

## DEOPHAM & HACKFORD PARISH COUNCIL

[www.deophamandhackfordpc.info](http://www.deophamandhackfordpc.info)

### Minutes of the Annual Parish meeting on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> May 2022, 7.30pm at Gralix Hall

**Cllrs present:**

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

**Absent:**

Chris Chorley (CCh), Cllr Margaret Dewsbury (MD)

**Others present:**

Jordana Wheeler (Clerk), Cllr Yvonne Bendle (YB). There was 1 member of the public present.

1. To receive and accept apologies for absence
  - 1.1. Apologies were received and accepted from CCh and MD.
2. To approve and sign the minutes of the Annual Parish meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> May 2021
  - 2.1. The minutes of the meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> May 2021 were received and read by Councillors prior to the meeting. The Council **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes.

To receive the following reports:

3. Parish Council Chairman's Annual report for 2021-22
  - 3.1. After the challenges of Covid the Council returned to face to face meetings, initially in the evening sunshine and the church porch, before returning to Gralix Hall in October 2021.
  - 3.2. There have been many of the usual planning applications and other Council business.
  - 3.3. Sadly a long standing Parish Councillor, John Chilvers, passed away in September 2021. John always brought a smile to the table and stood up for the community of Hackford and Deopham. The Council's thoughts are with his family still present in the community.
  - 3.4. The play park project has been the main focus of the Council this year with the CIL money being the incentive to get the project up and running. A sub group of Councillors have crossed many hurdles and are making progress. Quotes have been obtained and a planning application submitted to improve the access and create a new car park. Residents have also been fundraising for the project.
  - 3.5. The Council are helping to organize a 'Deopham Through the Ages' history event at Gralix Hall at the end of May with lots of displays, photos and items of interest alongside refreshments.
  - 3.6. JP thanked the Councillors for their hard work and commitment to the community, alongside the Clerk for guiding the Council through the rules and regulations.

Draft minutes until approved at the Parish Council meeting on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> June 2022

Chairman Signature:

Date:

4. Cllr Yvonne Bendle – South Norfolk Council
  - 4.1. YB focused her report on activities for the upcoming year. The district council are working towards becoming carbon neutral.
  - 4.2. The Hardship Fund, available via the Help Hub, has been increased to help those in need. Community Connectors are also available for appointments in various locations (e.g. Hingham surgery once a week).
  - 4.3. The Council are investing in solar panels on leisure centres. They are also looking at a new office building which will be more practical and cheaper to run.
  - 4.4. Parishes have the opportunity to apply for support to install electric charging points for cars.
  - 4.5. YB thanked the Council for making her feel welcome at meetings, noting she enjoyed attending and supporting the Council.
  
5. Cllr Margaret Bendle – Norfolk County Council
  - 5.1. MD was unable to attend and provided a written report to the Council. This report is available on the Council website.
  
6. The Rix Trust
  - 6.1. JP reported on both the Rix Trust and the Deopham Poor's Allotment Charity. Both charities share the same trustees. The Rix Trust rents the playing field to the Parish Council and in return provides financial assistance for anyone in need of support in education. The charity are keen to work with the Council to improve and enhance the Pavilion at the playing field, along with future developments of the area.
  - 6.2. The Poor's Allotment rents out Deopham Marshes and funds raised which are used to support Deopham residents with fuel costs
  
7. Deopham Poor's Allotment Charity
  - 7.1. See item 6.
  
8. Hackford Fuel Allotment Charity
  - 8.1. MS reported the charity returned to face to face meetings in December 2021. The charity continues to rent out the marshland owned by the charity.
  - 8.2. Sadly trustee John Chilvers passed away. A new trustee was elected into the role. All trustees will be re-appointed for a new 4 year term in June 2022.
  - 8.3. There is currently no resident Rector in the parish leaving 1 trustee position empty.
  
9. Deopham STAR
  - 9.1. CC reported that the group continue to work to raise money to restore Deopham Church. Their first application to the Heritage Lottery Fund has been accepted and they are now preparing the second stage of the application. The purpose of the restoration is to bring the building up to current standards and to improve the facility so it can be used as a community facility. Competition for grants is high due to a large number of churches needing restoration. The group are looking to appoint a consultant to assist with the project. The group will also need to demonstrate it is able to continue to afford to maintain the building after the project for a further 10 years. Due to surveys required a part of the process this has added extra time to the time scale of the project.

10. Update from the Gralix Hall Committee

- 10.1. JP provided an update on behalf of the committee. The hall has been very busy recently with many new groups using the hall, as well as village fundraising events. The ceiling fell down inside the building due to a leak and has now been repaired both inside and out. The building has also had new doors, a ramp for access and some new kitchen equipment.
- 10.2. YB was pleased to see the improvements made to the building and noted she has grants available which could be used to help fund further 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.