

Homersfield Parish Council

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING *Homersfield Black Swan* Tuesday 28th January 2025 at 6.00 pm

Councillors Present: Lucy Hammond (Chair), Debbie Bird, Lynne Elliott

Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer (RFO): Sally Chapman

Also Present: District Councillor Toby Hammond

A. To Receive Reports from the County & District Councillors'

District Councillor Toby Hammond gave an update. Main points:

- **Devolution:** The deal proposes changes to local governance structures, particularly for District and County Councils, and includes the introduction of a directly elected mayor. County and District Councils will continue managing their current responsibilities, such as local services, planning, and infrastructure. Parish Councils will remain unaffected at this stage. The Local Elections originally scheduled for 1 May 2025, may be postponed as over half of English County Councils are considering delays due to the UK government's devolution plans.
- **Bridge Information Board Grant:** The Chair thanked the District Councillor for the grant towards the bridge information board, which has now been repaired and reinstated.

B. Public Forum – for Members of the Public

None

MINUTES

1. To Approve Apologies for Absence

Apologies were Received and Accepted from Councillor Stokes.

The Chair informed Cllr Duffy had now resigned.

2. To Record Declarations of Interests and to Consider Requests for Dispensation

None

3. To Approve the Minutes of the Meetings held on Tuesday 19th November 2024 & Monday 6th January 2025

The Minutes from the Meetings held on Tuesday 19th November 2024 & Monday 6th January 2025 were confirmed unanimously as a true and accurate record and signed by the Chair.

4. Finance

a) To Receive the Financial & Budget Reports and Approve the Income & Expenditure

Councillors Resolved unanimously to Approve the following Receipts and Expenditure:

Signed: _____ Chair

Date: _____

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DATE	REFERENCE	DETAILS	RECEIPTS	EXPENDITURE
19/11/2024	Transfer	From Saver Account to Community Account - £500		
22/11/2024	20	Clerk's Expenses - November Meeting		£ 22.50
28/11/2024	S/O	Clerk's Salary - November		£ 226.08
30/11/2024	D/D	Bank Service Charge		£ 6.00
28/12/2025	S/O	Clerk's Salary - December		£ 226.08
30/12/2024	D/D	Bank Service Charge		£ 6.00
28/01/2025	21	Gov.UK Website Domain and 1 Mailbox		£ 42.00
28/01/2025	Transfer	From Saver Account to Community Account - £1,200		
28/01/2025	22	A. P. Faulkner - Bridge Noticeboard Refurbishment		£ 655.00
28/01/2025	23	Lucy Hammond - compost for Oak Tree		£ 3.99
28/01/2025	24	Clerk's Expenses - December - January		£ 36.10
28/01/2025	25	Meeting Expenses - January		£ 12.20
		Total	£ -	£ 1,235.95
		Reserves		
		General Reserves		£ 7,061.64
		Restricted Reserves		£ 2,351.74
		Total		£ 9,413.38

b) To Consider the Tree Surgery Quotation

Councillors Considered the quotations and Approved the following:

Carry out tree work on survey T4-G4 £1,750.00. Not including re planting. Leaving wood stacked in woodland. To be completed in early March 2025.

c) Gov.uk Email Address, Website Domain and Grant – update

The Clerk informed that the website domain had been changed, the grant had been deducted from the invoice, and the mailbox was working well.

d) Homersfield Playing Field Transfer Document & Payment – update

The Clerk had contacted the solicitors regarding the transfer document from Homersfield Parish Council to Homersfield Community Park CIO. The solicitor advised that it would be completed as soon as possible.

e) Homersfield Bridge Information Board Repair – update

The Chair informed Cllrs that the board has now been repaired and reinstated. The Clerk has sent photographs and information to the Parish Magazine.

5. Planning Applications and Decisions

Applications

a) Planning reference: DC/25/0055/FUL

Proposal: Demolish and replace a lean-to kitchen at the rear of the building

Site address: 82 The Green, Homersfield, Harleston, Suffolk, IP20 0ET

Consultation letter expiry date: 11 February 2025

Councillors Resolved to APPROVE this application with no comments.

b) Planning reference: DC/24/3976/FUL

Proposal: Demolition of sub-standard rear extension and extension to Listed Building Site

address: 83 The Green, Homersfield, Harleston, Suffolk, IP20 0ET

Consultation letter expiry date: 6 January 2025

Councillors Resolved NEUTRAL to this Planning Application at the 6th January 2025 Planning Meeting with comments.

Signed: _____ Chair

Date: _____

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Decisions

c) **Planning reference: DC/24/3355/LBC**

Proposal: Listed Building Consent - Renewal of the failing lime plaster and the restoration of the original pargeting.

Site address: 83 The Green, Homersfield, Harleston, Suffolk, IP20 0ET

Status: Permitted

6. **Homersfield Community Park - update**

The Chair of Homersfield Community Park, Mrs Debbie Bird, informed the meeting that repairs to the equipment were progressing well, and the park was expected to reopen in the spring. A volunteer would be trained to carry out regular checks on the play area.

7. **Homersfield Phonebox**

The Clerk advised that she had emailed The River Waveney Trust to ask if they would like to install a display in the phone box. If they decline, the Chair will reinstate the map and wildlife leaflets.

CLlr Bird will begin to gather information about local children's clubs and activities ready to make a display in the future.

Action: Chair/DB

8. **Homersfield Church Wood**

a) **Removal of Circular Bench – update**

A parishioner has offered to repair the bench rather than have it removed.

b) **Welcome/Information Board Sign – update**

The drawings are planned to be brought to the next meeting.

c) **Wood Working Parties – update**

The Chair informed the meeting that the December session was cancelled due to high winds.

The January session focused on cutting back brambles from the paths and clearing trees; it was a very cold day! The next working parties are scheduled for 9th February and 9th March 2025.

The Rumburgh Tree Warden has kindly offered some oak, hornbeam, hazel, and spindle saplings for the wood.

Councillors Agreed that any wood removed from Church Wood should be approved by the Tree Warden.

9. **Village Maintenance**

a) **Litter Pick 15th March 2025 - update**

CLlrs hope the event will be well supported.

b) **Nature Reserve White Posts – update**

The Chair is still following up on the replacement post.

c) **Jubilee Oak Tree Replacement – update**

The tree has kindly been planted by a parishioner and CLlrs hope it will thrive.

10. **Correspondence**

a) **Clerks & Councils Direct Magazine**

11. **AOB (For discussion only – the Council cannot make decisions on these items unless stated on the agenda)**

a) **Village Communication & Welcome Information – update**

The Chair has been working on this document and plans to have it distributed alongside the parish magazine, which is circulated bi-monthly on the 15th of the publishing month.

Signed: _____ Chair

Date: _____

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12. To Receive items for the next Agenda

- a) General Reserves
- b) Grants
- c) Policies Review

13. To Confirm the Future Meeting Dates:

- Tuesday 18th March 2025 at 6.00 pm
- Tuesday 6th May 2025 at 6.00 pm
- Tuesday 15th July 2025 at 6.00 pm
- Tuesday 16th September 2025 at 6.00 pm
- Tuesday 18th November 2025 at 6.00 pm

The meeting ended at 7.18 pm

Signed: _____ Chair

Date: _____