

HONINGTON & SAPISTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 13th January 2025 in Honington & Sapiston Village Hall at 7pm.

In attendance: - Councilors Rob Williams, Stephen Read, Ian Patterson-Parker, David Plampin, Sue Jay, Robin Howe and Debbie Cram. West Suffolk Councilor Andrew Smith, Suffolk County Councilor Joanna Spicer, Warrant Officer Mark Steward and 3 members of the public were also present.

ITEM	DISCUSSION	ACTION & RESULTS
1. Welcome and Apologies	The Chairman RW welcomed all those present to the first meeting of 2025. Apologies were received from Mr Robert Childerhouse.	
2. Councilor Vacancies	The Parish Council were delighted to welcome Mrs Julie Goss and Mr Stephen Hards. Both expressed an interest in filling the 2 vacancies on the Parish Council and addressed Councilors with a brief history of their time in the village and their hopes for what they may bring to the Council. Having read the Code of Conduct, both Julie and Steve were welcomed to the Council.	Julie and Steve were given the Acceptance of Office forms, along with the Declaration of Members Interest forms to be completed and returned to the Clerk for submission to West Suffolk Council within 28 days.
3. Declaration of Interest	The Declaration of Interest Form was circulated and signed by those Councilors declaring an interest.	
4. Police Report	PC Rachel Reeve after a period of illness is leaving the force. Officers who cover the Bury Rural North Team are PC 461 Gibbons, PCSO 3299 Dodd and PCSO 3324 Crompton. PCSO Dodd has corresponded with the Clerk	

	<p>to confirm if we have any issues within the Parish. The Clerk reported the issues we have with inconsiderate parking.</p> <p>Since our last meeting in November 6 offences have been reported in Honington Village and 1 at the RAF Base.</p>	
<p>5. RAF Report</p>	<p>Councilors welcomed Warrant Officer Mark Steward to the meeting where he updated the Council on activities at the Base. Renovations and building works have taken place around the base and include to the entrance of the base and the unveiling of a new range facility. The Swimming pool is well used by staff as well as outside groups. The Social Club has been revamped and its use is closely monitored. It was disappointing to learn that the budgets for updating the housing have been revised due to cost cutting measures. The base continues its training programme working with Ukraine forces.</p> <p>WO Steward spoke of the Afghan rehousing scheme. There are currently no Afghan personnel on base and this remains the policy for Honington.</p> <p>Concerns were raised about the path leading down to the school.</p>	<p>The PC to liaise with DT, EE and SCC to keep the path accessible to all.</p>

	<p>Cllr RW asked about an update on the bus shelter at poplar close.</p> <p>Cllr DP asked if the Buccaneer previously sited at the entrance would be reinstated or replaced? A Tornado will be installed once work has been completed.</p> <p>Cllr SR asked about flying activity and Cllr RW asked if the PC could receive communication of ariel activity from the base so he could disseminate it and forward it to relevant parties.</p> <p>Cllr RH raised concerns about the volume of litter around the Social Club he encountered on a recent litter pick.</p>	<p>No further update provided.</p> <p>WO Steward would take these points back and update the PC.</p>
<p>6. West Suffolk Council – Mr Andrew Smith</p>	<p>WS Cllr Smith congratulated the Village Hall committee on their successful bid to have solar panels installed at the Village Hall. Cllrs were grateful to the support from WSC for this project.</p> <p>Cllr SJ raised the issue of the fire risk posed by storing batteries for the solar panels.</p> <p>Cllr SJ asked if there was any update on glass collections once the new recycling/bin collection schemes are implemented in 2026.</p>	<p>To be addressed by the VH Committee.</p> <p>No further updates available.</p>
<p>7. Suffolk County Council – Mrs Joanna Spicer</p>	<p>SCC Spicer introduced herself and her role to our 2 new Cllrs.</p> <p>JS informed the Council on the latest update regarding the A1088 at Strowlangtoft.</p>	

	<p>The bridge repairs are due to be completed by the end of February, weather permitting. Cllrs were disappointed with the latest press release regarding this project as its impact on local businesses and residents has been far reaching.</p> <p>Cllr JS then spoke of the current proposals for Devolution and the implications this will have for the area. The Government are imposing this change and SCC have recently voted to be fast tracked through the process so they can be at the forefront of developments. Changes will involve the installation of a mayor serving Norfolk and Suffolk, and the abolition of District and County Councillors to form one unitary authority for Suffolk (this is due to be considered within the next 3 weeks). Should the fast-track proposal be accepted then the elections for this year 2025 will be cancelled ready for new elections in 2026. Cllrs learnt that the role of Police & crime commissioner would be axed should these proposed changes come about. It is hoped that these proposals will mean more money for Suffolk although there were concerns raised that rural communities would be served by Ipswich with a reduction of the current number of Cllrs.</p>	<p>The PC await further updates.</p>
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<p>8.Minutes of the last meeting Held on 11th November 2024.</p>	<p>The minutes were agreed to be an accurate record and were signed by the Chairman RW.</p> <p>Matters Arising: - We still await for the drains to be cleared by Boreham House, Bardwell Road. Awaiting a response to the Bridge repairs. Book Box fitted. No further update on River Assessment.</p>	
<p>9. Matters Arising 9.1. Clerk’s Report</p>	<p>A copy of the report presented to Councilors is included with the minutes along with comments made.</p>	
<p>10. Highways 10.1. Outstanding</p>	<p>Sapiston Flooding Prevention- after the recent works these have proved to be effective and efficient with no reports of flooding.</p> <p>Willow Green – This area continues to flood and causes concern especially when the temperature drops and the water freezes. A resident has previously suffered an injury after falling on the frozen surface. SCC JS will raise the subject with Andy Moore but it is not on a priority list as no homes have been flooded. Cllrs believe this matter has been discussed for over 7 years and appealed for investigations of the drain.</p> <p>After work commenced on the entrance to Water Lane</p>	<p>Cllrs agreed for the invoice for £6,513 to be paid.</p> <p>SCC JS to liaise with Andy Moore.</p>

