

DEOPHAM & HACKFORD PARISH COUNCIL

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Draft Minutes of the Annual Parish meeting on Wednesday 10th May 2023, 7.30pm at Gralix Hall

Cllrs present:

Jacky Phoenix – Chair (JP), Chris Biggs (CB), Catherine Grand (CG), Chris Coath (CC), Martin Skidmore (MS), Chris Chorley (CCh)

Absent:

Cllr Margaret Dewsbury (MD), Jordana Wheeler (Clerk)

Others present:

There were 2 members of the public present.

1. To receive and accept apologies for absence
 - 1.1. Apologies were received and accepted from the Clerk and MD.
2. To approve and sign the minutes of the Annual Parish meeting on 4th May 2022
 - 2.1. It was noted the minutes were approved on 1st June 2022.

To receive the following reports:

3. Parish Council Chairman's Annual report for 2022-23
 - 3.1. JP reported on the Council's activities throughout the year and thanked the Councillor's and Clerk for their support and hard work.
 - 3.2. The Council has been focused on the Play Park project. A successful application, via the District Councillor, for a grant from the Community Action Fund of £15,000 allowed the first phase of the new play equipment to be installed in January 2023. Fundraising also continued to help provide funds for the project.
 - 3.3. The parish has experienced an increase in speeding traffic whilst roadworks took place on the A11, potholes increased as well as erosion of verges and banks. The Council continued to liaise with the County Council to find solutions.
 - 3.4. A planning policy was developed which included a lighting policy to help protect the dark skies of the countryside.
 - 3.5. JP thanked District Councillor Yvonne Bendle for her dedication and support over many years as she has now stood down from her role.
4. Cllr Yvonne Bendle – South Norfolk Council
 - 4.1. A written report was submitted and read out by JP summarising South Norfolk Council's activities over the last year and how Yvonne Bendle had supported the parish including helping the Council to apply for a £15,000 grant to purchase new play equipment. After 12 years of working as a District Councillor Yvonne has stood down at the recent elections.

Draft minutes until approved at the Annual Parish meeting on Wednesday 1st May 2024

Chairman Signature:

Date:

5. Cllr Margaret Dewsbury – Norfolk County Council
 - 5.1. MD was unable to attend and provided a written report to the Council of the key activities over the last year. The report is available on the Council website.
6. The Rix Trust
 - 6.1. JP explained how the charity works and its current activities.
7. Deopham Poor's Allotment Charity
 - 7.1. JP explained how the charity works and its current activities.
8. Hackford Fuel Allotment Charity
 - 8.1. MS gave a brief summary of the charity and its activities for the year.
9. Deopham STAR
 - 9.1. CC gave details of the group who are working to restore the church and develop a community hub. They have made progress with their application to the National Lottery Heritage Fund for a grant. An award of £48,955 is for the 'Caring for our Roots' project, which aims to transform the at-risk church into a sustainable heritage, community and worship hub for Deopham and the wider area. This initial funding will allow the group to formalise the next stage of the application for further funding.
10. Update from the Gralix Hall Committee
 - 10.1. A representative from the Gralix Hall committee gave a brief outline of the improvements made to the building over the last year. Grants have been received to help pay for the improvements.
11. Opportunity for members of the public to discuss general parish issues
 - 11.1. There were no matters raised.

The meeting closed at 8pm.