At a meeting of the Hasketon Parish Council on Thursday 12th March 2026 it was resolved to offer no objections to the proposal.

ii) To Consider Planning Application: DC/26/0652/FUL

Proposal: Retrospective Application - Construction of a small shed

Site address: The Granary, Mill Lane, Hasketon, Woodbridge, Suffolk IP13 6HQ

Following general conversation by the Council – **COMMENTS BY HPC**

At a meeting of the Hasketon Parish Council on Thursday 12th March 2026 it was resolved to offer no objections to the proposal.

iii) To Consider Planning Application: DC/26/0349/FUL

Proposal: Two new outbuildings and new vehicular access

Site address: Bridge Cottage, Mill Lane, Hasketon, Woodbridge, Suffolk IP13 6HE

Following general conversation by the Council – **COMMENTS BY HPC**

At a meeting of the Hasketon Parish Council on Thursday 12th March 2026 it was resolved to offer no objections to the proposal.

iv) To Consider Planning Application: DC/26/0350/LBC

Proposal: Listed Building Consent - Installation of wood burning stoves, new flue liners into the existing chimneys and formation of a new bathroom within bedroom 3 (inc new partitions)

Following general conversation by the Council – **COMMENTS BY HPC**

At a meeting of the Hasketon Parish Council on Thursday 12th March 2026 it was resolved to offer no objections to the proposal.

ii) Updates on previous applications:

DC/25/4567/VOC

Redundant Agricultural Buildings at Shimmens Lot, Boulge Road, Hasketon, Suffolk.

Application Refused

DC/26/0056/FUL

Installation of 20 solar panels to the rear (south facing) roof of the Grange Studio. The Grange Studio, Grundisburgh Road, Hasketon, Woodbridge, Suffolk.

Awaiting decision

iii) Planning Reforms Consultation: SL stated he had sent two emails relating to this issue and requested that the Council should read the survey which shared a summary of the Government's proposed planning reforms. There is now a short blog bringing together the key points, outlining the current consultation, and explaining how parish and town councils, and parish meetings, can engage if they wish. The consultation presents an opportunity to help shape changes that may have significant local implications.

10. Finance:

i. Summary of Accounts since 08/01/26

Clerk reported an overall balance of £13739.09 being £9628.80 Savings account and £4110.29 current account. Online invoices SINCE 08/01/26 amounted to £1422.78 YEAR TO DATE £10327.51 / VAT £700.88 to date.

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

**Proposed MS
Seconded IW**

Accounts: Clerk confirmed the accounts had been checked and approved by AT.

ii. Approval of Invoices and Transfer of funds.

Admin Costs: Admin/Clerk Expenses (period 08/01/26 to 120326) £70.20 which covers mileage.

**Proposed MS
Seconded AT**

iii. Adoption of Internal Control Report: The Clerk SL gave an overview of the document. ACTION checked and approved by AT. The clerk has sent part one to WL which is the Chair section of the document for approval and signature. This needs to be countersigned by the clerk.

iv. Audit Arrangements 2026-27 – process due Later in March

Clerk (SL) indicated unless there were any objections he advised the council to pursue this through SALC.

It was unanimously agreed, and costs advised that would be £237. [email previously circulated]

**Proposed AT
Seconded IW**

Clerk (SL) indicated AGAR [annual governance and accounting return] would follow the internal submission via Littlejohn.

v. Clerk matters.

a) Tesco mobile Clerk (SL) stated he had secured a new contract for 2 years which meant a £9 monthly charge would mean a slight reduction in costs.

b) Electoral role Clerk (SL) indicated he had obtained an electronic copy of the electoral role for the Parish that had to be kept secure.

c) Locality Budgets Clerk (SL) as previously stated had applied for a grant through EB. This was awaited but would amount to £1200.

d) Big Ticket Ideas – Pended for Chair.

e) Date change – Clerk (SL) stated he had to make a change of date for the **Annual meeting - 08/05/26 [Friday]**

f) Section 137 Clerk (SL) stated the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government has advised of an increase in the Section 137 expenditure limit for parish and town councils in England for the 2026/27 financial year. The new limit is **£11.60** per elector, up from **£11.10** in 2025/26.

The increase reflects the percentage rise in the retail price index between September 2024 and September 2025, in accordance with Schedule 12B of the Local Government Act 1972.

Section 137 of the Act allows parish and town councils to incur expenditures for purposes that benefit their communities when no specific statutory power is available.

11. Village Amenities and Events: Updates only

i) Allotment Matters: See item 5. Also there had been concerns over dogs being walked across the area. Agreed to place a sign at the entrance. Trees to be trimmed on the border.

ACTION: Clerk

New tenant now in place. BH suggested an incentive to develop the use of the land. Perhaps a youth element. Plans to be considered.

ii) Play Area

a) Refurbishment Plan – See item 5 and SL stated he had reviewed the Sizewell C Community Fund and felt the Parish should apply for funding for the fencing required. One side would exceed £10000. IW indicated roadside fencing needed repairs, which would be new wooden posts.