<p>10.2. Parking around the Village</p>	<p>by UK Power Networks the area approaching the bridge floods. The entrance to Water Lane has been resurfaced.</p> <p>After a recent event at the Village Hall, complaints had been received about cars parking in neighboring roads and lanes. Cllr RW asked if the Village Hall could use the extra land at the back of the hall to accommodate vehicles? Unfortunately, as part of the rental agreement the field could not be used as additional parking. However, it would be considered in the future to offer the Allotment Field as an alternative when extra parking is required.</p>	<p>To ask SCC to clear and inspect the drain by Water Lane.</p>
<p>11. Planning App. No. DC/24/1645/HH</p>	<p>Replacement Garage with extension to the rear. 1 The Timbers Honington</p>	<p>No Objections</p>
<p>12. Items for Discussion 12.1. Precept</p> <p>12.2. Website Sales & Wants</p>	<p>The Precept for 2025/26 is required to be submitted by 22nd January 2025. 3 proposals were circulated and discussed by Councilors. All Councilors agreed to request a 1% increase on the sum received for 2024/25. This would mean an increase of £1.75 on a Band D property.</p> <p>All Councilors agreed to the installation of a Sales & Wants page on the H&S website. The items advertised will be as seen.</p>	<p>Clerk to submit to WSC</p> <p>Cllr RW will draw up a piece to include in the Newsletter.</p>

<p>12.3. Litter Pick</p>	<p>Councilors also agreed to set up a page advertising groups in the local area which may be of interest to parishioners, i.e the computer club in Great Barton and a gardening club in Coney Weston.</p> <p>Councilors agreed to hold the annual litter pick on Sunday 9th March at 10am meeting at Honington Green and Stable Cottage Sapiston.</p>	<p>Many thanks to Harriet Van de Lande for managing the Website.</p> <p>Clerk to book equipment. Newsletter Item</p> <p>Thanks to Cllr RH for his recent litter picking efforts.</p>
<p>13. Finance 13.1. Thank You's and Requests 13.2. Payments</p>	<p>The Council received a thank you from Citizen's Advice.</p> <p>Cllrs RW, SR, and RH signed the approval form which is included with the minutes for payments to be made.</p>	
<p>14. Correspondence</p>	<p>Items Received: Highways matters from Mrs L Miles. Broxap – Street Furniture Winter Holiday Activities and Food Programme in West Suffolk Update of WS Housing, Homelessness Reduction and Rough Sleeping Strategy.</p>	
<p>15. Matters to Report 15.1. Playground Inspection</p>	<p>Cllr RW circulated the inspection report he carried out for January. Questions were raised about the cost of having the fort removed and disposed of professionally. The Council have been quoted £354. As previously discussed in the November meeting all Councilors are asked to view the fort before our next meeting in March,</p>	<p>All Councilors to visit Fort before next meeting in March.</p>

	<p>where a decision will be made.</p> <p>The seat also needs to be checked and Cllrs discussed sourcing new seating (much like what is on offer at the Village Hall).</p> <p>Inspections for February and March will be undertaken by Cllr Howe and Cllr Hards respectively.</p> <p>David Thrower will be asked to cut back weeds from around the bark.</p> <p>Repairs will be carried out to the roof of the shelter once temperatures allow.</p> <p>Cllr SJ asked about cutting back at the area towards the end of the playing field to access the gate.</p>	<p>Details of suppliers from Cllr IPP?</p> <p>Template to be supplied by Cllr RW.</p> <p>David Thrower to be asked.</p> <p>Cllr RW to fix, Cllr DP to source materials.</p> <p>David Thrower to be asked.</p>
15.2. Sign at Crossroads A1088	Cllr RH reported that the sign at the crossroads is damaged.	Cllr RH agreed to report it on the SCC Highways reporting portal.
15.3. Street Light	Cllr SJ asked about installing a new street light by the A1088 crossroads.	The PC to raise this with SCC JS.
15.4. Highway Reporting	Cllrs suggested a newsletter item to inform parishioners that anyone can report faults, pot holes etc. on the SCC website.	Newsletter Item
15.5. Welcome Leaflets	Cllr RW informed Councilors that leaflets have been delivered to new residents in the village.	
16. Date of the Next Meeting	MONDAY 10TH MARCH 2025 7PM IN THE VILLAGE HALL	

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 9.07pm.

Signed

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