

HAUGHLEY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 17th September 2024 at the Ron Crascall Pavilion

Present	G Brown (Chairman), M Bloom, Mrs. J Day, A. Flint, Mrs. A Pepper, Mrs. T Shaw, M Smith, T Sparkes, Mrs Y Tricker, District Councillors Rachel Eburne and Janet Pearson, County Councillor Andrew Stringer (arrived at item 9), and 6 members of the public.													
1.	Apologies for Absence <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Apologies for absence were received from Mrs. S Swinge. 2. The members accepted the apologies. 													
2.	Declarations of Interest There were no declarations of interest received.													
3.	Dispensations There were no requests for Dispensations received.													
4.	Minutes All Councillors confirmed receipt of the minutes. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mrs. J Day proposed to accept the minutes of 17th July 2024 as a true record of the meeting and decisions made. Mrs. A Pepper seconded with all in favour. 													
5.	Action log The Councillors noted the action log, and additional comments were made: <table border="1" style="width: 100%; margin-top: 10px;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 60%;">ACTION</th> <th>COMMENT</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Junior Football Pitch</td> <td>On going</td> </tr> <tr> <td>SCC PROW Officer - upgrade of footpath and new footpath</td> <td>On going</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Land adj. to The Cricket - register with Land Registry</td> <td>On-going</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Posts Project (Consultation)</td> <td>Consultation closes 20th September 2024</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Quote for Signs for The Cricket</td> <td>Completed</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		ACTION	COMMENT	Junior Football Pitch	On going	SCC PROW Officer - upgrade of footpath and new footpath	On going	Land adj. to The Cricket - register with Land Registry	On-going	Posts Project (Consultation)	Consultation closes 20 th September 2024	Quote for Signs for The Cricket	Completed
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	Contact Bellway and start legal procedure for Wildflower meadow	On going
	Greens Policy - second draft	On going
	Registers pockets of land in the Parish	On going
	Proposal Email group residents	A new price and information are being collated with the web provider
	Proposal for public event community broadband	It was agreed not to proceed with this proposal
	Report on WG for 4g pitch	Ongoing
	Haughley Green - Slow horse signs	SCC Community Officer has advised that evidence of need is required
	Tidy allotment carpark	Completed
	Allotment – quote mechanism of gate	No further update
	Haughley Green Footpaths (verges)	Awaiting meeting with SCC Community Officer and Andrew Stringer
	Tree at The Cricket	Work completed
	Letter to HE, MSDC & SCC re footpath Tothill to HNS	Clerks report
	Arrange meeting with MP	Invitation sent
	Write letters to companies Lawn Farm Business Park and Quarry	Letters sent
	Implement Scribe	Completed
	Email MSDC regarding cutting of verges in Parish	Email sent
	Arrange cutting of Moat	Completed
	PR Campaign suggestions to Mrs. S Swinge	
6.	<p>Public Forum</p> <p>A resident expressed concern about the insufficient police presence around the unauthorised encampment, feeling that the Parish had been let down during this time. Another resident spoke to the Council regarding the "no mow" section outside her property on Old Street and recommended that the Parish Council include an update in the issue in the Parish Magazine.</p>	
7.	To receive written reports from County Councillor Andrew Stringer	

