

HOXNE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Special Council Meeting held on Thursday 3 February 2011
at Hoxne Playingfield Pavilion at 1930 hours

Present:

Cllrs Philip Flagg (Chairman), Vivienne Bradford, John Brawn, Chris Johnson Michael Knights, Kate Leith, Ted O'Connor, Mick Procner, Rod Searle,

Also Present:

Sarah Foote (Clerk) and four members of the public

1. Apologies

Cllr Victoria Williams, Cllr Stuart Jarrold

2. Order of Business

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

3. Declarations of Interest

None.

4. Public Forum

At this stage, no one wished to make comment.

5. PARISH PLAN

Councillors met to take a considered view on each individual action point, prioritised as below, from the Parish Plan published in October 2010.

Action Point 12 (Question 23)

Hoxne Parish Council (HPC) to consider further action to tackle issues of HGVs in Cross Street and speeding in Green Street

It was noted that in the plan the proportion of residents with concerns about HGVs was higher in Green Street than those in Cross Street. It was agreed that the Action Point should be entitled '**tackle the issues of HGVs and speeding in both Green Street and Cross Street**'.

Councillors felt this point should then be divided into two separate issues:

1. The HGVs going through the village -
2. The speeding on Green Street - already started to tackle issues of speeding in village through working closely with Suffolk Police to make Green Street one of their priorities.

It was suggested that the Parish Council accept this recommendation, discuss the issues with local businesses and look at the possibility of setting up traffic surveys. The idea of displaying speed limit signs on the ^{side} of refuse bins will also be discussed at a future Council meeting. The Parish Council will continue its close liaison with Suffolk Police.

Action Point 19 (Question 32)

HPC to do all in power to retain Post Office Stores

All the Parish Council has the power to do is encourage parishioners to use both the Shop and Post Office. The Parish Council acknowledges it should be aware of anything that could be detrimental to the Post Office Stores. The Parish Council therefore accepts this recommendation.

Action Point 1 (Question 5)

HPC to lobby planning authorities to achieve new house building at the rate of two per year

It was felt that this action point should be reworded – as the results of the plan actual state at a rate of two per year or more. Affordable Housing scheme completed in 2010 has brought 12 new homes to village. The building envelope, already in place, would allow more houses to be built than the suggested two or more per year.

It was agreed that Hoxne Parish Council will refer MSDC to the Parish Plan outcomes, do all in its power to promote steady growth in new house development and urge restraint in further development.

HOXNE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Special Council Meeting held on Thursday 3 February 2011
at Hoxne Playingfield Pavilion at 1930 hours

Action Point 3 (Question 7)

HPC to lobby planning authorities to approve new building primarily on remaining infill sites
It was agreed, based on the Parish Plan findings, that Hoxne Parish Council will do all in its power to ensure that any new building is primarily on infill sites.

Action Point 8 (Question 16)

HPC to look at acquiring land for allotments

Hoxne Parish Council has already looked at this point and when demand necessitates it will fulfil the statutory requirement to consider the provision of allotments.

Action Point 20 (Question 35)

HPC to do all in their power to retain The Swan public house

Question asked by Public – is there a possibility that lobbying could take place to see if any powers are available to restrict change of use of this listed building?

Action: Write to Leading Planning Officer at Mid Suffolk District Council.

All the Parish Council has powers to do is encourage parishioners to use the public house.

Action Point 23 (Question 40)

HPC to enhance democratic engagement with the community

Councillors felt that results of the Parish Plan did not reflect the action point put forward, therefore, Hoxne Parish Council disagrees with the conclusion. There will be the opportunity for an Election in May; therefore, any parishioner is welcome to stand if they would like to be more involved with 'democratic engagement.'

Action Point 5 (Question 12)

HPC to liaise with Head Teacher to establish which school facilities could be used by the Community

It was felt within the village it is not known what facilities were available at the school. It was agreed to accept this action point and make enquiries with the school on what facilities are available.

Action: to discuss with Headteacher, St Edmund's Primary School.

Action Point 10 (Question 19)

HPC to lobby planning authorities for improvements in quality and external appearance of new homes

Hoxne Parish Council will continue to monitor, and comment as appropriate. The Council continues to welcome the public at its meetings where there is the opportunity to express opinion.

