



Minutes of the ordinary Meeting of the Council
held at Hulver Village Hall on Wednesday 5th March 2025
commencing at 7pm

138/24 Present

Cllr J Armstrong (Chair), Cllr J Facer, Cllr P Block, Cllr J Doran
In attendance Angela Colbridge (Clerk), SCC Cllr Ladd, ESC Cllr Ashton

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

139/24 Apologies for absence.

140/24 Declaration of interest personal or prejudicial to this agenda. Cllr Armstrong declared a possible interest in item 11a)ii. Cllr Armstrong will not be involved in any discussion or take part in any required vote on this item.

141/24 To Consider requests for dispensations. None

142/24 Minutes of the Meeting of 4th December 2024

It was Proposed by Cllr Block, seconded by Cllr Facer that the minutes of 4th December 2024 be accepted as a true record. This was agreed. The minutes were signed by the Chair.

143/24 Matters arising.

i) FolkEast at Sotterley Estate. Cllr Facer has provided information to councillors following attendance at a recent meeting of Shadingfield, Sotterley, Willingham and Ellough Parish Council, also attended by a representative from FolkEast. The festival dates are proposed as 15th -17th August 2025.

ii) Removal of hedge contrary to information provided within Planning Application DC/24/1381/FUL. ESC Cllr Ashton noted that the enforcement team are aware of the removal of this hedge. No further update.

iii) Defibrillator. The Clerk noted that the battery in the defibrillator has now been replaced as the previous battery was on a minimum level. A discussion was held on the defibrillators located in Henstead. Councillors will check the status of these defibrillators and whether they can be added to The Circuit.

144/24 Reports

144/24/1 Suffolk County Council. SCC Cllr Ladd reported the following:

SCC confirmed its budget for 2025/26, increasing by 6.7% with an emphasis on meeting rising demand for children's care and adult social care services; SCC's share of Council Tax will rise by 4.99%, an increase of £1.51 per week for a Band D property; Suffolk's 45 libraries are set to remain open as SCC plan to take the service back in house; An additional £2.6 million of funding has been approved for the Benacre Flood Protection Scheme; A £1.6 million investment has been proposed following the inspection of Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service which rated the service as good in some areas, meeting requirements in other areas and highlighted areas where improvement is needed; SCC has raised concerns over a lack of coordination on local energy projects, specifically relating to the LionLink and Sea Link projects; Restructuring of local government is to take place with Suffolk and Norfolk being included in the government priority devolution programme. SCC propose that all services should be consolidated under one unitary authority with a mayor for Suffolk and Norfolk. County Council elections will be postponed for one year due to the process.

A short discussion was held on a possible imbalance between the needs and issues of areas within Suffolk and Norfolk.

144/24/2 East Suffolk Council. ESC Cllr Ashton reported the following:

ESC has agreed its budget, which included £5 million of its reserves. The share of Council Tax will rise by 3%, broadly inline with inflation; District and Borough Councils are working together on Local

government reorganisation; Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change, Ed Miliband, had been invited to take part in discussions on co-ordination of local energy projects.

A question was posed on whether Sizewell C are using hydrogen fuel, it was noted that hydrogen buses are being used.

144/24/3 Police. On the [police.uk](https://www.police.uk) website there was one times reported crime for the month of November 2024 on or near Sotterley Road under the category of Burglary and one times reported crime for the month of December 2024 on or near Benacre Road under the category of Public Order.

145/24 Chair's Item. None

146/24 Correspondence.

a) Resident - HGV's on Toad Row. The Parish Council has been made aware of HGV's travelling thorough Toad Row, from East to West possibly unnecessarily. Following a discussion, it was decided that there is little that the PC can do regarding this happening occasionally. The Clerk will check with the resident whether the issue is ongoing. It was noted that the PC are in the process of requesting that Suffolk Highways refresh the signage in the village.

b) Resident - Missing sign. A missing 'Welcome to Henstead' sign from the B1127 Wrentham Road has been reported to Suffolk Highways. Highways have visited the location and responded to say that they are unable to take action at this time as it does not meet their intervention criteria.

c) Office of Jenny Riddell-Carpenter MP. An update has been provided on the advice surgeries being held by Jenny Riddell-Carpenter MP. Further information will be displayed in the village noticeboards and on the Parish Council website.

d) East Suffolk Council - Fly Tipping Latymere Dam. ESC are actively following up leads on fly tipping in this area and additional investigation methods are being sought. East Suffolk Services Limited are helping to ensure that rubbish dumped at this location is removed and does not remain in place.

147/24 Finance

147/24/1 Approval of outstanding invoices

A Colbridge Clerks Wages December/January 2024 £798.84

C. Hadingham mowing of the Church Surround £84

Heart2Heart Norfolk replacement defibrillator battery £280

Proposed by Cllr Armstrong, Seconded by Cllr Block

147/24/2 Account Balances. The Clerk noted the following balances:

As at 28th February 2025 Current Account £19387.51

As at 31st January 2025 Savings Account £840.37

147/24/3 To review and approve the bank reconciliation for March. Approved.

147/24/4 Budget to actual. Within budget.

147/24/5 To note any receipts. None.

The Clerk noted that East Suffolk Council have confirmed safe receipt of the Precept Request for 2025/2026.

The Clerk noted that Online banking with Barclays has now been set up.

