

Spexhall Parish Council

**A Meeting of the Parish Council was held at the Village Hall, Spexhall on
Thursday, August 1st 2024 at 3-30pm:**

Minutes:

Present:

Cllr. C. Thompson (Chair); Cllr. A. Coles (Vice-Chair) and Cllr. L. LeLean:

Also Present:

Paul Widdowson (Clerk); District Cllr. B. Keys-Holloway (Left 4-58pm) and one observer (Left 4-48pm):

1) Apologies:

Cllr. I. Bowmer; Cllr. D. Carter; Cllr. N. Roper and Cllr. L. Sharman all gave their apologies. Councillors accepted their apologies.

County Cllr. A. Dunning was not present:

2) To receive declarations of interest:

There were no declarations of interest.

3) Requests for dispensations:

There were no requests for dispensations.

4) To receive a report from the County and District Councillors:

District Cllr. B. Keys-Holloway said that she had sent a report which the Clerk confirmed had been sent to all Councillors. She said that she had nothing to add regarding the Gray's Lane Planning Application but was staying fully informed of its progress. District Cllr. B. Keys-Holloway asked that Councillors contact her if they had any questions or needed any help.

5) Public Session: Members of the public have fifteen minutes to ask questions on topics on the agenda.

The Parishioner did not have any questions.

9) Road Sign Cleaning:

It was noted that Suffolk County Council would give equipment to local people to clean signs. Cllr. C. Thompson said that he would clean the road signs once he had completed the Community Self-Help Scheme formalities with Suffolk County Council.

10) Website Update:

It was agreed that the Clerk would contact Suffolk Cloud to discuss allowing Cllr. C. Thompson access to the website as well.

11) Planning Matters:

Proposal: *Temporary ground mounted solar photovoltaic (PV) farm with battery energy storage; along with continued agricultural use, ancillary infrastructure, security fencing, landscaping provision, ecological enhancements and associated works.*

Address: *Land To The North Of Gray's Lane, Wissett, Halesworth, Suffolk.*

Ref: *DC/22/3313/FUL*

The Parishioner gave information and their view on the planning application for the Councillors consideration.

Councillors agreed to give the following response to the planning application:

Spexhall Parish Council is fully supportive of the response submitted by Wissett Parish Council on 19th July 2024. It agrees with all points detailed in the response and extends its support to the objections made and additional answers sought to the questions raised. There are a number of points referenced in the response that the Parish Council would like to highlight in this supporting document that greatly impact the area and residents of Spexhall:

- 1. The use of Grays Lane, and the connecting public rights of way, by residents of Spexhall and other public users and the disruption and permanent change to the views and surrounding environment is of significant concern for residents. Spexhall Parish Council echos the views of East Suffolk Senior Landscape Officer Ruth Chittock (29.5.2024) detailed in the response from Wissett Parish Council.*
- 2. The BESS water supply application refusal (APP/U1105/W/23/3319803) specifically in reference to the removal of contaminated firewater which will have significant impact on the surrounding environment, including farmland and private residencies.*
- 3. The amenity of Pear Tree Farm and the detrimental impact of the site artefacts immediately sited close to the property (BESS) and the prevailing view over a significant number of solar panels. This will have a significant effect on the value of this property and the likelihood of any potential future sale.*

Proposer: Cllr. A. Coles:

Seconder: Cllr. L. LeLean:

14) Acceptance of the Internal Auditors Report and to pay their invoice with any amendments:

The councillors discussed and accepted the Internal Auditors Report and also agreed to pay the SALC Invoice.

Proposer: Cllr. L. LeLean:

Secunder: Cllr. A. Coles:

15) Cil Money:

Councillors agreed to research having a gazebo for use outside the Village Hall in order to enhance the outside facilities of the Village Hall.

16) To decide the date and receive agenda items for the next Parish Council Meeting.

It was noted that an Extra-Ordinary Parish Council at 8-30am on Wednesday, August 7th would be held to consider and agree a response to the planning application *DC/24/2430/FUL*. It was also agreed that the following Parish Council Meeting would be held on Thursday, September 12th 2024 at 7-30pm in the Village Hall.

It was agreed to put 'Cil Money' on the Thursday, September 12th 2024 Agenda.

The Meeting ended at 5-22pm.