

HELMINGHAM PARISH MEETING

Clerked by: Ian Pepper
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Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held
on Monday 16th December 2024 at Pearl Farmhouse, Helmingham, at 7pm

Helmingham Parish Councillors Present: Lesley Clark (LC) (Chair), Julian Bowden (JB), Nick Styles (NS) and Ian Pepper (IP)

In Attendance: District Councillor Nick Hardingham (NH)

161224/01 Appointment of Clerk: Ian Pepper was appointed as the Clerk for this meeting.

161224/02 Apologies for absence: Councillors Suzanne Curwen- Frost (SCF), David Styles (DS) and County Councillor Matthew Hicks (MH), gave their apologies prior to the meeting.

161224/04 Declarations of Interest: None

161224/05 Dispensations: JB confirmed that our balance was £7760. Charitable donations to EACH, EA Air Ambulance, Helmingham Primary School, CAB, Headway and First Responders of £100 were approved. A further donation to the Churchyard vfor maintenance was agreed but the actual sum is to be discussed and agreed later (between £250 and £500)

161224/06 Minutes of previous meeting: All Councilors confirmed receipt of the draft minutes from the meetings on 28th October 2024 and resolved to accept these as a true record of the decisions made

161224/07 Public Forum:

a. NH provided his update via email prior to the meeting

These minutes are in draft form only. They have not been ratified by the full Council and therefore are not a matter of formal record. They will be presented to the full Council for approval at the next meeting.

b. MH was not present but had circulated his report prior to the meeting.

c. No members of the public were present at this point

161224/08 Governance: The topic of the AGAR and Precept setting was discussed. It was agreed that the level of precept would be set and approved at the next meeting (27 January 2025) and returned by the 31 January 2025 deadline.

A discussion was then led by LC with guidance from MH around how the Parish Council may either dissolved or merged with another local parish. It was agreed that a Community Governance Review would be unlikely to be a viable option and all Parish Councillors present, expressed a desire to either merge with another parish or resign. NH was given a further month to get responses to his questions related to this subject and it was agreed that at our next meeting, there would either be a process agreed to merge with another parish or the Parish Councillors would resign.

161224/09 Any Other Business: None

281024/10 Date of Next Meeting: The agreed date for the next meeting is Monday 27th January 2025 at 19:00 at Pearls Farmhouse, Ipswich Road, Helmingham IP14 6EN

281024/11 Close of Meeting: Chair LC closed the meeting at 17:35