

Spexhall Parish Council

**A Meeting of the Parish Council was held at the Village Hall, Spexhall on
Thursday, January 16th 2025 at 7pm:**

Minutes:

Present:

Cllr. C. Thompson (Chair); Cllr. I. Bowmer and Cllr. D. Carter:

Also Present:

Paul Widdowson (Clerk); County Cllr. A. Dunning (Left 7-49pm) and District Cllr. G. Wakeling (Left 7-49pm):

1) Apologies:

Cllr. A. Coles (Vice-Chair); Cllr. L. LeLean and Cllr. L. Sharman gave their apologies. Councillors accepted their apologies and accepted the absence of Cllr. N. Roper.

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.

Cllr. D. Carter asked about the funding for the bus stop. County Cllr. A. Dunning said that she would have liked to use some of her locality money.

Councillors discussed applying for a grant from the Sizewell Community Fund for the bus stop. It was agreed for Cllr. D. Carter to see if the Parish Council could apply for a grant from the Sizewell Community Fund.

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

Councillors asked questions on the Devolution Proposals which County Cllr. A. Dunning answered and District Cllr. G. Wakeling gave a report on the Grays Road Planning Application.

It was asked whether BT could further its coverage in Spexhall? County Cllr. A. Dunning said that she would investigate as there was some discussion on the lack of fibre connection to parts of Spexhall.

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 November 21st 2024.

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting on November 21st 2024 were agreed.

Proposer: Cllr. C. Thompson: Seconder: Cllr. D. Carter:

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

a. Road Safety,

In answer to a question about the Sign Indicator Devices (SID), Cllr. C. Thompson said that the SID's were all functioning well but they were getting much road grime on them.

Cllr. D. Carter said that he was still to book places on the Suffolk County Council's Self-Help Course.

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

8) Highways and Speeding:

Cllr. C. Thompson reported that he had cut the bushes back around the SIDs.

9) Website Update:

The Clerk said that he would speak to Suffolk Cloud with Cllr. C. Thompson and Cllr. D. Carter regarding gov.uk email addresses and the website.

10) Cil Money:

It was noted that the gazebo for the Village Hall was ongoing.

11) Planning Matters:

There were no planning applications.

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

The Clerk said that he had sent the Cil Report and the Precept for 2025-2026 to East Suffolk Council and had received an email regarding Suffolk Climate Change Partnership Loft Insulation. The Clerk reported that Suffolk Association of Local councils (SALC) had emailed the changes to Holiday Pay for Employees and that Suffolk Cloud had become part of Freethought Ltd. The Clerk said that he would be contacting Suffolk Cloud regarding moving to a 'gov.uk' email address.

The Clerk noted that Barclays Bank were reducing the Interest Rate on the Premium Account by 0.05% from 1.4% to 1.35% and reported that SALC was providing up-to-date information on the Government's Devolution Proposals. He said that East Suffolk Council Planning Department were holding a Planning Forum on January 30th at Riverside, Lowestoft and February 3rd at East Suffolk House, Melton.

13) **To agree Audit Arrangements:**

It was agreed to use Suffolk Association of Local Councils (SALC) for the Internal Audit 2024-2025.

Proposer: Cllr. D. Carter: Seconder: Cllr. I. Bowmer:

14) **To agree Council Risk Assessment Procedures:**

The Council Risk Assessment Procedures for 2024-2025 were agreed.

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

15) **To agree Council Asset Register:**

The Council Asset Register for 2024-2025 was agreed.

Proposer: Cllr. C. Thompson: Seconder: Cllr. I. Bowmer:

16) **Financial Report:**

a) **Balances at the Bank on December 31st 2024:**

Business Community Account	£2 900-95
Business Premium Account	£10 101-31

Payments:

Internet Banking	SALC Six-Months Payroll Service Invoice	£22-80
Internet Banking	Clerk's Pay – October until December 2024	£474-40
Internet Banking	Clerk's Tax – October until December 2024	£23-00

Receipts:

BACS	Bank Interest – December 2024	£37-64
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The Financial Report was accepted.

Proposer: Cllr. C. Thompson:

Seconder: Cllr. D. Carter:

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

It was agreed to put the Bus Stop and Sign Cleaning on the agenda for the next Parish Council Meeting on Thursday, March 20th 2025 at 7pm in the Village Hall.

The Meeting ended at 8-46pm.