

**MINUTES OF A HOCKHAM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING ON 18TH MARCH 2024 AT
7.30PM IN HOCKHAM VILLAGE HALL**

Attending; Councillors Bennett (Chair), Lambert (Vice chair), Thomas, Lloyd, Guppy, Loft and Leech, the Clerk C Garrod and 11 members of the public.

- 1) Apologies for absence.** F Eagle.
- 2) Declarations of interest.** A Lambert Eagle owner and landlord, T Bennett & A Loft allotment holders and J Leech as a farmer in Little Hockham.
- 3) Requests for Dispensation.** None
- 4) Minutes of the meeting of 12th Feb 2024.** These had been circulated and were unanimously approved.
- 5) Progress Report.**
 - a) Streetlights. The LED replacement had been completed.
 - b) Wheelchair Ramp. No progress.
 - c) Info Board. With the assistance of Stebbing Workshop, Councillor Guppy and the clerk had progressed the matter and the artist had been spoken to. Suggested designs had been circulated.
 - d) Councillor Plaques. Prices would be circulated soon.
 - e) Website. This was a work in progress, which the clerk was looking at. All councillors had received new email addresses.
 - f) Tree felling. The two oaks had been kindly dealt with by Leech Farms.
 - g) Fire Service Update. The fire service had responded to concerns regards flammability of the elephant grass. The response had been passed to those concerned.
 - h) Drainage. The WhatsApp group had several photos uploaded; more were needed. Councillor Lambert reported that F Eagle had offered to send a Highways engineer out. Councillor Lambert would chase this.
- 6) Public Participation.** The meeting was closed to take questions/comments.
- 7) District & County Reports.** The clerk read the district council report. Matters were; The district council had set its balanced budget, waste collection dates had changed, Inspiring Communities programme had been agreed and funding had been granted for the Long Term Plan for Towns Programme.
- 8) Highways and Road Safety.** Councillor Thomas outlined that all reported matters had been resolved. The SAM 2 grant was still being approved by NCC but would be actioned once approval was given. A letter brokering contact with G Freeman (MP) was warmly received. Discussions about the A1075 speed would be had with him when available.
- 9) Planning.** 3PL/2024/0155F for the school was considered good. TRE/2024/0065/TCA was discussed. A comment would be raised about the potential location of the proposed new fence. There was no reply to the FOI letters and the local plan had not identified any Hockham sites yet.
- 10) Playing Field.** It was agreed to appoint a new committee of J Leech, D Lloyd and T Loft, with advisors of A Taylor, C Horsley, V Sercombe, P Brownlow, C Garrod, C Wiltshire and G Grant. The clerk would deal with finances and committee minutes. D Lloyd was appointed chair.

- 11) Policies Update.** It was agreed to update policies P008 & P005 regards allowed playing field committee spend.
- 12) Finances.** Payments were approved for April Pearce and Kemp £45.60 the clerks April salary of £179.40 and the community Heartbeat annual fee of £151.20 and an April invoice from Norfolk ALC of £198.90. It was agreed to set up direct debits as requested by Savills for the Harling Road Allotment and Playing Field rents. The VAT reclaim was being actioned with a query of the fireworks VAT being independently advised on. The back balance was £9201.45 with £6900.45 the theoretical balance due to two uncashed cheques. The playing field bank account signatories are being sorted.
- 13) Community Car Scheme.** David Sumbler had agreed to be the new coordinator. The grant forms needed checking and signing.
- 14) Allotments.** It was requested that before the vacant allotment was offered that a current half plot tenant was allowed to swap allotments. This was agreed and the clerk would action this once the list of potential applicants was sorted. More maintenance would be organised.
- 15) Footpaths and Rights of Way.** The clerk would chase Serco for a quote for the trod maintenance. A tree on a forest path had fallen and had been reported.
- 16) Hornfair Road Closure.** It was agreed to cover the £40.55 road closure for Hornfair for May 26th. The HSCA would be reimbursed.
- 17) Councillor Updates.** There was a lively discussion on solar panels in the conservation area. A letter from Breckland Council regards these was discussed. Councillors Guppy and Leech would clear weeds around the flower boxes The chair commented regards dog mess all over the village. An In Touch article would be raised.
County broadband works continued with no notice of road closures and no pedestrian access given in some cases. The state of the roads when they worked was out of hand and they did little clearing up. The chair would communicate with highways and county broadband.
- 18) Correspondence.** The Flexibus situation was discussed. This was on the notice board.
- 19) Next PC Meeting.** April 22nd 2024