

HOXNE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Monday 1 March 2010
at Hoxne Playingfield Pavilion at 1930 hours

Present:

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

Also Present:

Cllr G McGregor (Suffolk County Council) (arrived 19.53 left 20.15), Cllr E Gibson-Harries (Mid Suffolk District Council) (left 20.15).

1. Apologies

Cllr John Brawn, Cllr Kate Leith

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 1 February 2010 were unanimously agreed and signed as correct by the Chairman and Clerk.

5. Public forum

Meeting adjourned 19.35

Suffolk Police – PCSO Long had reported, before the start of the meeting, one burglary of shed at the sewerage works off Wittons Lane.

Mid Suffolk District Council – Cllr Elizabeth Gibson-Harries reported:

Council Tax – 2.5% increase for Council Tax this year which equates to 7p per week for 78% of households (and D or lower). Government cut backs of 30% have affected budget as well as planning applications and rents declining. Third year in row awarded 'most cash efficient district council in country'. Working closely with Babergh to share resources in order to cut costs.

Thornham Walks – Following concerns about possible closure MSDC will provide £10,000 next year and for foreseeable future, but external funding will also be needed. For past 30 years MSDC have paid £38,000 per year. Thornham Walks will not be closing.

Wingfield Barns – noted concerns about money being spent. Understands they are putting together 'community interest company' to enable it to 'stand on its own two feet'. MSDC will have 'landlord' financial responsibilities.

Village of the Year (Calor) – should receive information shortly. Cllr G-H encouraged Hoxne to enter the 300 - 5000 village group.

The Big Freeze – understands Parishioners not liable if they clear snow from outside homes. Believes MSDC may provide financial assistance towards purchase of grit bins.

Housing – 'Housing Moves' Group (government organisation) are in process of moving someone from outside Hoxne into St Edmunds House. No demands from applications on 'Gateway or Home Choice register.

Supporting People – Funding for overnight Warden proving difficult. Trying to fund part time or on-call.

Garage, Abbey Terrace – will pursue any possibility of reduced rent.

Suffolk County Council - Cllr McGregor reported:

Finance – Concern for 2011/2012 gap between expenditure and income, presuming council tax at same level. Conditions of road major issue. Budget for potholes to be repaired. Underlying damage also needs repair. Downsizing or county council employees.

Highways – Ipswich own highways agency probably will be removed.

Wind turbines – main issue for consideration is height.

Hartismere – project officer meeting with regards to budget and tendering.

Rail Franchise - possibility of 20 year contract.

County Council meets end of month.

Member of public expressed concern about recurrent thefts from sewerage treatment plant off

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Wittons Lane.

ITEM 9 – MOVE FORWARD to be discussed during the public forum to allow Cllrs McGregor and Gibson-Harries to make comment.

9. Provision of Grit Bins

Clerk reported Parishioner had requested provision of grit bins to protect supply of grit. Cllr McGregor said that budget may be available spring/early summer to support Parish Council in purchase of grit bins.

Meeting reconvened 20.15

Councillors to consider where grit bins could be placed and consult with public through Village Voice. *Action: Agenda review three months time.*

6.Planning applications and notifications

Planning Applications:

The following planning applications were considered:

| Reference | Location | Proposal |
|-----------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 0096/10 | Airfield Industrial Estate, Eye | Three proposed wind turbines. |

Cllr Searle briefed Councillors on plans and environment impact statement and suggested the visual impact is what Hoxne should consider. Height 130 metres to tip of blade of turbine. Viewing points Eye Road, Hoxne and Hoxne Road, Syleham were considered. Due to distance from turbines Hoxne should not experience any noise pollution. Councillors concerned about impact on residents of Eye and neighbouring villages for their loss of amenity and are happy to let Eye Council take lead. It was proposed and unanimously agreed to support the decision of Eye Town Council.

Other Planning Matters:

None.