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	<p>No report had been received from County Councillor Andrew Stringer.</p> <p>Aggmax Application: A new date for the site visit and date for the application to be heard at committee has been arranged.</p>
8.	<p>To receive written reports for information only from District Councillors Rachel Eburne & Janet Pearson</p> <p>The members confirmed receipt of the report prior to the meeting. District Councillor Janet Pearson highlighted:</p> <p>Gypsy, Roma and Traveller Meeting: District Councillor Janet Pearson attended a meeting that included a discussion about the events that took place in Haughley.</p>
9.	<p>Planning</p> <p>1. Councillors to review and approve a response to the following planning applications: Appeal Reference: APP/W3520/X/24/3343778 - Proposal: Application for a Lawful Development Certificate for an Existing Use or Operation or Activity, including those in breach of a planning condition. Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended) - Retention of access, hardstanding, dayroom, garden shed and caravan on the land. Location: Bridge Field Paddock, Green Road, Haughley, Suffolk. The Chairman proposed that the Parish Council makes further representation to the Inspectorate on the appeal as follows:</p> <p>The Parish Council confirms that they objected to planning application DC/23/04157 as outlined above in our letter to Mid Suffolk District Council, date published 25 Sep 2023. In addition, we wish to draw the Inspectors attention to the following points:</p> <p>1. The Statement of Case prepared on behalf of the applicant</p> <p>i. Section 2.1 identifies that “The site extends to about .05 acres...” The drawing made available attached to the Statement of Case indicates that the site extends to an area which, based on that drawing, we have estimated to exceed 0.5 acres whilst we understand that the field as a whole (the property) extending to about 3.3 acres.</p> <p>ii. Section 3.1, third and fourth bullet points – it is believed that these statements are not relevant to consideration of planning matters.</p> <p>iii. Also relating to Section 3.1, fourth bullet point – the Statement of Case identifies that the Appellant was not professionally represented In 2016. The Appellant received professional advice prior to and since the 2016, whilst Mr Stuart</p>

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	<p>Carruthers acted as Agent during the 2015-2016 period. Mr Carruthers is recorded as Agent to the appellant on several occasions and is understood to have represented others in various planning and legal matters, whilst the Applicant's Agent for this Appeal provided professional advice for applications in 2020 and 2023.</p> <p>iv. Section 3.1, fifth bullet point – “The existing use of the site has been in existence for a period of more than 4 years.” Whereas this is admitted, this occupation has been without planning permission despite a history of planning applications and is contrary to ongoing enforcement action.</p> <p>There has been a relatively long history of ‘planning matters’ relating to this property, including nine applications since 2011 in addition to this Appeal. All of the previous applications have been either refused, withdrawn and ‘decline to determine’. A summary of the planning history identified is attached as Appendix 1 herewith.</p> <p>v. Section 3.1, sixth bullet point – it is understood that this is not a planning consideration.</p> <p>vi. Section 3.1, seventh bullet point – “... visibility splay dimensions and sight lines. These concerns have been addressed.” A sight line was improved by a neighbour's hedge being cut without his (the neighbour's) knowledge or consent. The appellant does not have control over this sight line.</p> <p>vii. Section 3.1, eighth (final) bullet point – it is believed that this is the first time in the identified planning history for this site that the Appellant or their representative has claimed that the Appellant is “a bona fide Gypsy and Traveller.”</p> <p>viii. Section 4.1 – The Appellant has admitted that the site is subject to a current Enforcement Notice.</p> <p>ix. Section 4.3 – the proposal is contrary to restrictions on development in the countryside.</p> <p>2. An aerial view of the area taken from Google Maps indicates various caravans and vehicles together with other apparent structures within the Appeal site and additional structures on the accompanying land. Previously, the property as a whole had been a paddock without any structure thereon and had a typical agricultural field access only with a single five bar farm gate which was infrequently used.</p> <p>Mrs. T Shaw seconded with all in favour.</p>
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	<p>2. Councillors to note the following decisions from Mid Suffolk District Council have been received:</p> <p>DC/24/02504 - Proposal & Location of Development: Householder Application - Construction of first floor extension with dormers, infill roof to rear, insertion of rooflights to side and replacement/alteration to existing fenestration. Gospel Hall Bungalow, Haughley Green, Haughley, Stowmarket Suffolk IP14 3RR. Planning permission has been GRANTED.</p> <p>DC/24/02869 - Proposal & Location of Development: Application for Listed Building Consent - Remove existing external cement render on front gable and back elevations, repairs to timber frame as required and insulate with sheep's wool. Replace with lime putty. Paint with lime wash. The Grange, Duke Street, Haughley, Stowmarket Suffolk IP14 3QT. Listed Building Consent was GRANTED.</p> <p>DC/24/02825 - Proposal & Location of Development: Full Planning Application - Erection of a single storey porch extension to Balfour House Walnut Tree Manor, Haughley Green, Haughley, Stowmarket Suffolk IP14 3RQ. Planning permission was GRANTED</p> <p>3. Babergh and Mid Suffolk Joint Local Plan Part 2 Development Plan Document – Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report Consultation: Councillors consider a response on the SA Scoping Report: It was agreed that no response is made to the SA Scoping report.</p> <p>4. 2024 BMSDC Town and Parish Council Survey (Planning): Councillors agreed that the Clerk and Planning Officer completes the survey on our experience of working with the planning service at Babergh & Mid Suffolk District Councils.</p>
<p>10.</p>	<p>Bio-Diversity & Wildflower Working Group</p> <p>Councillors confirmed receipt of the draft Bio-Diversity Policy and asset register. The Chairman proposed that the Parish Council adopts the Policy. Mrs. T Shaw seconded with all in favour.</p>
<p>11.</p>	<p>Traffic Officer</p> <p>Councillors confirmed receipt of the report from the Traffic Officer and no comments were made.</p> <p>1. It was agreed that the Traffic Officer should investigate the usability of the post in Haughley Green and will report to the October Parish Council meeting.</p>