Action Point 11 (Question 21)

HPC to make clear to County Council the support for the local waste disposal site

Hoxne Parish Council entirely endorses this action point and has for many years, and continues, to lobby to keep the existing site at Brome open. The County Councillor is already aware of the opinion of the Parish Council. *Action: To write to the County Council again and send a copy of the Parish Plan.*

This was the third highest response in the Plan, therefore, of importance to parishioners.

Action Point 16 (question 30)

HPC to investigate with service providers how to improve broadband

MSDC have already secured funding and arranged a broadband supplier from 2012. Therefore, the Parish Council is already 'on track' to fulfil this action point.



HOXNE PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Special Council Meeting held on Thursday 3 February 2011
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Action Point 17 (Question 30)

HPC to investigate with service providers how to improve mobile phone reception for some networks

Hoxne Parish Council could use the data from this question to inform parishioners of how to make informed choices when purchasing a new mobile telephone. Factual information from the Plan could be printed in the Village Voice. Therefore, Councillors consider this action point to be ongoing.

Action: publication in Village Voice

Action Point 18 (Question 31)

HPC to evaluate suggestions for community measures and facilitate solutions

Hoxne Parish Council notes this action point and has already supported these initiatives and will continue to do so.

Action Point 2 (Question 6)

HPC to lobby planning authority to achieve the provision of more family homes and small houses

Hoxne Parish Council felt that 12 homes built in 2010 in Tudor Close were a notable success in this area.

Action Point 4 (Question 11)

HPC to consider the matter with the Pre-school Committee

Hoxne Parish Council notes this action point.

Action Point 6 (Question 13)

HPC to investigate the viability of adult education classes

There are notable success already running in the village and the Parish Council could further consider this action point in line with Action Point 5.

Action Point 7 (Question 14)

HPC to consider how to progress environmental suggestions

It was noted that some of the listed improvements could have a direct increase on the current Council Tax amount. Hoxne Parish Council has also already fulfilled some of the improvements suggested.

Action Point 13 (Question 26)

HPC to liaise with County Council to investigate improvements in bus services

Hoxne Parish Council will continue to address this action point.

Action Point 15 (Question 29)

HPC to advise hospital transport and police services of results of survey, and work with them for improvements

Hoxne Parish Council accepts this recommendation.

Action Point 21 (Question 36)

HPC to investigate difficulties of those over 75 in accessing medical services

Hoxne Parish Council would be happy to hear concerns from Parishioners and see what action/solutions can be sought.

Action Point 22 (Question 39)

HPC to lobby to achieve the outcome that second home owners pay the same council tax as residents

It was agreed that the Parish Council would inform MSDC of the outcome of this question.

Action: Write to MSDC



HOXNE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Special Council Meeting held on Thursday 3 February 2011
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Action Point 24 (Question 46)

HPC to contact volunteers to facilitate setting up of new clubs

Hoxne Parish Council welcomes this initiative and continues to encourage Parishioners to come forward.

Action Point 9 (Question 17)

HPC to contact volunteers for environmental projects with aim of establishing new community groups

Hoxne Parish Council considers this action point to be ongoing and hopes that initiatives such as the Parish Council's 'Clean-up Sunday' on 27 March 2010 will be well supported.

Action Point 14 (Question 28)

HPC to investigate whether car sharing scheme could be established.

Hoxne Parish Council would welcome Parishioners to come forward with any suggestions/offers to help achieve this action point.

IN CONCLUSION:

It was agreed that a copy of the minutes in full should be sent to all Parishioners to encourage them to come forward and engage in the above mentioned initiatives.

The Parish Council were concerned that the economic interests of the business community (i.e. local employers) were not overlooked and recognised the need to take proper account of them.

The Parish Council Chairman, Cllr Philip Flagg, once again expressed his sincere thanks to all involved with the completion of the Parish Plan.

5. Urgent matters and matters for information

Cllr Knights informed Councillors of the training opportunity available at Suffolk Acre with regards to the implementing a Parish Plan (Friday 4 March). Attendance of this will be further discussed at the Parish Council meeting on Monday 7 February 2011.

The meeting was closed at 21.00 hours.