7. Provision of Street Lighting

Price range of options provided by SCC is from £2,200 to £3,500. Option one (close to village hall) does not solve problem. Option two (close to bridge) costly and would have to be considered in budget for 2011/2012 financial year. What alternative options would there be for ground level lighting? To consult with Village Hall Committee for their opinion and ask SCC for advice on alternatives. *Action: Clerk and agenda six months time. Cllr Brawn to liaise with Village Hall.*

8. Co-option of Parish Councillor

It was unanimously agreed that Mr Chris Johnson should be formally co-opted on to the Parish Council. Clerk to liaise with Mr Johnson with regards to statutory paperwork. *Action: Clerk*

10. Reports from the Chairman and Clerk

Dog Fouling signs - Following concern expressed to Chairman two signs have been ordered from MSDC to be displayed at Reading Green.

20.45 meeting closed to public to discuss confidential issue

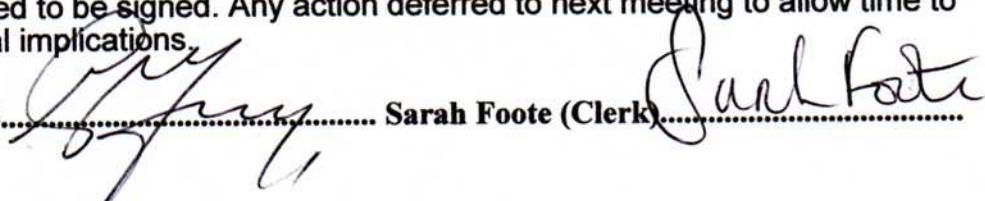
20.50 meeting reconvened.

Telephone Kiosk – Communication from BT received to state that they will take back responsibility for the power supply to the Kiosk, but for an indefinite period and for not more than four years 11 months. At the time Parish Council will have option of taking over the power supply again. A revised contract would need to be signed. Any action deferred to next meeting to allow time to consult with SALC on legal implications.

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Philip Flagg (Chairman)

Sarah Foote (Clerk)



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MSDC – Parish Liaison Meeting Wednesday 24 March 9.30 am or 5.30 pm. Councillors invited to attend. Cllr O'Connor volunteered to attend along with Clerk.

Maynard Trust – documentation ready for Councillors to peruse. Will be circulated and will be an agenda item to discuss at the next meeting. *Action: Agenda item.*

11. Correspondence

To note the following correspondence previously circulated for information.

- Suffolk County Council The Big Freeze Conference 29.01.10
- SCC Stars of Suffolk Awards 02.02.10
- SCC 'Creating the Greenest County 02.02.10
- NHS Suffolk Heart attack leaflets 02.02.10
- SALC The Local Councillor Issue 1 2010 02.02.10
- Clerks and Councils Direct Jan 2010 issue 04.02.10

All correspondence now to be circulated via email to Councillors. Clerk to provide quotes for purchase of new scanner to speed up process of scanning correspondence. *Action: Clerk*

12. Financial Matters and payments due

Report: The Council's financial situation as at 1 March 2010 was presented to Councillors.

Community Account Balance £1847.36. Business Premium Account Balance: £ 7192.51.

Payments – it was unanimously agreed to pay the following:

- £240.97 Clerk's salary and expenses month ending 14 March 2010.

To ratify payment of £17.81 to Jacky Hunt (see February minutes). Unanimously agreed.

Other: It was unanimously agreed to increase the Clerk's number of paid hours from 6 to 7.5 (with effect 14 November 2009) and following the successful completion of probationary period (14 November 2009) the rate of pay will be retrospectively increased to £8.92 per hour. A further pay award to SCP 19 will take effect from 14 April 2010.

13. Consultations

None.

14. Reports

Parish Plan: Councillors reminded of letter sent to PPSG and the Parish Council's suggestion to make contact with Suffolk Acre. PPSG still trying to successfully contact Suffolk Acre.

Village Hall: No report.

Playing Fields: .Next meeting 23 March 2010

SALC: Next meeting 3 March 2010 in Eye Town Hall. Subject of power supply to telephone kiosk to be raised.

17. Matters of Report by individual Councillors

Cllr Williams – Public Transport questionnaires have been distributed and encouraged everyone to complete and return.

Cllr Jarrold – Hoxne Music Festival concert in church this Saturday 6 March.

Cllr Searle – potholes at top of Low Street in need of repair. *Action: Clerk.*

Cllr O'Connor – new road layout signs have been erected at Low Street/Oak Hill junction still awaiting repainting or white lines.

18. Urgent matters and matters for information

None.

The meeting was closed at 21.15 hours.

