

HOXNE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Monday 7 December 2009
at Hoxne Playingfield Pavilion at 1930 hours

Present:

Cllrs Philip Flagg (Chairman), Michael Knights, Rod Searle, Ted O'Connor, Michael Procter, Victoria Williams, Kate Leith, Stuart Jarrold, Vivienne Bradford and Sarah Foote (Clerk).

1. Apologies

Cllr John Brawn. Cllr E Gibson-Harries (Mid Suffolk District Council).

2. Order of Business

Councillors were content with the order of business as set out in the agenda.

3. Declarations of Interest

None.

4. Confirmation of Minutes

The Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 2 November 2009 were amended, agreed and signed as correct by the Chairman and Clerk.

5. Public forum

No one present.

6. Planning applications and notifications

Determinations:

The following determinations had been received

Ref: 3046/09 – Kingswood, Low Street - Cut down two cherry trees and cut back a hornbeam – permission granted

Ref: 1538/09 - Alteration and conversion of outbuilding to form residential annexe for use ancillary to Fir House – permission granted.

Planning Applications:

The following planning applications were considered:

Reference	Location	Proposal
3164/09	Land to the rear of Claret House, Nuttery Vale	Erection of four dwellings and garages (submission of reserved matters – scale, layout and landscaping – pursuant to outline planning permission 4011/07)
Councillors viewed the detailed plans and had no objections. It was proposed to support the application. Unanimously agreed.		
3327/09	Eye Airfield, Castleton Way, Eye	Scoping Opinion proposed wind turbines.
Councillor Searle explained a response had already been submitted to MSDC, based on the individual comments received from Councillors. The response letter was read to the Council by the Clerk. All content.		
3511/09	Woodlands, 50 Low Street	Reduce 6 No. Sycamore trees by 50%. Remove the front stems to 1 No. Sycamore tree. Remove 1 No. Eucalyptus tree and reduce 7 No. Silver Birch trees by 30%.
Subject to the consent of MSDC Tree Officer, it was proposed to support the application as routine maintenance. Unanimously agreed.		
1958/09	Gissings Farm, South Green	Retention of demolition following partial collapse of mid 20th Century hood porch over right hand front exterior door.
Subject to the approval of the MSDC Conservation Officer, it was proposed to support the application. Unanimously agreed.		

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3414/09	Longfields, Nuttery Vale	Erection of detached single garage (re-submission of 1245/09).
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Councillors were reminded of the previous application for a double garage which was objected to by the Parish Council, MSDC and refused on appeal. Detailed discussion took place around the new plans which Councillors felt had taken into account the previous comments made. It was proposed to support the application with the comment that 'the drains serving this property and neighbouring were protected during construction. The ridge height of the building should be no more than the garage at the adjoining property'. Unanimously agreed.

Other Planning Matters:

Workshop building at 6 Abbey Terrace – correspondence received from MSDC - still waiting for the Enforcement Officer from Mid Suffolk District Council to take a look. To chase for response by March 2010. *Action: Clerk.*

Questions were raised about the state of redundant farm buildings in certain areas of the village.

7. Nomination of School Governor

The Parish Council considered whether to nominate a Community School Governor. No nominations were put forward.

8. Highways

a. Road Safety Improvement Scheme Low Road/Oak Hill

Cllr O'Connor reported he had met with James Davidson from SCC Highways twice and the final kerb line of the build out was agreed. Work commenced today and will be completed within two weeks. A Road Safety audit had been conducted for Suffolk County Council by an independent contractor with which they were happy. Total cost to remain at £2150. *HOXNE PC*

b. Reinstatement of Nuttery Vale sign outside Holly House

Cllr Knights gave background to why the sign was missing. It is in MSDC possession and they will supply it to the Parish Council but do not have budget to erect it. Cllrs Knights and Flagg will arrange for the materials and erection of the sign once received.

c. Other

Cllr O'Connor also reported the Suffolk County Council Survey team had looked at Abbey Corner and will meet and come back with any suggestions which may range from a pedestrian area in the road to traffic lights. It was suggested by Councillors that the Parish Plan may inform what people feel about traffic issues and a community group could be formed to look at the problems which occur at the corner. Clerk to follow up, and possibly organise a meeting when Parish Plan results are available. *Action: Clerk.*

9. Brakey Wood

Cllr Flagg explained that parishioners Chris Johnson, Andy Bull, Roger Knight wanted to get involved in maintenance of the wood alongside the Woodland Trust and the Council had received a letter from Chris Johnson. Clerk to reply to letter to state that Parish Council supports ideas and will need copies of first aid certificates for insurance purposes. A councillor will need to be appointed to co-ordinate the work of the volunteers. Mr Johnson to contact primary school direct to progress any ideas of children visiting the woods and to ascertain the school's health and safety procedures. *Action: Clerk and Agenda next meeting.*

10. Meeting dates

Councillors considered the 2010 meeting dates. Councillors discussed the merits of holding the AGM in the Pavilion and not the Village Hall and the costs that could be saved. It was proposed to use the Pavilion and agreed (three votes for, two against and four abstentions). It was proposed by Cllr Knights that the AGM be held on Monday 24 May at the Pavilion and unanimously agreed.

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Clerk to book Village Hall for Annual Parish Meeting on Thursday 22 April and to provide Playingfield Pavilion contact with list of meeting dates. Meeting dates will also be published on noticeboards. *Action: Clerk*

11. Reports from the Chairman and Clerk

Cllr Flagg read letter of resignation from Cllr Tim Craven. Letter of thanks to be written by Cllr Flagg to note in particular; two terms of chairmanship, long service of over 25 years and unstinting commitment to the village and community projects. Cllrs were very saddened to accept this resignation, but were sympathetic to the reasons. *Action: Cllr Flagg*

35 feet of metal railings from former White Bridge are now in safe keeping. Cllrs were asked to consider possible future uses which would probably incur welding and sandblasting costs.

