

MINUTES OF MEETING OF HASKETON PARISH COUNCIL

held on 10th September 2026

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

Draft Final Minutes

Present: Will Longe (WL) (Chair), Parish Councillors (PCllrs), Iain Whyte (IW) (Vice Chairman), Martin Smith (MS), Bill Helm (BH) and Steve LECKIE (SL), (Hasketon Parish Clerk).

Candidate: Stacey Robinson (SR)

Also present was District Councillor (DCllr) Dan Clery (DC) and County Councillor Elaine Bryce (EB)

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

1. **Welcome and Housekeeping:** Chair WL welcomed everyone in attendance.

2. **Apologies for Absence:**

Apologies were received from Councillor Beccy Batley (RB), which were accepted.

3. **Declaration of Interests:** None

4. **Co-option of Parish Councillor:**

Clerk SL explained that there was still a vacancy was available for co-option by the Council as the candidate proposed by BH had withdrawn for personal reasons immediately prior to the meeting and stated Councillors should give thought to suitable candidates before the next meeting.

A further identified candidate was present who was approached after the last Council meeting.

There was full agreement on the proposal

As a result, it was resolved to co-opt Stacey Robinson to the Parish Council.

Clerk SL gave forms for acceptance of office to the new councillor and explained the next steps of registration.

5. **Minutes from Previous Meeting:**

Minutes of meeting - Parish Mtg 25/07/25, previously circulated, were accepted, and approved as a true record and initialled by the Chair (WL).

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

7. **Invitation to Members of the Public to speak:**

MOP asked was there any proposals of a local plan as there was not one in place. SL indicated this had been discussed but at this time it was felt it was a costly and time-consuming project with not too much to gain. SL indicated they were aware Bredfield and Bealings did have a plan, but they were bigger areas. The MOP questioned what was to stop places such as Shimmens Lot being developed again. IW indicated this was outside the development area and would have to be addressed at the time of proposal. There was only one area in the village that was a possible area for development.

8. **Report from District Councillor:** DC gave an overview of his report and took questions. He stated Local Government reorganisation had been paused. He commented on the refuse bin issue stating it had not been well planned BH made reference to bins being left on roadsides being a safety issue and unsightly. WL asked whether recycling was actually being carried out. DC stated it was a County Council issue and EB stated people were welcomed to attend the recycling centre at Great Blakenham. DC stated East Suffolk Council had made a poor response compared to some areas. SR stated fly tipping had risen but there was a good response to it. WL said there needs to be a rebuilding of confidence.

9. **Report from County Councillor:**

EB spoke about concerns for officers who had spend time on the reorganisation alongside their current roles. She spoke about energy saving grant that were available. The Westerfield Quarry issue awaited an independent economic assessment costing £50000. The next steps were due on 20th October 2026. The proposals are having impact on local projects and Public House etc would be affected if the go ahead was given EB stated there was no demand locally for the products. EB indicated her Locality budget had been cut. EB spoke about emergency plans in the light of the undue climate issues. WL commented on the future food issues faced by farmers and EB agreed food inflation will be a problem. WL asked what the official line was about emergency food stocks. DC stated there was an emergency plan in place by East Suffolk Council and more information would follow.

10. **Finance:**

i. Summary of Accounts since 02/07/26 (attached)

Clerk reported an overall balance of £18862.73 being £16550.51 Savings account and £2312.22 current account.

Online invoices SINCE 02/07/26 amounted to **£2779.96**

YEAR TO DATE £6085.37

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

**Proposed WL
Seconded IW**

Accounts

Clerk confirmed last month's accounts had been checked as agreed and approved by AT, however the Clerk had yet to receive confirmation of this month. This would be forwarded as soon as received.

ii Approval of Invoices and Transfer of Funds.

Admin Costs:

Admin/Clerk Expenses (period 020726 TO 100926) £71.50 which covers mileage.

It was resolved to approve the invoices for payment.

MCAFEE due 051126 £114

SL -CLERK requested transfer of funds £1000.

**Proposed WL
Seconded IW**

iii - Clerk matters

a) PAY AWARD and review.

SL advised the pay awards had been agreed for the financial year but required approval before payment could be applied to his salary.

It was resolved to approve Local government pay award for the Clerk

**Proposed BH
Seconded AT**

b) Clerkdesk.co.uk [Recording].

Clerk SL gave an overview of an offer to record the agenda and produce an electronic typed copy. The cost was £190 per year. He indicated there was a thirty-day trial available and it was agreed to test the system at the next meeting if possible.

c) National Lottery Awards.