148/24 Planning

148/24/1 To consider any planning applications.

i) DC/25/0477/FUL Rear Second First Floor Extension & Alterations Site address: Elm Vue, Sotterley Road, Henstead, Beccles, Suffolk NR34 7NQ. It was agreed that the Parish Council had no objection to this planning application. **Proposed by Cllr Block, seconded by Cllr Armstrong.**

The Chair, Cllr Armstrong, introduced the next planning item and took no further part in the discussion.

ii) DC/25/0639/CLE Certificate of Lawful (Existing) - Use relating to occupation of Pheasant Cottage, Sotterley Road, Hulver, Beccles, NR34 7UJ for a continuous period in excess of 10 Years and in breach of the Agricultural

Occupancy Condition applied as condition (2) of Planning Permission (Ref:DC/08/1151/FUL). Having considered this application at length, the Parish Council agreed that it would submit a response detailing its observations of the revised application and the planning history of this property. The response will be drafted, approved by councillors and submitted before the consultation end date of 13th March 2025.

iii) DC/25/0579/FUL Construction of 2 storey side extension. Regent House, Church Road, Henstead, Beccles, Suffolk, NR34 7LE. Having considered this planning application, the Parish Council agreed it did not object to the application but made observations regarding the plans which the clerk will note when submitting its response.

Proposed by Cllr Doran, seconded by Cllr Block.

148/24/2 To receive outcomes of Planning Applications from ESC

i) DC/23/1983/FUL Full planning permission for 1 No. Dwelling, to include access, parking and amenity land. Land south of Toad Row, Henstead, Beccles, Suffolk, NR34 7LG.

Application Permitted.

148/24/3 Appeals.

AP/23/0058/ENF - Part Land East Of Mariawood, Hulver Street, Henstead, Suffolk NR34 7UE. Enforcement case reference ENF/22/0247/USE - **Appeal in progress**

148/24/4 Other Planning Matters

Appeal: APP/V3500/W/24/3354097 Application No: SCC/0124/22W Construction and operation of anaerobic digestion plant and associated infrastructure. Land at Copeland Way, Ellough, Beccles, NR34 7TL. The appeal hearing was held on 25th February 2025, attended by Cllr Facer. A decision has yet to be reported.

149/24 Parish Community Plan

149/24/1 Highways - Suffolk Highways have confirmed that the white lines on the road at the Church Crossroads in Henstead are due to be repainted within 14 weeks from 5th December 2024.

Confirmation has also been received that a damaged 30mph sign in Hulver Street will be repaired within approximately 10 working days from 5th March 2025. A number of other damaged road signs have recently been reported to Suffolk Highways.

149/24/2 Church Surround - The Clerk read out a letter received from Mr C Hadingham, last remaining Trustee of the area known as the Church Surround, requesting that the Parish Council becomes fellow Trustee of the Church Surround. This will be added to the agenda of the next meeting for discussion.

149/24/3 Communication including website - No update

149/24/4 Amenities - No update

149/24/5 Social Activities - No update.

150/24 Village Emergency Plan. No update.

151/24 Speed Indicator Device. No reply has been received from Suffolk Highways Safety and Speed Management team regarding the possible locations for the positioning of a new SID. These will be resent and copied in to SCC Cllr Ladd. The Clerk noted that councillors had agreed the quote received from Westcotech for a new SID at a cost of £4222.00 excluding VAT. **Proposed by Cllr Doran, seconded by Cllr Block.**

152/24 Parish Council Disciplinary Procedure. Councillors agreed that the proposed Disciplinary Procedure was adequate for the Parish Council. **Proposed by Cllr Facer, seconded by Cllr Block.**

153/24 Prevention of Sexual and General Harassment in the Work Place Policy and Procedure. All councillors have read and confirmed understanding of the proposed policy. It was agreed that the policy would be adopted by the Parish Council. **Proposed by Cllr Facer, seconded by Cllr Block.** The Clerk will publish the policy on the Parish Council website and in the village noticeboards.

154/24 Appointment of Internal Auditor. The Clerk provided information of fees for an Internal Audit. It was agreed that Heelis & Lodge be appointed as Internal Auditor for the financial year 2024/2025. **Proposed by Cllr Block, seconded by Cllr Armstrong.** The Clerk will notify Heelis & Lodge.

155/24 To review the Financial Risk Management Policy. Councillors agreed the updated policy was adequate for the council's requirements. Proposed by Cllr Doran, seconded by Cllr Armstrong.

156/24 To review the Internal Control. The Internal Control was undertaken by the Council and found to be in order, proposed by Cllr Block, seconded by Cllr Facer. The Chair signed to this effect.

157/24 Churchyard wall in Henstead. The Parish Council has been approached regarding possible contributions towards the costs of works on the churchyard wall. It was agreed that more information would be required before any discussions could take place. A member of the PCC will be invited to a future meeting of the Parish Council so that more information can be obtained.

Questions from the Public

None present

158/24 Any other business

- i) **CIL receipts.** The Clerk noted that the most recent CIL receipt was in relation to planning application reference DC/22/3700/FUL.
- ii) **VE Day Flags.** A discussion was held on purchasing a flag to commemorate VE Day. It was suggested that the purchase of a Union Jack be considered which can be flown to commemorate occasions in the future.
- iii) It was noted that there may be several newer residents in the village who are not aware of the village community email link. It was suggested that details of the community email be posted to every property in the village. The Clerk will look into possible costs of this. It was also suggested that details of a community coffee morning be circulated at the same time.
- iv) It was noted that a community litter pick was held over the weekend of 1st and 2nd March with several volunteers from Henstead and Hulver Street joining in. Approximately 40 bags of litter were collected. The Parish Council offered thanks to all those who volunteered their time and also to East Suffolk Services Limited for providing the equipment and collecting the rubbish following the litter pick.

159/24 Items for the agenda of the next meeting

None

160/24 Date and time of next meeting.

Due to unknown availability of councillors, it was not possible to agree the date of the April meeting. A date will be agreed as soon as possible and circulated.

The meeting closed at 9.42pm