

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF HOCKHAM PARISH COUNCIL ON MONDAY 6TH JANUARY 2024
AT 7.30 PM IN HOCKHAM VILLAGE HALL

In attendance, Councillors Bennett (Chair), Lambert, Thomas, Lloyd, Guppy, Loft & Leech, C Garrod (Clerk) and four members of the public.

- 1) **Apologies for absence.** P Cowen Ward member.
- 2) **Declarations of interest.** A Lambert Eagle Landlord and owner, J Leech Farmer, T Bennett Allotment Holder, A Loft Allotment Holder.
- 3) **Requests for Dispensation.** None
- 4) **The minutes for 27th Nov 24 had been circulated.** These were unanimously approved.
- 5) **Progress Report.**
 - a) Wheelchair ramp. No progress.
 - b) Streetlights. The Shropham Road lamp near the bungalows was causing access issues due to the soft ground. The Harling Road lamps had yet to have LEDs fitted.
 - c) Info board. The clerk had written and circulated some text to the councillors and now was going to seek quotes.
 - d) Flower Planters. These had been completed and Councillor Lloyd was owed £102.11 for the purchases. The purchased plaques would be added once the planters had been given some preservative.
 - e) Plaques for Councillors. No progress.
- 6) **Public Participation.** The meeting was adjourned to take public questions.
- 7) **District and County Council Reports.** There was no County Report.

The district report was read out. Flooding had impacted some communities within the ward. The Local Plan was progressing with some In Person Workshops for Town and Parish Councillors. The draft budget, medium term plan and capital strategy was presented 8th Jan.
- 8) **Highways and Road Safety.** (Councillor Thomas). The damaged manhole by the village green had been reported. An overgrown hedge had yet to be maintained. A sign on the A1075 had been damaged and would be reported. The drains were discussed. Nothing had been received from NCC so far. The clerk would contact NCC councillor Eagle and attach some photos to explain the issues.
- 9) **To Consider Planning Applications.**

3PL/2023/1096/HOU Sunnyside had been approved.
3PL/2023/1163/F was discussed. The vice chair would contact the planning officer and create a response.
The FOI was discussed. The chair would draft a letter to the chief exec of Breckland Council.
The clerk updated councillors on an email received that day regards the local plan. Currently the 3 Hockham sites were considered to not fulfil the criteria for going forward, however things could always change.
- 10) **Finance.**

The current account had £12266.16 in it. Approval was granted for the clerk's salary of £164.20; PAYE of £15.20; £47.96 to the clerk for reimbursement of the planter plaques, Pearce & Kemp monthly maintenance of £45.60, the community Car

scheme £27.50 to the clerk, Norfolk ALC subs of £179.40 and £102.11 to councillor Lloyd for the planters.

The clerk was predicting a year-end balance of £7000 with a vat rebate of app £2000 due month end March 2024. An invoice for £2256.30 had yet to be paid for the streetlights. The clerk recommended careful spending.

- 11) **Allotments** (Councillor Bennett). The reclaimed allotment was due 31/01/24, no progress so far. More maintenance would take place when the weather was better.
- 12) **Footpaths and Rights of Way**. The trod had been inspected and it looked like the membrane underneath was failing. Weedkiller should help keep some grass at bay and it was on the weed control programme. The clerk would ask Wretham PC how their trod was so well maintained and ask F Eagle regards responsibilities. The bridge across the Illington Stream was discussed. Councillor Leech would investigate.
- 13) **Playing Field Discussion**. This was scheduled for Monday 22nd Jan.
- 14) **Shropham Road** (Chestnut Sq grassed area). A car had been asked to be moved by a councillor. It was decided to monitor the situation.
- 15) **New Government Based Website**. It was agreed to sign up for this from Norfolk ALC at a cost of £112 plus vat for two years plus a £70 admin charge.
- 16) **Litter Pick**. Scheduled for Sat 3rd Feb. Anyone interested should contact the chair T Bennett.
- 17) **Councillor Updates**. From the public discussion, the local bus service had been discussed. It was agreed to contact the county council regards the lack of service during school holidays.
- 18) **Correspondence**. The clerk highlighted two potential grants for D Day 80 and beacons. The parish council could only apply for the latter. The clerk would investigate further.
- 19) **Next parish council meeting** would be on Monday Feb 12th 2024.