

Spexhall Parish Council

A Meeting of the Parish Council was held at the Village Hall, Spexhall on Thursday, September 19th 2024 at 3pm:

Minutes:

Present:

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

Also Present:

Paul Widdowson (Clerk) and one parishioner (Arrived 3-24pm and Left 3-32pm):

1) Apologies:

Cllr. D. Carter and Cllr. L. Sharman both gave their apologies. Councillors accepted their apologies.

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

The Clerk said that the written report from District Cllr. B. Keys-Holloway and District Cllr. G. Wakeling had been received.

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 on August 1st 2024 and the Extra-Ordinary Parish Council Meeting on August 7th 2024.

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting on August 1st 2024 were agreed.

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

The Minutes of the Extra-Ordinary Parish Council Meeting on August 7th 2024 were agreed.

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

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

a) Road Safety.

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 except for a) Road Safety where Cllr. J. Thompson reported that the bushes had been cut near to the Sign Indicator Device.

8) Highways and Speeding:

Cllr. J. Thompson reported the average speeds of cars travelling past the Sign Indicator Devices.

9) Website Update:

The Clerk reported that Cllr. J. Thompson now had access to the Spexhall Parish Council Website. He also reported that the move to a 'gov.uk' email address was ongoing.

10) Insurance Renewal 2024-2025:

Councillors discussed renewing insurance for one year or to enter a new three-year agreement with Zurich Municipal or to ask for further quotes from other insurance providers.

Councillors agreed to a further three-year agreement with Zurich Municipal and to pay £355-32 for insurance for the year 2024-2025.

Proposer: Cllr. L. LeLean: Second: Cllr. N. Roper:

11) Information Commissioner Fee 2024-2025:

Councillors agreed to pay the Information Commissioner Fee for 2024-2025.

Proposer: Cllr. A. Coles: Second: Cllr. I. Bowmer:

12) Cil Money:

Councillors agreed to spend Cil Money on the Village Hall Noticeboard for which delivery was awaited and for Cllr. L. LeLean and Cllr. L. Sharman to continue to research buying a gazebo to be housed at the Village Hall.

The Clerk clarified that the Parish Council could reclaim the Value Added Tax on the purchases as long as the Parish Council bought the item, kept ownership and added them to the Asset Register.

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

13) Planning Matters:

*Proposal: Listed Building Consent - Alterations to Approved Roof on Single Storey Extension - DC/23/4553/LBC
Address: Bobbys Farm, Hall Road, Spexhall, Suffolk. IP19 0RR
Ref: DC/24/2910/LBC*

A parishioner gave the background to the alterations and answered questions from the Councillors.

The Parish Council approved the planning application.

Proposer: Cllr. C. Thompson: Second: Cllr. I. Bowman:

*Proposal: Erection of outdoor building and associated engineering works
Address: Fairstead Haven, Fairstead Farm Lane, Spexhall, Halesworth, Suffolk. IP19 0RF
Ref: DC/24/3127/FUL*

As the Parish Council commented in response to the Planning Application DC 23 3629 FUL, the Parish Council does not object to this planning application but the Parish Council notes that there may be more traffic generated by the new development. The Parish Council believes that it may be hazardous for large vehicles turning in and out of an 'unmade' narrow road on to and from the A144 by the railway humpback bridge. The Parish Council believes that there have been incidents at this junction in the past. The Parish Council would also like more information regarding the intended use of the new development.

Proposer: Cllr. I. Bowman: Second: Cllr. N. Roper:

14) Clerk's Report, Correspondence and Donations:

The Clerk reported that he had received a letter from Barclays Bank confirming the Parish Council Details, the 'Receipt of Notification of Exempt Status' from the External Auditors and an email asking for support for a Bill in Parliament regarding the Safety of Lithium Batteries in e-bikes and scooters. Councillors agreed to support the Bill and asked the Clerk to email this support to the Bill.

Proposer: Cllr. I. Bowman: Second: Cllr. L. LeLean:

The Clerk said that he had received the answers to the questions District Cllr. B. Keys-Holloway has asked of the new Solar Farm Development and that the Parish Council had a received a His Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC) Notice of Penalty Assessment but the Suffolk Association of Local Councils (SALC) were appealing on

behalf of all the Suffolk Parish Councils who had received a Notice of Penalty Assessment.

The Clerk brought to the attention of Councillors an email from a parishioner regarding several issues in and around the parish. After some discussion, the Clerk was asked to reply to the parishioner.

15) Financial Report:

a) Balances at the Bank on August 30th 2024:

Business Community Account	£3 738-17
Business Premium Account	£10 028-21

b) Receipts and Payments:

Payments:

Internet Banking	Clerk's Pay – April until June 2024	£411-90
Internet Banking	Clerk's Tax – April until June 2024	£7-20
Internet Banking	Noticeboard UK – New Noticeboard	£660-57
Internet Banking	Information Commissioner 2024-2025	£40-00
Internet Banking	Insurance Renewal 2024-2025	£355-32
Internet Banking	Clerk's Pay – July until September 2024	£TBA
Internet Banking	Clerk's Tax – July until September 2024	£TBA

Receipts:

BACS	Bank Interest – September 2024	£35-46
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The Financial Report was agreed.

Proposer: Cllr. A. Coles: Second: Cllr. I. Bowman:

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

Councillors agreed that the next meeting would be on Thursday, November 21st 2024 at the Village Hall at either 3pm or 7pm.

The Meeting ended at 4-25pm.