

**DRAFT MINUTES OF MEETING OF HASKETON PARISH COUNCIL  
HELD ON THURSDAY 22<sup>th</sup> November 2016, at 6.30pm in THE VICTORY HALL, HASKETON**

**Present: Cllrs A. McWhirter (Chairman), S. Butters, P. Hunter, A. Nightingale, I. Whyte, & Suffolk County Councillor Robin Vickery, Suffolk District Coastal District Cllr Colin Hedgley ; Mrs I. Clark (Parish Clerk)**

**1. Chairman A. McWhirter opened the meeting** at 6.30pm with apologies for the postponement of the scheduled meeting of 10<sup>th</sup> November due to illness. He reminded all of fire exits and filming issues, and welcomed Suffolk County Councillor Mr Robin Vickery and Suffolk District Councillor Mr Colin Hedgley to the meeting.

**2. Apologies for Absence:** Cllr S. Batley (prior business), Cllr P. Strugnell.

**3. Declaration of Interests:** Cllr P. Hunter (Planning Application), and Cllr S. Butters (Allotment holder).

**4. Minutes of previous meeting:** Minutes of 8<sup>th</sup> September 2016 had been circulated beforehand and were taken as read. There was one correction: Cllr Robin Vickery was Suffolk County Councillor, not District Councillor as stated. It was agreed that the Minutes be approved a true record.

**5. Matters Arising:** Astro turf: There have been no issues with the newly laid turf.

**6. Report: County Councillor:** Cllr Vickery apologised that he would only be able to attend the meeting for a short time as he had to attend another meeting afterwards. A joint report had been circulated to all parish council members. Cllr Vickery announced that he had recently been appointed by the British Legion as Community Champion for the Military Covenant.

Cllr Vickery reported that following the recent rejection of the plan for Government Devolution Proposals by several Norfolk County Councils, it now looked as if the proposed deal would be withdrawn by the Government on the grounds that there was insufficient overall support for the plans. This was considered to be a disappointing result by some since the original deal would have resulted in £1 bn of extra government funding for the whole area over period of 25 years. However, Suffolk County Council was going to continue to explore with the Government any scope for another deal, probably involving Suffolk and N. Essex, which would also involve appointing an elected Mayor.

Cllr Vickery also reported that he supported measures to curb speeding through local villages by means of installing roadside electronic speed monitors (Speed Watch). He would consider applications for grants towards such equipment, though pointed out that Suffolk Highways were responsible for posts and positioning of any such equipment.

Chairman A. McWhirter reminded Cllr Vickery that the parish council was still awaiting a response to his letter to Mr Chenery about speed restrictions along B1079 which were causing local concern due to increased traffic. It was noted that there had been a recent motoring accident near the Grange Farm retail outlet. Cllr **Vickery** promised to follow this up. (see also 10. Highways, below).

Cllr Vickery reported that the move of all district council staff and offices from the Melton premises to the new building opposite Melton Station would take place “seamlessly” over the forthcoming weekend.

Cllr McWhirter thanked Cllr Vickery for attending the meeting and he then left.

**7. Report: District Councillor:** Chairman A. McWhirter welcomed Suffolk Coastal District Councillor Colin Hedgley. In response to a question by Cllr A. Nightingale about BT’s timetable for installing faster broadband to

rural areas such as Hasketon, Cllr Hedgley reported that the Suffolk Better Broadband, supplied by BT Openreach would start Phase 4 at end 2017, which would begin with a survey. It was suggested that money saved on installing previous phases would be put to good use to improve connections to outlying rural farms and homes. Cllr I. Whyte commented that even adding more capacity at local exchanges would at least result in consistent broadband speeds, which are currently very unreliable especially at weekends and evenings. Cllr McWhirter thanked Cllr Hedgley for attending and he left the meeting.

**8. Report: WB & District Safer Neighbourhood District Team.** No member of the Safer Neighbourhood Team was available, and there was no report to consider. Members were reminded however that the Clerk had circulated information, via SALC, from the Police and Crime Commissioner and the Chief Constable of Suffolk inviting us to provide feedback via an online survey on the Suffolk Local Policing Review, which is open until 30<sup>th</sup> November. The **Chairman** commented that he would complete the survey.

**9. Finance:**

- i) Summary of Accounts since 8<sup>th</sup> September 16 : The bi-monthly report was previously circulated to members of parish council & the Clerk outlined the balances of Savings and Current accounts and monies received and payments made since last meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> September. The Clerk reported that Suffolk Coastal Norse had since submitted a quote of £78 + VAT for removal of rubbish unearthed when the brambles had recently be cleared, and an invoice of £121 for renewal of subscription for SLCC had been received. As agreed at the last meeting, £3000 had been transferred from Savings to Current account so no further funds needed to be transferred at the present time. Cllr Hunter proposed and Cllr Whyte seconded that the report be accepted and all agreed.
- ii) Finance Committee Report: Cllr McWhirter reported that he, Cllrs Nightingale and Hunter and the Clerk had met to review our reserves and plan the forward budget. Cllr **Nightingale** and **Clerk** to present a defining spreadsheet for consideration at the January meeting, when the 2017/18 precept would be discussed. Cllrs **McWhirter** and **Andrews** would also meet to update Financial Regulations for the January meeting.

**10. Highways:**

Speed reduction B1079 : Cllr McWhirter reported that he was still waiting for a report mentioned in May 2016 when David Chenery, Assistant East Area Highways Manager, Resource Management had responded to the parish council's written concerns about the stretch of B1079 particularly along Grange Farm Retail Outlet and The Vehicle Surgeon. Mr Chenery had confirmed that having seen first hand the extent of use and the sightlines on leaving the complex, his office would write a report describing the route characteristics, the extent of development, speed and accident data etc. and compare this data with the published SCC Speed Limit Policy and its criteria for each speed limit. The report would then be submitted for consideration by the SCC Councillors Speed Limit Panel. Following a recent car accident along this stretch, and further communications with Mr Chenery, Cllr McWhirter had recently learnt that a site meeting between Mr **Chenery**, Cllr **McWhirter** and the **Clerk** was to be set up in the near future so this matter could be carried forward.