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	<p>2. It was agreed that the Parish Council would consider a further Solar SID device at the October Parish Council meeting once the Traffic Officer has confirmed the siting and suitable rotation of the scheme.</p>
12.	<p>Haughley Playing Field Unauthorised Encampment</p> <p>Councillors noted the report from the Chairman on the Unauthorised Encampment and no comments were made.</p>
13.	<p>Christmas Tree Event</p> <p>Mrs. A. Pepper and M. Smith reported that progress has been made with the event since the last meeting. They met with M. Walker to discuss the tree and lights. They are still searching for a Father Christmas and are in need of volunteers to assist with traffic management and event setup.</p>
14.	<p>Protection of Village Green</p> <p>The Chairman proposed that the Parish Council accepts the quote of £6,550 + VAT from Garrod Construction Ltd to kerb The Green from Old Street to the track by Palmers and to install 2 new wooden posts. Mrs. T Shaw seconded with all in favour.</p>
15.	<p>Parish CIL Applications</p> <p>Councillors confirmed receipt of the Parish CIL applications submitted to the Parish Council:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mrs. J Day proposed that the Parish Council agrees to allocate £100,000 of Parish CIL to the Playing field Committee towards the regeneration of the Pavilion. M Bloom seconded with all in favour. 2. T Sparks proposed that the Parish agrees to allocate £2,245 of Parish CIL to Haughley Village Hall for the replacement front door. A Flint seconded with all in favour.
16.	<p>The Cricket Play Equipment</p> <p>A Flint proposed that the Parish Council agrees that MSDC organises the Annual Play Inspection for 2025 at a cost of £58.00 +VAT. Mrs. Y Tricker seconded with all in favour.</p>
17.	<p>Finance:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Chairman thanked the Clerk for her work to implement Scribe. Which included reinstating the 2023-24 accounts. Council confirmed receipt of the finance report for

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July and August 2024 prior to the meeting including, Bank Reconciliation, Budget to Actual and Reserves. No questions or comments were made.

