

DEOPHAM & HACKFORD PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the Parish Council meeting on Wednesday 6th March 2024, 7.30pm at Gralix Hall

Cllrs present:

Jacky Phoenix – Chair (JP), Chris Biggs (CB) – Vice Chair, Martin Skidmore (MS), Chris Chorley (CCh), Eliska Cheeseman (EC), Chris Coath (CC)

Absent:

Catherine Grand (CG), Cllr Josh Woolliscroft (JW),

Others present:

Jordana Wheeler (Clerk), Cllr Margaret Dewsbury (MD), Members of the public - 3.

1. To receive and accept apologies for absence
 - 1.1. Apologies were received and accepted from CG.
2. To receive any Declarations of Interest in items on the agenda and consider any requests for dispensation
 - 2.1. There were no requests for dispensation.
3. To approve and sign the minutes of the Parish Council meeting on 7th February 2024
 - 3.1. The minutes of the meeting held on 7th February 2024 were received and read by Councillors prior to the meeting. The Council **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes.
4. To report on progress of matters arising from previous meetings
 - 4.1. VAT for the year has been reclaimed and a refund of £3746 has been received.
 - 4.2. The new noticeboard has been installed on The Green.
 - 4.3. The closure forms for the HSBC bank accounts have been submitted. There is no indication how long this will take but it is expected to be completed before the end of the financial year.
 - 4.4. JP noted the fencing around the new play equipment is currently in progress.
5. Finance
 - 5.1. To receive the bank reconciliation for February 2024 and to ratify or approve the following payments;
The Council considered the bank reconciliation, no queries were raised. The Council **RESOLVED** to approve the payments.

Draft minutes until approved at the Parish Council meeting on Wednesday 3rd April 2024
Chairman Signature: _____ Date: _____

	Payment Description – UNITY Trust Bank Current Account	Cheque Number	Amount
5.1.1	Gralix Hall – Hall Hire (Jan-Feb 2024)	BACS	£36.00
5.1.2	Norfolk Parish Training & Support – Subscription fees 2024-25	BACS	£107.20
5.1.3	Jordana Wheeler – Salary & Expenses (Feb 2024)	BACS	£35.64

6. To discuss recent flooding in the parish
- 6.1. JP has liaised with local farmers to encourage maintenance of ditches. Many are starting to be cleared to help resolve localised flooding issues. The ditches around Capes Corner on Morley Road have been cleared and improved.
- 6.2. JP has created maps of where the key ditches are, noting which way the water flows, to assist with trying to resolve the flooding issues and identify areas where the drainage isn't working. Some ditches flow via The Stalland towards the airfield before entering a stream. Other ditches flow towards Wymondham, ditches in Hackford flow into the Tiffey.
- 6.3. The road near the Old Tin School on Pye Lane is currently permanently flooded. It's believed that there are some soak-away crates of shingle which are full of water and therefore not draining. Water is flowing off fields onto Vicarage Road causing flooding towards Shaws Farm. Park Lane is also experiencing issues as excess water is crisscrossing the road between various ditches.
- 6.4. Other impacts of the flooding include the degradation of road surfaces and an increase in potholes, damage to cars, erosion of verges and ditches, and flooding of septic tanks causing toilets to become backed up.
- 6.5. MD recommended the Council contacts the Norfolk Strategic Flood Alliance for advice. She noted that the County Council are looking into ways in which excess water in the winter could be held and used to alleviate potential droughts in the summer. JP thanked MD for her support with flooding issues. As the ditches and drainage are not the sole responsibility of one authority it is difficult to get the issues resolved. George Freeman MP is also working on gathering further information on flooding issues for the Mid Norfolk Flood Partnership.
- 6.6. The Council noted work has been scheduled for Pye Lane by the Highways Team but it is not known what work will be carried out or when.
- ACTION** – Clerk to contact the Highways Team to gain more information on the work due on Pye Lane. Clerk to organise a meeting with the Highways Engineer to discuss flooding. Clerk to report missing 'Flood' sign from Pye Lane. Information on flooding issues to be shared with the Norfolk Strategic Flood Alliance and the Mid Norfolk Flood Partnership to seek support and advice.
7. To agree the purchase of litter picking equipment and agree plans for a village litter pick
- 7.1. The Council considered 3 options for purchasing litter picking equipment using the Clean Up & Bloom grant. The Council **RESOLVED** to purchase 5 sets of equipment, each to include a litter grabber, bin bag ring, reflective jacket and protective gloves. Other equipment needed for an organised litter pick such as a first aid kit and bin bags will be provided separately by the Council. The Council agreed the best location to leave collected litter would be by the rubbish bin at the playing field as this is on a collection route for the Council.
- 7.2. EC has agreed to coordinate an organised litter pick through the South Norfolk 'Big Lit-

ter Pick' scheme. A provisional date was set for mid-April. It was suggested some residents may already do their own litter picking so it may be better to focus on other areas to avoid duplication. Discussions were held on where to store the equipment and whether it would be available for residents to borrow outside of organised litter picks. These issues will be resolved after the first litter pick.

8. To consider a response to the following planning applications:
 - 8.1. Application 2024/0354 – Extensions to rear and side with associated alterations, Arcady House, Low Common, Deopham
 - 8.1.1. The Council had no objections to application 2024/0354. The Council requested comments were submitted noting the Councils planning policy in relation to keeping external lighting to a minimum to protect the dark skies and to ensure there was adequate drainage as part of the application.
9. Opportunity for Public Participation
 - 9.1. A representative from Gralix Hall queried when the donation for the defibrillator would be made. JP noted this will be made as part of the new budget in April 2024.
 - 9.2. JP reported the tree planting at the playing field was successful. There is now a collection of Silver Birch to the right of the field, and a mixed plantation at the Southern end.
 - 9.3. The recent Beetle Drive event raised £137.00 for the play park project. This donation has already been received by the Council.
10. To confirm the date of the next meeting
 - 10.1. The next Council meeting will take place at Gralix Hall on Wednesday 3rd April 2024, 7.30pm. The press and public are welcome to attend.

The public meeting closed at 8.30pm.