ACTION: Clerk

iii) Victory Hall – SL stated communities were being encouraged to choose sustainable transport with new grant scheme and East Suffolk Council is inviting organisations to apply for funding towards cycle parking in their local community.

The Community Cycle Parking Fund is offering grants of up to £1,000 for the purchase and installation of new or upgraded cycle parking facilities. SL stated he would make an application.

ACTION: Clerk

SL asked MS if he had considered a Bicycle station that had been proposed by a local resident. MS stated he was aware of the type but had not reviewed this item. MS stated as we were on Cycle route one it was a good proposal. SL stated the resident had stated they were aware of a possible grant.

ACTION: Clerk

iv) Tree Management- SL stated quotes were being obtained for the new financial year but felt last years providers were very good.

v) Amenity/Car Park area. SL stated that nothing had ben done about the damaged rope. It was agreed to remove the rope and leave the posts in place.

ACTION: Clerk

vi) Bus Shelter/noticeboard and village sign: IW to complete works.

vii) Benches: IW to remove old bench from corner of Tymmes Place and replace with bench from play area.

viii) Footpaths – BH Nothing of note

xi) Grass cutting/Hedge trimming SL stated contract needed to be renewed. Agreement to continue with current contractor who had stated prices to remain as this year.

ACTION: Clerk

xii) Rewilding and other initiatives: pended

12. Highways:

i) Speeding – See Item 8 and Suffolk Parishes Road Safety Group – SL gave an overview of an email sent concerning these matters. SL directed this issue to BH. The group was formed in 2025 so that parish and town councils throughout Suffolk could connect and join forces over road safety issues. One suggestion is for neighbouring parishes to submit joint applications for 20mph speed limits on specified roads in their parishes (not a blanket 20mph limit) and share the legal costs of the Traffic Regulation Order and any other administrative costs.

ii) Traffic management: See item 8

iii) City Fibre Road closures: SL stated that he had published details of road closures – Mill Lane 21/04/26 to 08/05/26.

iv) Suffolk Highways - Town, Parish Council & Parish Meeting Survey – SL gave an overview of an email sent concerning these matters. And stated Suffolk Highways and SALC invite you to take part in the Town, Parish Council & Parish Meeting Survey, which has been developed to help us better understand how we can improve communication, support, and service delivery for your council. Please complete the online survey by **30th April 2026**.

13. Annual Insurance renewal: SL indicated quotes in the process at this time. SL requested the opportunity continue with provider if the quote was as close to within 10% as other providers charged for extra services.

**Proposed IW
Seconded AT
ACTION – Clerk**

14. Litter Pick: Date agreed for 26th April 2026 provided SL could obtain equipment and publish the event.

ACTION – Clerk

15. Training: SL asked if training had ben completed by MS. He stated he had been unable to make the sessions and asked if there any during the day. SL believed all sessions were online in the evening but would check with SALC; he expressed an interest in pursuing the sessions.

16. Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (often referred to as NSIPs) SL stated SALC has partnered with the experts at POS Enterprises to create a clear, easy-to-follow fact sheet. This document sets out the key changes, the practical impacts for local authorities, and the opportunities and challenges ahead. SALC has revised its dedicated guidance on NSIPs, this resource can be accessed via a link sent to Councillors by email.

17. Emergency Planning: AT gave an overview of the work carried out to date. She was now using templates down to household level. The Plan was to be restricted with SPOCS of Hasketon Parish Councillors. See item 5.

18. Code of Conduct: SL stated that SALC were publishing new code of conduct documents and he had forwarded via email to the Council the first draft. The first factsheet in the series provides guidance on Apologies for absence and disqualification. A series of six Code of Conduct factsheets will be issued on a bimonthly basis, creating a set of reference documents for clerks.

19. East Suffolk Design Code Engagement Workshop: SL stated that following the recent East Suffolk Council Town and Parish Forums, Councillors are invited to take part in an upcoming engagement workshop to help shape the future Design Code for East Suffolk.

East Suffolk Council has now begun the first stage of engagement for this important project. A Design Code is a planning document that sets clear, practical rules to ensure high-quality development across the district. It can influence everything from the design of homes and streets to public spaces and the wider environment.

At this early stage, we are seeking insights from communities, town and parish councils, elected members, professionals and council officers.

Online workshop 18/03/26 7.30pm to 9pm.

20. SIZEWELL – SL stated an email had been directed concerning the latest works regarding the construction and an overview had been received concerning the Community Fund team – see item 11ii a.

ACTION – Clerk

21. CHARITY - Supporting Lighthouse Women's Aid: It was agreed to make donation of £50.

Proposed AT

Seconded RB

ACTION – Clerk

22. Meeting with Patrick Spencer MP: WL dealing with these matters but in principle a meeting would be organised later in the year.

23. Date of next meeting and close: ** CHANGE OF DATE Friday 8th May 2026 Mtg of the Parish [6pm] and Annual meeting of the Parish Council [6.30]

Mtg closed 9.05pm.

Signed:Chair. **Date**.....

Steve Leckie
Hasketon Parish Clerk