Clerk SL stated that research indicated these grants were applicable to the Council for potential projects with the offer of between £300 and £20000. The programme is open with no fixed deadline but allow at least 16 weeks for a decision and apply before starting or spending. There was agreement that this should be considered.

11. Planning:

i. **To Consider Planning Application:** DC/26/3002/FUL

Proposal: Single storey kitchen / family room extension & 2-Storey entrance / bedroom extension

Site address: Home Farm Cottage, Blacksmiths Road, Hasketon, Woodbridge, Suffolk, IP13 6JA.

**ACTION – Clerk
RESULT: SEE BELOW**

After careful consideration it was resolved to offer no objections to the proposal.

ii. Update on previous applications; None

iii. Consultation Planning Application SCC/0170/25SC: Item discussed but no response required as it relates to a drainage issue within the plans in the Martlesham area.

11. Village Amenities and Events:

Prior to this meeting the Chair asked for updates from Councillors with responsibilities. SL received these updates and stated he will maintain and produce a relevant document with these summaries prior to future meetings.

i. Allotments

Clerk gave an update on the preparations for the new water project. WL stated access has now been granted for preparation of the ground. Work had been hindered by the lack of access.

Clerk stated a letter had been received by an allotment holder concerning dog fouling on her allotment. She requested the chance to fence her allotment. It was unanimously agreed that this was allowed and the clerk would contact her. Clerk showed signs that had been purchased to restrict access of dogs. It was agreed that a fence would be constructed across the bottom of allotments 1 and 7. This was to be wooden posts and wire mesh.

ACTION: CLERK and IW

ii Play Area

Annual Safety Inspection – Clerk SL indicated the ROSPA inspection had been postponed till the new year as work cleaning and maintenance had not been completed. This work would take place when water restrictions were removed. IW stated he would complete remedial work on swings etc.

SL indicated he had received an email from the potential fencers of the area, and the quote had not increased. He reminded the Council that money had been allocated for this work, but it was still insufficient for the complete project.

IW to purchase posts to repair wooden fencing.

ACTION: IW

iii Village Hall

IW stated exterior painting completed of the Hall as well as bus shelter.

He also indicated work needed doing to install crate soakaways to take water from the Hall roof. This work will cost more than £5000. SL asked if a similar system proposed for the allotments could be used. IW to give it further consideration in the light of costs.

iv Tree Management

BH stated it has been a very harsh summer for our young trees and hedges. In the village, the car park oak and the trees on the Victory Hall green are unscathed thanks to SR who has been watering them regularly. The playground hedge that received new plants last year has done remarkably well with a few good waterings.

The saplings in the car park area have struggled and a few of them will need replacing this winter. He advised that it would probably be best to avoid Silver Birches which are going to have a hard time from now on.

Clerk SL indicated he had approached the family who had prosed a memorial tree.

They had agreed to support the first year of growth and provide the tree and plaque.

WL suggested that it could be an Arbutus (Strawberry Tree) , and it was agreed that a location near the Hall would be appropriate.

ACTION: CLERK

v Car Park/Amenities area

BH indicated a casual meeting with a local parishioner had brought about a potential offer of assistance to support development of the area and possible hard stands for bikes racks. This person was a ground contractor for Sizewell.

ACTION: BH assisted by IW

vi Footpaths

BH reported the usual vegetation overgrowth this season but wayside pruning by users has helped to keep our footpaths open. FP23, which runs from Bealings Lane past Thorpe Hall on Grundisburgh Road has needed some emergency attention and FP17, which at a distance curve to the left of Witchpit Farm and Bredfield House, continues to be difficult. The broken footbridge on FP16 has not been replaced but the bridge on FP19 running up to Hasketon Manor, has been. The erosion of FP37 which runs up past Lantern House awaits attention.

vii Benches

IW to complete bench installation on the corner.

viii Bus Shelter

IW indicated that it had been painted.

SR reported unsociable use of the shelter by young persons believed between 18-25 years. It mainly occurs between Thursday and Saturday. The matter has been reported to the Police.

ix Re wilding – pended

x Fund Raising

SL raised this as a new area of responsibility to make best use of offers and schemes that are received. There were no volunteers at this time to take sole responsibility and SL stated he will continue to pursue these schemes.

13. Highways and Transport:

i. Traffic Issues.

There was general discussion about the difficulty around 20mph schemes. EB stated she was happy to further discussions with Highways. SL indicated that there had been no consultation for the A12 plan in relation to local traffic management. IW indicated the new A12 proposals would cause big issues in 2027. BH stated there will be more speeding through the village. IW asked should there not be a challenge to the difficulties in acquiring a 20mph limit? EB stated it should be easier, but it was a government level issue.

