Spexhall Parish Council

A Meeting of the Parish Council was held at the Village Hall, Spexhall on Thursday, March 14th 2024 at 7-30pm:

Minutes:

Present:

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

Also Present:

Paul Widdowson (Clerk) and County Cllr. A. Dunning:

1) Apologies:

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

District Cllr. B. Keys-Holloway and District Cllr. G. Wakeling gave their apologies:

2) <u>To receive declarations of interest:</u>

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:

County Cllr. A. Dunning went through her written report noting the Suffolk County Council (SCC) Budget, Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) and Suffolk Devolution. She said that a large amount of SCC Spending was on Adult Social Care and SEND. County Cllr. A. Dunning also reported that in the 2025 Elections, it was proposed that electors would be electing the County Councillors and also directly electing the Leader of the County Council who would choose the Cabinet. She said that she was not keen on the direct election of the County Council Leader because the elected Leader of the County Council may be in a different party to the majority of County Councillors.

County Cllr. A. Dunning reported that the Local Archives were in Ipswich and a booking was necessary to see the archives. She said that parents needed to opt-in for their children to have SCC School Travel and that idling car engines should be switched off. County Cllr. A. Dunning said that there was a Suffolk Business Report and to let SCC know about road issues. She said that SCC had a new machine to fill

in potholes and that SCC had used an alternative weed killer for the past year but had decided to return to the old method.

Councillors noted the written report from District Cllr. B. Keys-Holloway and District Cllr. G. Wakeling.

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

There were no members of the public at the meeting.

6) <u>To confirm the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting on January 11th 2024.</u>

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting on January 11th 2024 were agreed.

Proposer: Cllr. A. Coles: Seconder: Cllr. C. Thompson:

7) To review progress in each section of the Council Action Plan:

It was noted that each section of the Council Action Plan - a) Road Safety, b) Communications, c) Accessibility, d) Events, e) Good Governance, f) Planning and g) Emergency Planning were all ongoing.

8) <u>Highways and Speeding:</u>

Cllr. L. LeLean reported that two Speed Indicator Devices (SID) were on loan to Holton Parish Council and that one SID had condensation. Cllr. C. Thompson agreed to look at repairing it. Cllr. L. LeLean said that the other SID was fine.

9) Road Sign Cleaning:

Cllr. D. Carter was not at the meeting and it was agreed to discuss this issue at the next meeting.

10) Website Update:

The Clerk said that a parishioner had been in touch regarding the website. The Clerk said that updates had been made. Cllr. L. LeLean reported that the local Church of England Church may wish to expand its presence on the website. Cllr. C. Thompson said that he could take over the updating of the website. It was agreed that the Clerk would contact Suffolk Cloud to discuss Cllr. C. Thompson taking over the updating of the website.

Proposer: Cllr. L. LeLean: Seconder: Cllr. A. Coles:

11) Planning Matters:

There were no planning applications.

12) Clerk's Report, Correspondence and Donations:

The Clerk said that an invitation to enter the Buckingham Palace Garden Party Draw had been given to the Chair and there had been a VAT Repayment of £1131-02. He said that he had attended a Clerk Networking Meeting about the upcoming Internal Audit and that the Internal Audit was booked for the end of April.

The Clerk said that there was currently a consultation regarding the LionLink and Local Government Devolution. He also reported that there was the Sizewell C Annual Community Forum on April 9th and he had received an email regarding the Halesworth Library Events.

Finally the Clerk said that there had been a change to the Financial Regulations and that the Parish Council needed to plan to make the change to the 'gov.uk' domain for the Parish Council's emails and possibly its website. Cllr. C. Thompson said that he could help with making this change and it was agreed that the Clerk and Cllr. C. Thompson would work together to make the change. He also agreed to help the Clerk with other Parish Councils if the Parish Councils agreed to his help. The Clerk also reported that he had received some Elan City Offers and a Thank You and Certificate for Halesworth Dementia Carers Fund Donation.

13) Financial Report:

a) Balances at the Bank on February 29th 2024:

Business Community Account £3866-69
Business Premium Account £3801-45

b) Receipts and Payments:

Internet Banking	Clerk's Pay – January until March 2024	£TBA
Internet Banking	Clerk's Tax – January until March 2024	£TBA
Internet Banking	Clerk's Exps – April 2023 until March 2024	£44-55
Internet Banking	Councillor Basics Session 1	£36-00
Internet Banking	Spexhall Village Hall Meetings	£100-00

Receipts:

BACS VAT Repayment £1 131-02
BACS Bank Interest £12-50

14) To agree Internal Control Statement and Reports:

The Internal Control Statement and Report was agreed.

Proposer: Cllr. C. Thompson: Seconder: Cllr. A. Coles:

15) Policies:

The Councillors reviewed and agreed the following policies:

Anti-Harassment and Bullying
Data Protection and Information Management
Data Protection
Equal Opportunities
Homeworking

The Councillors agreed the following policies:

Flexible Working Lone Working

Proposer: Cllr. A. Coles: Seconder: Cllr. C. Thompson:

16) Cil Money:

Councillors discussed a wide range of possible projects including contributing to a bus shelter using Cil Money.

17) <u>To decide the date and receive agenda items for the next Parish Council Meeting.</u>

It was agreed that the Annual Parish Meeting would be held on Thursday, 9th May 2024 at 7pm in the Village Hall.

It was agreed that the Annual Parish Council Meeting would be held on Thursday, 9th May 2024 at 7-30pm in the Village Hall.

The Meeting ended at 9-05pm.