

Spexhall Parish Council

**A Meeting of the Parish Council was held at the Village Hall, Spexhall on
Thursday, September 18th 2025 at 7pm:**

Minutes:

Present:

Cllr. C. Thompson (Chair); Cllr. I. Bowmer; Cllr. D. Carter and Cllr. L. Sharman:

Also Present:

Paul Widdowson (Clerk) and one parishioner (Left 7-25pm):

1) Apologies:

Cllr. A. Coles (Vice-Chair); Cllr. L. LeLean and Cllr. N. Roper gave their apologies. Councillors accepted their apologies.

District Cllr. B. Keys-Holloway and Cllr. G. Wakeling gave their apologies.

County Cllr. A. Dunning was not present.

2) To receive declarations of interest:

There were no declarations of interest.

3) Requests for dispensations:

There were no requests for dispensations.

4) To receive a report from the County and District Councillors:

There were no reports from the County and District Councillors.

5) Public Session: Members of the public have fifteen minutes to ask questions on topics on the agenda.

A parishioner discussed with the Parish Councillors the raising of money for the renovation of St. Peter's Church, Spexhall.

6) To confirm the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on July 31st 2025 and the Extra-Ordinary Parish Council Meeting held on August 20th 2025.

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on July 31st 2025 and the Extra-Ordinary Parish Council Meeting held on August 20th 2025 were agreed.

Proposer: Cllr. C. Thompson: Second: Cllr. D. Carter:

7) To review progress in each section of the Council Action Plan:

b. Communications.

Cllr. D. Carter said that he was approaching British Telecom Openreach regarding extending fibre further into Spexhall.

c. Accessibility.

Cllr. D. Carter reported that the Bus Stop needed a clean.

d. Events,

Cllr. C. Thompson reported that the Dog Show had been successful.

g. Emergency Planning,

Cllr. L. Sharman reported that he was looking to conduct an Emergency Phone Call Practice.

It was noted that the sections of the Council Action Plan – a) Road Safety, e) Good Governance and f) Planning were all ongoing.

8) Highways and Speeding:

There was no report.

9) Bus Stop:

Cllr. D. Carter reported that Suffolk Onboard had received a torrent of applications.

Cllr. I. Bowman said that he would organise the cleaning of the bus stop.

10) Road Sign Cleaning:

Cllr. D. Carter said that he had asked for equipment from Suffolk County Council to clean the road sign but he had not received a response. He said that he would send a reminder to Suffolk County Council.

11) Footpaths:

Cllr. D. Carter reported that some signs have ivy on them. There was some discussion on a right of way and a footpath.

Cllr. L. Sharman said that a footpath had been ploughed over and he would be looking to get the footpath reinstated.

12) Cil Money:

Councillors discussed the ideas having a Village Sign or perhaps buying a field which could be used for allotments.

Councillors agreed to put the ideas to those attending the Village Quiz on November 29th 2025.

13) Insurance Renewal 2025-2026:

Councillors agreed to pay £360-59 for insurance for the year 2025-2026 for the second year of the three-year agreement with Zurich Municipal.

Proposer: Cllr. I. Bowman: Second: Cllr. L. Sharman:

14) Clerk's Pay 2025-2026: To agree the National Joint Council for Local Government Services Pay Scale for 2025-2026 and therefore the Pay Increase for the Clerk backdated to April 1st 2025. To also review the Clerk's Contract and Pay for 2025-2026.

Councillors agreed to the pay increase for each scale point and to set the Clerk's Pay at Point 15 on the Local Government Services Clerk's Pay Scale 2025-2026. Councillors also agreed to the backpay to April 1st 2025.

Proposer: Cllr. I. Bowman: Second: Cllr. L. Sharman:

15) Planning Matters:

Proposal: Conversion of garage to habitable accommodation including alterations and siting of 2no sheds.

Address: 3 Old Hall, Loke Hall Road, Spexhall, Halesworth, Suffolk. IP19 0RR

Ref: DC/25/3189/FUL

The Parish Council approved this planning application.

Proposer: Cllr. C. Thompson: Second: Cllr. L. Sharman:

Proposal: Creation of vehicular access

Address: Hawthorn Cottage, Stone Street, Spexhall, Halesworth, Suffolk. IP19 0RJ

Ref: DC/25/2962/FUL

The Parish Council approved this planning application.

Proposer: Cllr. L. Sharman: Second: Cllr. C. Thompson:

16) Clerk's Report, Correspondence and Donations:

The Clerk said that he had received the Information Commissioner's Office Fee.
Councillors agreed to pay the £52-00 Fee.

Proposer: Cllr. I. Bowman: Second: Cllr. D. Carter:

The Clerk reported that he had received an email from Person offering Youth Coaching and as discussed in Agenda 4, an email regarding a renovation at St. Peter's Church, Spexhall. The Clerk said that there was also a proposal of a Community Benefits Package of £540 a year to be spent in Spexhall in lieu of a Solar Farm in Wissett.

17) Financial Report:

a) Balances at the Bank on August 30th 2025:

Business Current Account	£1 177-57
Business Savings Account	£13 923-88

b) Receipts and Payments:

Payments:

Internet Banking	Clerk's Pay – July until September 2025	£TBA
Internet Banking	Clerk's Tax – July until September 2025	£TBA
Internet Banking	Information Commissioner's Fee 2025-2026	£52-00
Internet Banking	Insurance 2025-2026	£360-59

Receipts:

BACS	Bank Interest – September 2025	£46-99
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The Financial Report was accepted.

Proposer: Cllr. I. Bowman: Second: Cllr. C. Thompson:

Cllr. C. Thompson reported that he was now a signatory for the Accounts.

18) To decide the date and receive agenda items for the next Parish Council Meeting.

It was noted that the next Parish Council Meeting would take place on Thursday, November 20th 2025 at 7pm in the Village Hall.

It was agreed to add to the agenda the St. Peter's Church, Spexhall Renovations, a defibrillator and the Asset Register.

The Meeting ended at 8-49pm.