

Spexhall Parish Council

**A Meeting of the Parish Council was held at the Village Hall, Spexhall on
Thursday, November 21st 2024 at 7pm:**

Minutes:

Present:

Cllr. C. Thompson (Chair); Cllr. A. Coles (Vice-Chair); Cllr. I. Bowmer; Cllr. D. Carter:

Also Present:

Paul Widdowson (Clerk); District Cllr. B. Keys-Holloway (Left 7-30pm) and County Cllr. A. Dunning (Left 7-44pm):

1) Apologies:

Cllr. L. LeLean gave his apologies. Councillors accepted his apologies and the absences of Cllr. N. Roper and Cllr. L. Sharman.

District Cllr. G. Wakeling gave his apologies.

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:

The Clerk said that the written reports from County Cllr. A. Dunning; District Cllr. B. Keys-Holloway and District Cllr. G. Wakeling had been received and circulated to Councillors.

District Cllr. B. Keys-Holloway said that East Suffolk Council (ESC) had set up a Youth Council for schoolchildren and very much wanted to hear their views. She reported that ESC were distributing Cost of Living and Ease the Squeeze Leaflets and that the National Grid Ventures' proposed Nautilus Interconnector from Belgium would no longer be connecting to East Suffolk but instead it was favouring a connection at the Isle of Grain, Kent. District Cllr. B. Keys-Holloway said that the Sealink and Lionlink Connectors were still being considered. Finally, she reported that she was speaking on behalf of Wissett regarding the proposed Solar Panels Development there. Cllr. C. Thompson said that Spexhall Parish Council supported Wissett in its opposition.

County Cllr. A. Dunning reported that Community Infrastructure Levy (Cil) Money was being used to expand the Cutlers Hill Surgery which she said would bring further benefits.

County Cllr. A. Dunning highlighted the issues in her written report adding that the proposed bus stop at the crossroads was not marked and a bus stop sign would also be needed. She reported that bus stops were very expensive in that a pole, bus stop sign and timetable case cost around £1000 and to raise the pavement would cost £4000-£6000.

There was some discussion on extending the times buses ran into the evening and on Sundays and two councillors agreed to look at attending Suffolk County Council's Self-Help Course.

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

There were no members of the public at the meeting.

6) To confirm the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on September 19th 2024.

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting on September 19th 2024 were agreed.

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

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, e) Good Governance, f) Planning and g) Emergency Planning were all ongoing except for d) Events where it was noted that there would be a quiz at the Spexhall Village Hall on Friday, 29th November 2024 at 7pm.

8) Highways and Speeding:

Cllr. C. Thompson reported that the average speed of traffic travelling through Spexhall on the A144 according to the Speed Sensors had fallen.

9) Website Update:

Cllr. C. Thompson reported that he now had access to the website and he could update it.

It was noted that it was still planned to move to a gov.uk email and website address.

10) Cil Money:

It was reported that the purchase of a gazebo for the Village Hall was ongoing.

11) **Planning Matters:**

There were no planning applications.

12) **Clerk's Report, Correspondence and Donations:**

The Clerk reported that he had received the 'Clerks and Councillors Newsletter', an email from the Community Action Suffolk Food Team and information from the CUS/SALC Energy Partnership. He also reported receiving flyers from businesses and on how to build a 'gov.uk' website. Finally, the Clerk said that there was a Government Consultation to enable remote attendance and proxy voting at local authority meetings.

13) **Clerk's Pay 2024-2025:**

Councillors agreed to the pay increase for each scale point and to set the Clerk's Pay at Point 14 on the Local Government Services Clerk's Pay Scale 2024-2025. Councillors also agreed to the backpay to April 1st 2024.

Proposer: Cllr. I. Bowman:

Seconder: Cllr. A. Coles:

14) **Budget and Precept 2025-2026.**

The Clerk set out the Budget for 2025-2026 and after some questions, the Councillors agreed the Budget:

Proposer: Cllr. I. Bowman:

Seconder: Cllr. D. Carter:

The Councillors agreed to set the Precept at £5000 for the Financial Year 2025–2026:

Proposer: Cllr. C. Thompson:

Seconder: Cllr. A. Coles:

15) **Financial Report:**

a) **Balances at the Bank on October 30th 2024:**

Business Community Account	£2 923-75
Business Premium Account	£10 063-67

b) **Receipts and Payments:**

Payments:

Internet Banking	Clerk's Pay – July until September 2024	£411-70
Internet Banking	Clerk's Tax – July until September 2024	£7-40
Internet Banking	SALC Six-Months Payroll Service Invoice	£22-80

It was agreed to pay the Clerk his salary for October to December 2024 and to pay the tax payment for October to December 2024 to the HMRC by Internet Banking at the end of December and early January respectively with the amount still to be advised.

Receipts:

There were no receipts.

The Financial Report was accepted.

Proposer: Cllr. D. Carter:

Seconder: Cllr. C. Thompson:

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

It was agreed to hold the next Parish Council Meeting on Thursday, January 16th 2024 at 7pm.

It was agreed to schedule Parish Council Meetings for 2025 as follows:

March 20th 2025 at 7pm

May 29th 2025 at 7pm

July 31st 2025 at 7pm

September 18th 2025 at 7pm

November 20th 2025 at 7pm

The Meeting ended at 8-35pm.