DEOPHAM & HACKFORD PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the Parish Council meeting on

Wednesday 4 March 2026, 7.30pm at Gralix Hall

Cllrs present:

Jacky Phoenix – Chair, Chris Chorley (CCh), Chris Coath (CC), Catherine Grand, Martin Skidmore and David Thresh (DT)

Absent:
CCllr Margaret Dewsbury (MD) and District Councillor Josh Woolliscroft (JW), Carol Bailey, Parish Clerk

Others present:

Members of the public 0

1. To receive and accept apologies for absence
   1.1 Apologies were received and accepted from Eliska Cheeseman (EC), CCllr Margaret Dewsbury (MD) and Carol Bailey, Parish Clerk. The Clerk had been unable to reach the meeting due to extreme fog in the area

2. To receive any Declarations of Interest in items on the agenda and consider any requests for dispensation
   2.1 There were none

3. To approve and sign the minutes of the Council meeting on 4 February 2026
   3.1 The Minutes of the Meeting held on 4 February 2026 were received and duly read by Councillors prior to the meeting. The Council **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** the minutes

4. Any matters arising from the Minutes of the meeting of 4 February 2026
   4.1 There were no matters arising

5. To report on progress of matters arising from previous meetings
   5.1 David Thresh (DT) reported that he has started clearing the brambles around the Playing Field. David Thresh (DT) will also be meeting with Wayne Balls in connection with Rocklands FC assisting with Pavilion improvements. The Football

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Club have begun to clear the bracken.
5.2 Jacky Phoenix (JP) had informed Charles Hastings the work to the car parking area could be commenced following receipt of a National Lottery Grant.
5.3 Martin Skidmore (MS) had reviewed the history of the Pavilion and a discussion took place regarding a whole Pavilion repair upgrade. This would also be an item on the April agenda with a follow up from the meeting with Rockland FC.
5.4 Potholes were still a major problem in the villages and Councillors and the public were encouraged to keep reporting them to Norfolk County ouncil.
5.5. The Chair had been in touch with Planning Department regarding the changing of the position of the car parking area at the Playing Field and the Clerk had lodged an application to vary Condition 2 of the decision of 2022/0522.
5.6 There had been reports of dog poo on the Playing Field and a message from the Council had been put on its Facebook Page and website as well as being posted on the Deopham Community Facebook page.

6. Finance
6.1 To receive the bank reconciliation for February 2026 and to **RATIFY** or **APPROVE** the following payments: All payments were duly authorised.

	Payment Description – Unity Trust Current Account	**Amount**
6.1.1	Unity Trust – Bank Charges – February 2026 including unpaid cheque fee – **RATIFICATION ONLY**	£12.00
6.1.2	Scribe Accounts – Monthly Fees February 2026 – **RATIFICATION ONLY**	£28.80
6.1.3	Carol Bailey – February Salary & Expenses	£290.53
6.1.4	HMRC - PAYE – February 2026	£67.40
6.1.5	WAVE – Water Charges – Playing Field – **RATIFICATION ONLY**	£0.83
6.1.6	Transfer from Current to Deposit Account – Donation	£500.00
6.1.7	Transfer from Current to Deposit Account – FC Rent	£350.00

6.2 To receive the monthly budget report – received and duly noted.

7. To NOTE the VAT 126 claim for £526.02 submitted in October 2025 appears to have

been lost in the system and will need to be resubmitted
7.1 This was duly noted

8. To DECIDE if the CPRE advice on Night Skies and Light Pollution should be added to and form part of the Councils Planning Policy
   8.1 It was DECIDED this would form part of the Councils Planning Policy and would be added for approval at the next meeting. A discussion took place regarding how those residents with lights that caused a nuisance could be approached but no decision was made.

9. Planning – Nothing received

10. Correspondence –
    10.1 SNDC – South Norfolk Litter Pick – this was duly noted and two Councillors expressed they were keen to assist should Eliska Cheeseman (EC) wish to apply for the grant

11. Opportunity for Public Participation
    11.1 There were no members of the public in attendance and the County Councillor Margaret Dewsbury had forwarded her apologies to the Clerk prior to the meeting.

12. To confirm the date of the next meeting – Wednesday 1 April 2026 in the Gralix Hall at 7:30pm

13. **CONFIDENTIAL SESSION - That in view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted, it is advisable in the public interest that the public and press be temporarily excluded and they are instructed to withdraw in accordance with the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, Section 1(2), due to matters concerning staffing to be discussed**

    13.1 A staffing matter was discussed and a Confidential Report is held separately from the minutes.

    There being no other business the meeting ended at 8:25pm

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