**11. Planning:**

- i) Planning Application: There had been one planning application received since the last meeting: DC/16/4874/FUL: On behalf of Mr & Mrs P Hunter, re The Holt, Boulge Road, Hasketon IP13 for Single Storey, Rear Extension at the Holt. Cllr Hunter left the room and members viewed the plans on display. After consideration it was agreed that there were no grounds for objection and recommended that the plans be approved. The **Clerk** was instructed to inform the SCDC Planning Officer, and Cllr Hunter returned to the meeting.

ii) **Site Allocations & Area Specific Policies for public consultation** 17/10/16 to 28/11/2016. The Clerk circulated copies of the documents recently received and members were encouraged to respond direct if they have any comments or concerns.

## **12. Village Green**

**i) Repairs Update: Fencing:** The Clerk reported that Cllr Batley had, as previously agreed, arranged for Country Care Ltd to remove the existing chicken wire fencing, some broken rails and upright posts that were showing signs of decay. This had now been done, replaced with stronger posts and rails, and the chicken wire replaced with more attractive and sturdy chain link fencing. It was noted that the attachment clips for the wiring were industry standard clips.

**ii) Playground Equipment:** Cllr Whyte reported that Playscapes had carried out the Rospa Inspection of the playground equipment on 28 September and he had met with the Rospa Inspector specifically to discuss the slide. The main issue identified to deal with was the possibility of head entrapment caused by the top hand rail and the side board and the Inspector was of the opinion that improvements should be carried out; The Inspector also pointed out that the slide is no longer in "as supplied" form and that it is perfectly reasonable to make improvements. He estimated that the slide dates from the late 1960's and is one of just a few left in the UK and well worth preserving as the modern ones are not as good. Cllr Whyte reported he had contacted N&A Engineering about design and supply of modification and was awaiting quotes for the work, which would probably be in the region of £100-£150. After consideration Cllr P. Hunter proposed and Cllr I. Whyte seconded the proposal that the work be carried out as soon as possible.

**ii) Allotments:** The Clerk reported that the large very overgrown bramble patch at the rear of the allotments had now been cleared. The work had uncovered a considerable amount of rubbish and the Clerk had obtained quote of £78 + VAT for its removal. It was agreed to proceed with the work, and also seek advice from Norse in the spring concerning work to keep the brambles from re-growing. There is now one vacant plot, which would be advertised around the village.

**iv) Bus Shelter:** Cllr Whyte had inspected the bus shelter. It was last painted in 2015 at cost of £340, which also included refurbishment of the Notice Board. It was noted that which while showing early signs of deterioration of the paint on the wood no action was required at present time and it was agreed to defer this matter until March 2017. **(Clerk)**

## **13. Village Hall:**

**i) Defibrillator:** Cllr Whyte, speaking in his capacity of Chairman of the Victory Hall, reported that it had been agreed that defibrillator be fixed to the front of the Victory Hall, under the RH outside light. The internal electrics would be adapted to power the device. The members of the VH Committee were concerned that since the equipment would be for overall village use it remain the property of the parish council, and the members of the parish council agreed to this request. Due to the timing of finances, it was also agreed that the parish council would provide initial funds for all the work required to get the defibrillator up and running, and then receive back 2/3 of the full cost which would, as agreed, be paid from SCDC Community Enabling Funds. Cllr Hunter proposed and Cllr Nightingale seconded these proposals.

**ii) Car Parking:** Cllr Whyte reported that the VH Committee had suggested installing a metal handrail down the side slope of the entrance to the main car park area, and requested that any funding required be provided from Parish Council Funds, and it was agreed that some of the D.W. donation could if necessary be used for this purpose. **Cllr Whyte** to investigate options further. In the meantime, SCDC was going to be approached about installing a dropped kerb and insertion of "egg

crate" surface for two disabled parking spaces in front of the Victory Hall. It was agreed that SCDC Robin Vickery should in the first instance be consulted about possible help with funding this project.

**iii) Septic Tank:** No further progress on this issue. Binders had been emptying the tank, which seemed to be coping with demand at present time.

**iv) Other VH issues:** It had been noted that weeds were growing in the guttering and **Clr Whyte** reported that he and M Field would be inspecting these and all down pipes in forthcoming week as soon as weather was more clement.

#### **14. Village Website & Broadband**

Clr Whyte reported that the transfer of village website from Hasketon.Suffolk.Net to Hasketon.Suffolk.Cloud had been successfully implemented, with all major pages now in operation. However, he requested that he could attend an instruction day hosted by SALC and all agreed this was a good idea.

Re Broadband service – see **7** above.

**15. Correspondence – see attached list.** The Clerk was instructed to decline invitation to attend Annual Town & Parish Council Budget Liaison Event at Council Chamber, on Monday 28th November 2016, as no one was available to attend.

**16. Adjournment for members of parish to address council on matters relating to Hasketon.**

As there were no members of the parish in attendance, there was no adjournment.

**17. Resumption of meeting.**

**18.A.O.B:** There was no other business.

**19. Date of next meetings:** Thurs 12 Jan 2017, 9 March, 11 May, 13 July, 14 Sept, 9 Nov, 11 Jan 2018.

The meeting **Closed at:** 8.10 pm

**Signed:**

**Date:**

***Prepared by Isabel Clark – Hasketon Parish Clerk***

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