

MINUTES OF THE HOCKHAM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING ON 27TH NOVEMBER 2013
IN HOCKHAM VILLAGE HALL

Attending, Fabian Eagle (NCC), councillors Aaron Lambert, Tom Bennett, Calvin Thomas, Donna Lloyd, Robin Guppy, Tony Loft and Jonathan Leech. The clerk Chris Garrod and 5 members of the public.

- 1) **Apologies for absence**; Phil Cowen (Breckland Council)
- 2) **Vote for New Chair**; It was proposed that the chair and vice chair swap roles. There were no other nominations, and the motion was carried unanimously.
- 3) **Declarations of Interest**; Aaron Lambert as owner and landlord of the Eagle, Tom Bennett and Tony Loft as allotment holders and Jonathan Leech as a farmer at Little Hockham.
- 4) **To consider requests for dispensation**. None.
- 5) **Approval of the minutes of Oct 16th 2023**. These had been circulated and were carried unanimously as a true meeting record.
- 6) **Progress Report**;
 - a) Wheelchair ramp. A supplier had been contacted and grants people contacted. More on this in the new year
 - b) Streetlight Progress. All new led lamps had been fitted except the Harling Road and one on Shropham Road. The neutrals o these lamps were wired direct from the mains and needed attention from power networks.
 - c) Tree works. These were completed. One chestnut was not in the best of condition and needed monitoring.
 - d) Bottle Bank info design board. The clerk would progress this in the new year.
 - e) Flower Planters; In the process of replanting in layers with bulbs and other species.
 - f) Plaques for councillors. Councillor Lambert had spoken with Mrs Childerhouse recently and was to speak with Mr Stebbing.
 - g) Speed Camera partnership Grant progress. The clerk had completed the grant forms. Progress would be known in March. It was asked that the Wretham Road post be moved now that the 30mph signs had been pushed back. The clerk would speak to NCC about this.
- 7) **Public Participation Session**. The meeting was briefly adjourned for this matter.
- 8) **County and District Councillor Reports**; Fabian Eagle explained there was extra funding for a Go Digital Campaign, that the Norwich Western link would progress due to HS2 being shelved, A launch of Working Well Employment Programme had taken place. Bird flu was still of concern. NCC had extra household support for vulnerable households. He would forward information to the clerk.
Councillor Cowen's report was read out. It mentioned the Breckland Council budget and the cost pressures, flooding issues and the Riparian responsibility to ensure watercourses ran freely and changes to planning and planning fees.
- 9) **Highways and Road Safety**. The damaged chevron warning sign by the Watton Road junction to the A1075 had been reported and is due for repair. A letter had been issued by NCC to a resident on Little Hockham Lane regards an overgrown hedge. No action to date. Councillor Leech wondered if he could help. Councillor Lambert was investigating overgrown hedges with a wheelchair user.

Flooding had been an issue with several reports to NCC. Councillors would take photos to share the issues. There was a discussion about wet fallen leaves. It was decided to potentially have a work party to sort as much as possible. Councillor Leech said he could remove and compost the leaves. The District Council would be contacted to ask about whose responsibility it is to clear leaves.

- 10) **Planning:** Application 3PL/2023/1096/HOU, Sunnyside was discussed. Councillor Lambert would draft a no objection but point out a garage space (albeit unused) was being removed.

The FOI was discussed. The clerk would contact Simon Wood for progress.

- 11) **Finance.** The clerk gave a resume of the current financial position. A balance of £18,833.41 had an uncashed cheque of £6776.20 for the LED streetlights, so was in reality £12057.21. Despite this low figure, the known expenditure coming up should not be an issue and the 24/25 precept should sort the reduction of finances. Approval was sought to agree the National PayScale increase for the clerk to £179.40 per month, plus back pay of £105.60, for SLCC membership at £76, for stamps £16, for Streetlight maintenance for December at £46.60 and the anticipated £1248.32 plus VAT for Serco grass cutting. All payments were agreed.

A new cradle seat for the play area had been purchased at £163.60 plus VAT.

The precept of £16,500 for 24/25 was approved and signed.

- 12) **Allotments.** Following extensive maintenance, more work would be done in January on the Harling Rd allotments. It was decided to give notice to one allotment holder for a lack of tending a half allotment plot. The chair would draft a letter.
- 13) **Footpaths and Rights of Way.** The trod needed attention and it was obvious that NCC would not do the work despite having the responsibility. A work party would be formed to attend to the matter once it was established how easy or not the work was to do. This matter would go on the January agenda.
- 14) **Playing Field.** No progress. It was decided to host a meeting in January with the old and new committees to make some progression as the parish council currently held the insurance responsibilities. The meeting would likely be second week Jan 24. There were several compliments about the quality of this year's firework display.
- 15) **Litter Pick.** To be put on the January Agenda.
- 16) **In Touch.** There was a discussion about In Touch and the idea to limit hard copies to those that had requested them. It was agreed to ring fence £1000 in case it was needed to assist funding. The parish council would reinstate a precis of the meeting minutes. The Facebook site would be used to ask those that wanted a hard copy to request one. Article submission was going to be the 22nd of the month from now.
- 17) **Councillor Updates.** None
- 18) **Correspondence.** A letter asking about metal detecting on parish land was read. Permission would not be granted.
- 19) **Date of next meeting;** 8th Jan 2024. 7.30pm.