2. Councillors noted the receipts received since last meeting:

Receipts	Cheque / BACS / SO		Total
Cleansing Grant	BACS	MSDC	£ 2,974.40
Gallowsfield Wood	BACS	Forest School	£ 30.00
VAT	BACS	HMRC	£ 2,761.29
			£ 5,765.69

3. Councillors confirmed the August and September payments:

Expenditure		Net	VAT	Total
General Exp.	Claire Pizey	£ 41.75		£ 41.75
Subscription	Scribe	£ 42.00	£ 8.40	£ 50.40
Subscription	Scribe	£ 299.00	£ 59.80	£ 358.80
The Cricket	D-Signs	£ 195.00	£ 39.00	£ 234.00
Village Maintenance	J Lawes Ltd	£ 5.37	£ 1.08	£ 6.45
Village Maintenance	J Lawes Ltd	£ 41.12	£ 8.23	£ 49.35
Village Maintenance	J Lawes Ltd	£ 11.62	£ 2.33	£ 13.95
Strategic Reserves	MJH Pressure Cleaning	£ 1,000.00		£ 1,000.00
Village Maintenance	Paul Garrod	£ 144.50		£ 144.50
Grant	RBL	£ 100.00		£ 100.00
Wages	Claire Pizey	£ 713.92		£ 713.92
Wages	Katie Power	£ 400.39		£ 400.39
		£ 2,994.67	£ 118.84	£ 3,113.51

Expenditure		Net	VAT	Total
General Exp.	Claire Pizey	£ 64.60		£ 64.60
Village Maintenance	Paul Garrod	£ 139.00		£ 139.00
Footpaths & Tree Surgery	W Jarvis	£ 1,325.00	£ 265.00	£ 1,590.00
Village Maintenance	J Lawes Ltd	£ 2.00	£ 0.40	£ 2.40
HPIB	Yvonne Tricker	£ 56.49		£ 56.49

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	HPIB	Yvonne Tricker	£ 145.99		£ 145.99
	Skate Park	R&S Play installation	£ 315.00		£ 315.00
	Insurance	Zurich	£ 3,284.85		£ 3,284.85
	Allotments	Wave	£ 20.45		£ 20.45
	Traffic Count	Beaver & Mcaw	£ 295.00		£ 295.00
	Wages	HMRC	£ 1,310.33		£ 1,310.33
	Traffic Count	Capital Road Safety	£ 1,260.00		£ 1,260.00
	Wages	Claire Pizzey	£ 1,986.47		£ 1,986.47
	Wages	Katie Power	£ 400.39		£ 400.39
			£ 10,605.57	£ 265.40	£10,870.97
	<p>Mrs. T Shaw proposed that the Parish Council accepts the payments. Mrs. A Pepper seconded with all in favour.</p> <p>4. Councillors noted the VAT return of £2,761.29 for the period from 01.04.24-30.06.24</p>				
18.	<p>Clerks Report</p> <p>The members confirmed receipt of the report and no comments were made.</p>				
19.	<p>Chairmans Report</p> <p>The members confirmed receipt of the report and no comments were made.</p>				
20.	<p>Councillors Issues</p> <p>M. Bloom reported that residents are concerned about A.C. Straw accumulating a large number of straw bales, especially in light of the fire earlier this year. He also mentioned that a resident had approached him about the overgrown graves at the back of the church and raised concerns about seagulls nesting in the Church Tower. Mrs. J Day was pleased with the response following the post project consultation at the community café. Mrs. Y. Tricker informed the Council that Haughley Parish in Bloom has begun ordering winter plants and contacting volunteers. T. Sparkes conveyed the Village Hall's thanks to the Parish Council for their efforts in removing the unauthorised encampment. Mrs. T. Shaw also thanked the Chairman, Clerk, and Council for their work regarding the encampment. Mrs. Pepper reported that residents of Fishponds Way had raised concerns about nettles encroaching on their property from the Bellway Homes development. M. Smith noted that white posts had been installed at the ditch bordering the playing field, and weeds are growing between the rubber matting in the play park. A. Flint</p>				

