DEOPHAM & HACKFORD PARISH COUNCIL

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Draft Minutes of the Annual Parish meeting on Wednesday 6 May 2026, 7.30pm at Gralix Hall

Cllrs present:

Eliska Cheeseman (EC), Chris Coath (CC), Martin Skidmore (MS) and David Thresh (DT)

Absent:
Jacky Phoenix (JP), Chris Chorley (CCh), Catherine Grand (CG), Cllr Margaret Dewsbury (MD) and Cllr Josh Wooliscroft (JW)

Others present:
Carol Bailey (Clerk) Members of the public – 0

In the absence of the Chair and Vice-Chair Cllr Martin Skidmore (MS) was duly nominated to Chair the meeting.

1. To receive and accept apologies for absence
   1.1. Apologies had been received Jacky Phoenix (JP), Chris Chorley and Cllr Margaret Dewsbury

2. To approve and sign the minutes of the Annual Parish meeting on 7 May 2025
   2.1. The minutes of the meeting held on 7 May 2025 were received and read by Councillors prior to the meeting. The Council **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes.

   To receive the following reports:

3. Parish Council Chairman's Annual Report 2025/2026
   3.1. The Chair had prepared a report in which she acknowledged another busy year for the Council but with only a small attendance from the public. She reported the Council were pleased to have a full complement of Councillors who all offered their own skill sets and took a share of the workload with both projects and any maintenance works. The Play Park project and car park continues to develop further with grants applied for and won to help achieve the goal of a new car park. During the year the Council has welcomed Rockland Youth FC to the playing field and this has been a great success. The Council is working with the Football Club to improve the facilities at the pavilion. The new website keeps people up to date with information relevant to both villages. Dog bins and noticeboards continue to be focus along with speed limits being discussed and highways and flooding issues being addressed. The Chair thanked the Clerk for managing the finances with clear and transparent efficiency using the new accounts package and also expressed her thanks for Carol keeping the Councillors organised

and up to speed. Thanks were also given to all the Parish Councillors who are volunteers but gladly give their time to represent the people of Deopham and Hackford.

4. Cllr Josh Wooliscroft – South Norfolk Council
   4.1. Cllr Wooliscroft had not provided a report.

5. Cllr Margaret Dewsbury – Norfolk County Council
   5.1. MD had supplied her yearly report with sections on devolution and local government reform, services, budget, children's services, adult services, adult learning service, public health, 5G coverage, heating oil fund, highways, Local Member Highway Fund, Parish Partnership scheme, grants for community projects, Norwich Western Link, Fire service, trading standards, recycling, environment, business support, Norwich Castle and libraries

6. The Rix Trust

7. Deopham Poor's Allotment Charity

   JP had supplied a joint report for the above two charities. The Trustees of the charities are delighted with the Play Park Development Project and the soon-to-be car park development led by the Parish Council. Thet are also pleased to note how well used the field and play area has been and the football team has been an asset to the community.

   The annual fuel money was, as usual, gratefully received by the recipients, with thank you cards received by return,

8. Hackford Fuel Allotment Charity
   8.1. MS gave a brief report. The charity currently has 4 trustees. John Terry had retired but the vicar had become a trustee. The nine acres of land owned by the charity is leased on a 5-year lease. The Charity has been looking at helping younger people just going off to university with small grants

9. Opportunity for Public Participation
   11.1 There were no members of the public in attendance.

   The public meeting closed at 7:45pm.

DRAFT