

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF HOCKHAM PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON 14TH MARCH 2022 AT
HOCKHAM VILLAGE HALL**

Attending: A Lambert (Chair), C Garrod (Clerk), B Campbell, D Childerhouse, Tom Bennett, Jonathan Leech & Calvin Thomas, ward member Phil Cowen and 3 members of the public.

1) Apologies for absence and acceptance of reasons for absence

Apologies received from Christine Woodsford and the absence approved

2) Declarations of Interest

A Lambert as owner and landlord of the Eagle, T Bennett and B Campbell as allotment holders and J Leech as a farmer in Hockham.

3) To consider requests for dispensations

None.

4) To approve as accurate the minutes from 7th Feb 2022

These were approved as accurate.

5) Progress report for information

- a) The playing field dog fence had been completed apart from some minor soil filling. Councillor Childerhouse had the key for the gates. The clerk had put one Dogs Keep Out sign on the railings and more had been ordered.
- b) The village green risk assessment concluded that evening events may require more lighting. From the assessment, the trees needed professional inspection in Autumn 2022 and the streetlight's structure and electrical testing needed to be completed. The clerk would get prices ASAP for the latter.
- c) Road Sweeping. Serco had done a very diligent village centre road sweep recently, though where cars were parked could not be attended to. Councillor Thomas had determined the roads would be swept 3 times per year.
- d) The dog bin ordered was not the correct specification so was being returned and replaced by a better one.
- e) Parliament Lane Vegetation. Inspection had concluded that vehicular access was still possible, but the clerk would contact those households whose vegetation overhung the fencing and ask if it could be cut back.

6) Public Participation

The meeting was adjourned for the public to speak.

7) District and County Council Reports

There was no County Council report again.

Phil Cowen the Ward member mentioned that parishioners should have received notices about any bin collection changes.

He said that the Breckland Council portion of the council tax was rising £4.95 per year for a band D property. This was still the lowest district council rate in the country.

He mentioned various Breckland Council led schemes for the Jubilee and that Breckland Council would soon publish its scheme regards assisting with the Ukranian refugee crisis.

8) Traffic and Road Safety Update.

No further communication had been received from NCC Highways.

9) To Consider Planning Applications and Planning Updates.

3PL/2022/0003/HOU Frog Manor extension had been withdrawn
TRE/2022/0047/TCA Removal of 6 leylandii had been approved
3PL/2022/0196/HOU Scotgate Cottage Garage conversion. The councillors asked that the planners were asked if the extension could be tied to the property so could not be sold separately nor rented separately for residential or holiday purposes.

10) Highways Update

Councillor Thomas reported that NCC has decided that the signage on the Wretham Rd bend was suitable. That NCC Highways would monitor verge and carriageway damage opposite the new development access. The road in the village centre on Watton Road/The green area was pitted but NCC would take no action. The footpath issue by the school was still awaiting an NCC response and that a drain that was blocked near the Vicarage Rd access on Watton Road, was going to be addressed by Highways. Highways would be approached as some reported issues were being closed online, before any works had been completed.

The chair would contact the developers about the damage to the verge mentioned above.

11) Finance

Finance report 14th March 2022

Payments since the last meeting

Pearce & Kemp	Street Light Main.	£45.60
Zurich	Insurance	£519.09
C Garrod	Pay	£108.36
HMRC	Income Tax	£4.20
Heart Beat Trust	Dfib Phone rental	£72.00
Heart Beat Trust	Dfib Support	£151.20
Npower	Electricity	£211.85
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Pearce & Kemp	Street Light Main.	£45.60

Income since last meeting.

Town Land £1,100.93

Payments due

Chris Garrod	Salary & expenses 31/1/22 to 1/3/22	£133.57
HMRC	Income Tax	£6.20
C E Clark	Fencing	£5074.96
Serco	Grass Cutting	£1400.06
Glasdon	Dog Bin	£120.19

Balance **Community Account £16751.93**

EON had migrated the electricity contract to N Power which was causing some direct debit issues. The March bank statement will shed more light on debits and credits. The VAT rebate from 01/01/21 to month end would be completed at March month end.

Barclays wanted a new bank mandate approving, which was completed.

The RFO handover would be at March month end.

The clerk would draw up a new contract of employment for approval, following changes in National pay scales. The clerk also raised with the councillors that whereas he was paid for the hours he completed, the guidelines were that with a parish of Hockham's size, that over double the hours should be allocated. This left the council at a degree of financial risk, should a new clerk be required who worked to those guidelines.

12) Allotments

Councillor Bennett outlined a questionnaire that had been sent to allotment holders. Answers would be analysed and reported back to the councillors.

13) Footpaths and Rights of Way.

The Forestry Commission had advised they had insufficient staff to deal with the maintenance of RB1 and asked the parish council to contact NCC Highways. It was pointed out that some fallen trees across forest paths were not on official footpaths but on Right to Roam areas of forestry.

14) Councillor Updates.

The clerk had contacted the estate about the ash tree by the playing field, whose large branch had fallen in the high winds. Councillor Leech reported that a team had been out checking trees.

The HGNS was being "shelved" but this would not affect the Community car Scheme. There had been several local enquiries about the new development housing. The chair would mention this to the developers to get an update.

15) In Touch Donation (s137) for 22/23

A request for a £100 donation was approved.

16) County Broadband

Despite them asking for a meeting, County Broadband had failed to reply to the Parish Council's email. It was resolved that as this was a private enterprise any meeting should be organised by the company and not involve the Parish Council.

17) Jubilee Event Public Liability and Road Closures.

Zurich had agreed to free public liability cover for the planned jubilee events subject to risk assessments being conducted. Road closures had been applied for.

18) POL 019 Training and Development Policy.

This had been circulated and was approved and signed.

19) Village Hall and Playing Field

The chair asked councillors, if he could start a dialogue with the chair of the village hall and playing field association about future plans for a new build. The councillors agreed.

P Cowen suggested planning were contacted to see what may or may not be allowed.

20) The next meeting.

Would be on April 25th 2022 at 7.30pm in the village hall.