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	reported that the gatepost at the top of Tothill has been replaced.
21.	<p>Correspondence</p> <p>Councillors to note correspondence circulated and consider any action</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Allotment Tennant – Sign, change of code and fence for rabbits: It was agreed to respond to the tenant to advise that the Parish Council will not be considering the installation of signs, will investigate the change of the padlock code and fence for rabbits. 2. Residents – Speeding Fishponds Way: It was agreed to respond to the residents to advise that the Parish Council have done all they can in the area, speedbumps and speed signs, but they are limited to what they can do as this is the responsibility of Suffolk Highways and the Police. 3. Stowmarket Town Council – Invitation to civic celebration and reception: The members were all invited to the event. 4. Adrian Ramsey – Response from letter Haughley New Street: Information. 5. Resident – Plashwood Road Haughley speeding: It was agreed to include Plashwood Road on the next traffic count to obtain information on the area.
22.	<p>Date of next meetings:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Parish Council meeting Tuesday 15th October 2024 at Ron Crascall Pavilion at 7.00pm
23.	<p>Councillors resolved that under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the public and press be excluded from the meeting due to the confidential nature of the business to be discussed.</p> <p>Councillors to receive the Clerks resignation and consider the appointment of a new Clerk</p>
	There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 21.12
<p>A copy of any reports or correspondence cited in the minutes can be made available from the clerk on receipt of written application</p> <p>clerk@haughleypc.co.uk</p>	

Appendix 1

Signed Chairman:

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Planning history**Bridgefield Paddock, Haughley**

1. Application DC/2418/11 – Land opposite (or to the west of) Old Station House, Bacton Road, Haughley

Use of land for keeping of horses. Erection of stables/store/tack-room.

Refused 14th November 2011

Appealed

Appeal dismissed 6th September 2012

2. Application 2458/14

Use of land for siting of stable block and tack room

Withdrawn

3. App 3616/14 – Land opposite The Old Station House, Gren Road, Haughley

Change of use for agricultural land to keep horses. Use of land for siting stable block and tack room.

Refused 9th February 2015

(Note: records of this application do not include the history of 1 and 2 above.)

4. App 3142/15 – Bridge Field Paddock, Green Road, Haughley

Change of use for temporary standing 3 x caravans inc static – determine viability as smallholding.

Refused 18th March 2016

(Note: records of this application do not include the history of 1, 2 or 3 above.)

Enforcement visit 22nd March

Notice served 5th April

Appeal lodged 12th April

Appeal dismissed 27th July

In breach 27th October

Court hearing 30th May 2017

(In Council's favour – fine to pay.)

Injunction hearing 24th May 2018

(In Council's favour – ordered to clear site)

5. App 17/02812

Change of use of land for a gypsy caravan site for a temporary period of four years

Decline to determine

(Note: listed in history of property but unable to view application online)

6. App 18/02201

Change of use of land, creation of access, standing of 3 residential caravans and storage buildings, removal of lamppost (retention of)

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Decline to determine

(Note: listed in history of property but unable to view application online)

7. App 18/02925 – Bridge Field Paddock, Green Road, Haughley

Change of use of land and erection of 1 dwelling and 8 hook-ups.

Refused 30th October 2018

(Note: records have wrong document on website, and to not include 3 above nor appeal of 6th September 2012.)

8. App 19/03539 – Bridge Field Paddock, Green Road, Haughley

Application for Lawful Development Certificate (LDC) - Retention of access, hardstanding, stable buildings, caravan use of the land.

Was not lawful – 19th September 2019

9. App 20/02866 – Bridge Field Paddock, Green Road, Haughley

Outline planning application - Erection of a detached single storey dwelling with double garage and off road parking (following removal of existing caravan).

Refused – 9th November 2020

10. App 23/03443 - Lawful Development Certificate (LDC)

Dated 24th July 2023

Withdrawn

11. App 23/04157 - Lawful Development Certificate (LDC)

Access, hardstanding, dayroom, garden shed and caravan on land

Was not lawful - 15th November 2023

Appeal: APP/W3520/X/24/3343778

Signed Chairman:

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