EB asked does the community want a scheme and what is realistically achievable?

14. Thriving Places Investment Fund:

Clerk indicated East Suffolk Council were encouraging community-led organisations to share Expressions of Interest for the opportunity to receive support from the Thriving Places Investment Fund.

The Thriving Places Investment Fund was launched in May, it supports projects that strengthen local communities, improve access to services and create more vibrant, inclusive and resilient places across East Suffolk. Open to community and voluntary organisations, charities, not-for-profit organisations, town and parish councils and village hall committees for the second round of funding, grants are available for projects that deliver against one or more of the fund's four priority areas:

The fund offers capital grants of between £10,000 and £50,000 or revenue grants of between £5,000 and £25,000. Applicants can request up to 70% of total project costs, with the remaining 30% provided through match funding.

Expressions of interest are now open until Monday 7 September, with applications for this round open from Monday 14 September until Friday 23 October.

15. Pear Space:

Clerk SL gave an overview of the potential upgrade of the website for Hasketon at a discounted cost of £150 instead of £300. He also gave an overview of a potential bolt on which is called 'Fix My Street' which provides links to local issues raised within the community on other media. This comes at a cost of £18 per month.

IW expressed concerns over current material. SL stated the new site also provided a summary of minutes abbreviated version. Email to be recirculated re the potential change.

ACTION: CLERK

16. SALC Super Forum:

SL indicated SALC has a Super Forum, taking place on Thursday 17th September at 7:00pm via Zoom.

The first item on the programme will be to elect the Chair and Vice Chairs of each area forum which makes up the representatives to the SALC Board. **SALC Representatives webpage** has further information about these roles. It welcomes councillors and clerks onto the board.

17. Remembrance Tommy statues:

SL gave an overview of an email concerning memorabilia for Remembrance Celebrations. At this time the Parish Council felt this was not the best use of funds and gave consideration to a future donation direct to a relevant charity.

18. Emergency Preparedness and Building Community Resilience Webinar:

Clerk SL stated that there was a Emergency Preparedness and Building Community on 1st October 2026 Resilience Webinar between 1700-1800 which needs an online application. It is a closed session and access only with a link. He encouraged an application.

WL gave a brief overview of his experience with the work being done locally. He asked DC what effect planning had at the recent Westleton fire issue. DC stated that he was not aware of the complete results, but the central location had been used to coordinate parishioners' issues. WL stated more work need to be done and that the local plan was a living document.

In May WL stated he had attended East Suffolk Council's Rest Centre training which explained how, in an emergency, rest centres are set up to provide temporary accommodation while a situation is being sorted out and either residents can return home or be found longer term accommodation. WL also indicated Ministers had spoken about the need to stockpile food in case of power cuts during a potentially stormy Autumn and Winter and, in July, a defence exercise to test resilience following a possible Russian cyber-attack on the UK has caused media speculation on further reasons to stockpile food and resources.

19. Meeting with Patrick Spencer MP:

WL stated together with BH and SL he attended a meeting with Partick Spencer MP in Mid-August to discuss the parlous state of road management in our area. Highlighting the impact of frequent closures on side roads due to people not following the official diversions, business disruption and distress to residents. BH spoke of virtually zero engagement from Suffolk Council over the issue and has it on record after a freedom of information request that they do not keep records of incidents caused by diversions or road closures. BH has documented the impact of the Jan/Feb Road closure of the B1079 on the lanes used by traffic avoiding the closure. The same road closure had cost the businesses at Grange Farm £30,000 in lost sales. The MP promised more engagement and correspondence will be led by the Clerk in ongoing issues.

It was concluded the Council needs to provide the MP with a six-point reasoned evidential business case to progress road issues.

20. Remote meetings:

SL stated NALC renewed its call for remote and hybrid council meetings on 19 August, but the legal position has not changed. Formal parish and town council meetings in England must still be held at a single physical place, so current venue and attendance arrangements are to remain in place until legislation is made.

SR stated she felt remote attendance was not necessarily a good way forward.

21. DONATION:

Ormiston Families.

SL gave details of an email request from this charity and offered the opportunity to make a donation. There was general discussion about whether this was appropriate and MS asked what donations had been made to date and how much was allocated. SL stated no monies had been allocated from the £300 budgeted amount, and it was for the council to decide upon recipient's dependant on the rulings of Section 137. A decision on payments to charities was deferred until the next meeting.

22. Date of Next Meeting 12/11/2026 – meeting closed at 9.10pm

Steve LECKIE Hasketon Parish Clerk.

Signed:Chairman. Date.....