Affordable Housing Land Acquisition – Chair reported that he had spoken to Solicitor and was concerned about the costs being incurred. Overage concerns by Solicitor were explained to Council. It was also noted that the Parish Council does not want the liability of a boundary fence and will need to access to land. It was unanimously agreed that no costs beyond the Parish Council's own legal fees to be incurred and if the costs are likely to become excessive the Council may wish to reconsider the acquisition of the land. Clerk reported Orwell Housing were now happy for the name of Tudor Close to be released.

Church Hill – sign at top to be replaced by Suffolk County Council.

12. Correspondence

To note the following correspondence previously circulated for information.

- New Far East Travel Route 482 Bus timetable with effect 2 November 2009 *01.11.09*
- Chattisham and Hintlesham Parish Council dismissal of four National Grid options *2.11.09*
- Suffolk Acre AGM *6.11.09*
- Confirmation from Suffolk Records Office of recent deposit; 2002, 2003 – 2005 Minutes Book and Low St Village Green maps *6.11.09*
- Letter from Maynard Trust dated 4 November 2009 *6.11.09*
- Mid Suffolk District Council Mid Suffolk Messenger delivery request and Parish Council response *9.11.09*
- Mid Suffolk District Council Stowmarket Area Action Plan Development Plan document
- SALC notification of North Area Meeting at St Edmund's Hall on 17 November
- Clerks and Councils Direct November 2009 issue *18.11.09*
- Countryside Voice magazine – Autumn 2009 issue *18.11.09*
- St Edmund's Primary School – letter to request nomination for position of Community Governor *18.11.09*
- Consultation details – potentially suitable site for a new nuclear power station at Sizewell *24.11.09*
- Suffolk County Council changes to bus services in East Suffolk from Spring 2010 *24.11.09*
(italic shows date of circulation)

Comment was made with regards to the Maynard Trust letter of 4 November. Councillors had considered a report as attached. Councillors agreed it was important to seek a way of taking the Trust forward. Cllrs Knight, Searle, and O'Connor were nominated to hold an informal, exploratory meeting with the Trust. Chairman will contact J Ball, Chairman of the Trust, to arrange a meeting. Unanimously agreed. *Action: Clerk, Cllrs Searle, O'Connor and Knights*



13. Financial Matters and payments due

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Philip Flagg (Chairman)..... Sarah Foote (Clerk).....

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Report: A written report, as follows, of the Council's financial situation as at 7 December 2009 was presented to Councillors.

Community Account Balance £2583.22 (unpresented cheques £256.75). Total payments on agenda for approval £250.74. Forecast Community Account new balance £2075.73. Business Premium Account Balance: £8,191.45

Payments – it was unanimously agreed to pay the following:

- £250.74 Clerk's salary and expenses month ending 15 December 2009.

14. Consultations

Suffolk County Council changes in bus services - Cllr Williams volunteered to attend the Focus Group in St Edmund's Hall on Monday 11 January 2010.

Sizewell – Councillors will respond on-line with individual comments.

15. Reports

Parish Plan: Cllr Knight stated the full report will be with Parish Council during January. Would like to do presentation and will be in touch to arrange a date.

Village Hall: No report.

Playing Fields: meeting on 15 December.

SALC: Cllrs Bradford and Flagg attended area meeting. SCC gave budget presentation – hard year ahead. Eye Airfield issues discussed 1. Windfarm. 2. Incinerators 3. Chicken factory. Hartismere Hospital development phase 2 and 3 may not progress.

16. Matters of Report by individual Councillors

Cllr Jarrod - commented it was encouraging that the primary school planned a staff car park.

Cllr Procner – had attended neighbourhood watch meeting.

Cllr O'Connor – reported further egg throwing in the Goldbrook area and at Oak Hill Farm during the early hours of Sunday 6 December.

Cllr Brawn had asked for it to be reported that he still had concerns with regards to the electric fencing around Footpath No 7 to Downbridge Farm. Clerk to write Suffolk County Council Footpath's Officer again to express concern about the proximity of the electric fence, barbed wire and uneven surface and the unnecessary danger for people, particularly children, using the footpath. **Action: Clerk**

17. Urgent matters and matters for information

Cllr Flagg requested that the vacancy for Parish Councillor be advertised through the official channels. Clerk to contact Philip Tallent, Electoral Officer, at Mid Suffolk District Council.

Action: Clerk

Cllr Flagg stated at the last Parish Council AGM no one stood for the positions of Chair or Vice Chair. Cllr Flagg hoped that Councillors will want to come forward for these positions at the next AGM. Those that have been co-opted are not eligible to stand for Chair or Vice Chair.

Cllr Flagg wished everyone a happy Christmas and prosperous new year.

The meeting was closed at 21.37 hours.

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Hoxne Parish Council

Meeting Dates for 2010

(All to commence at 7.30 pm and take place at Hoxne Playingfield Pavilion unless otherwise notified)

Monday 4 January

Monday 1 February

Monday 1 March

Monday 29 March

Thursday 22 April Annual Parish Meeting (APM) at St Edmund's Village Hall

Monday 26 April

Monday 24 May Parish Council Annual General Meeting (AGM)

Monday 21 June

Monday 19 July

Monday 16 August

Monday 13 September

Monday 11 October

Monday 8 November

Monday 6 December