

DEOPHAM & HACKFORD PARISH COUNCIL

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Draft Minutes of the Annual Parish meeting on Wednesday 1st May 2024, 7.30pm at Gralix Hall

Cllrs present:

Jacky Phoenix – Chair (JP), Martin Skidmore (MS), Chris Chorley (CCh), Eliska Cheeseman (EC), Chris Coath (CC), Catherine Grand (CG)

Absent:

Chris Biggs (CB) – Vice Chair,

Others present:

Jordana Wheeler (Clerk), Cllr Margaret Dewsbury (MD), Josh Wooliscroft (JW), Members of the public - 2.

1. To receive and accept apologies for absence
 - 1.1. Apologies were received and accepted from CB.
2. To approve and sign the minutes of the Annual Parish meeting on 10th May 2023
 - 2.1. The minutes of the meeting held on 10th March 2023 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 2023-24
 - 3.1. JP summarised the report. Parishioners continue to attend Council meetings and JP thanked MD for her continued support as County Councillor. JP welcomed JW to his first meeting. Particular items shared were the ongoing improvements to the play park, the purchase of litter pick equipment and a new noticeboard. Further improvements have been made to the Council website and the Council has moved to online banking. The Council continues to work on issues affecting the parish including speeding and flooding. JP thanked everyone who supports the Council. The full report is available on the website.
4. Cllr Josh Wooliscroft – South Norfolk Council
 - 4.1. JW thanked the Council for the invite to attend the meeting. JW shared that Yvonne Bendle, his predecessor, had been made an [Honorary Alderman of South Norfolk Council](#) in recognition of her long service. The Council is continuing to support people suffering through the cost of living crisis. Council tax has gone up to help provide this support. Locally, JW is working with residents on planning, potholes as well as supporting local groups and organisations including Gralix Hall. JW encouraged the Council to apply for a grant through his Members Ward grant. The full report is available on the

Draft minutes until approved at the Annual Parish meeting in 2025

Chairman Signature:

Date:

website.

5. Cllr Margaret Dewsbury – Norfolk County Council

5.1. MD summarised her report, the full report is available on the website. The Council continues to lobby central government for more support with flooding. Rules have been changed to increase the amount of DIY waste which can be taken to recycling centres in a bid to reduce fly tipping. The Adult Education service received a 'Good' rating at its recent Ofsted inspection. JP thanked MD for always attending the Parish Councils monthly meetings.

6. The Rix Trust

6.1. JP noted that the charities continue to support the education of local children. Overall, it has been a quiet year. The Charity has focused on revamping the pavilion at the playing field, installing new cladding to the outside of the building. They hope to complete the cladding next year. The charity also received a grant to plant trees on the field, with local residents helping to plant them.

7. Deopham Poor's Allotment Charity

7.1. JP reported that money had been given to those who applied for support with fuel costs. The full report is available on the website.

8. Hackford Fuel Allotment Charity

8.1. MS gave a brief report. The charity currently has 4 trustees and the land owned by the charity is leased on a 5-year lease. Small payments continue to be given to those in the parish in need of financial support. As the parish is small there are limited options for awarding financial support.

9. Deopham STAR

9.1. CC summarised the report, full details are available on the website. The application to the National Lottery Heritage Fund continues and must be for the benefit of the whole community and not just to save the church from disrepair. Since the project first started 2-3 years ago costs have increased considerably. The group has to provide a percentage of matched funding. The project to achieve funding will run until 2025 with the final funding application being submitted in late autumn 2024.

10. Gralix Hall Committee

10.1. A representative from the committee provided a report. They installed a defibrillator in March 2024 to the outside of the building which was funded through donations and fundraising. The defibrillator was donated by Wicklewood Primary School. The committee continue to raise funds for the garden project. The area to the back of the hall has been cleared, fencing, seating and shingle will be installed. As well as being used for events, the area will also be accessible from the churchyard for visitors to sit and enjoy the area. Options for direct access from the hall to the garden is being considered. Hire of the hall by groups continues to grow.

11. Opportunity for Public Participation

- 11.1. A resident enquired about what action was being taken to improve recent flooding of the roads. The Council had nothing to report but are working with the Council to see what improvements can be made.

The public meeting closed at 8.10pm.

DRAFT