

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF HOCKHAM PARISH COUNCIL ON 19/06/23 IN HOCKHAM VILLAGE HALL

Present; Councillors Lambert, Bennett, Thomas, Lloyd, Guppy, Loft and Leech, 4 members of the public and the Clerk C Garrod.

- 1) **Apologies for absence**; These had been received from Fabian Eagle (NCC)
- 2) **Declarations of Interest**; Councillor Lambert (Landlord and owner of the Hockham Eagle); Councillor Bennett (Allotment holder); Councillor Loft (Allotment holder) and Councillor Leech (farmer at Little Hockham).
- 3) **Dispensation Requests**. None
- 4) **Minutes of the meeting of May 22nd 23**; These had been circulated. All agreed they were a true record.
- 5) **Progress report**.
 - a) All responses had now been received from Liz Truss. The councillors were grateful for all the comments.
 - b) The defibrillator light had been fixed.
 - c) The wheelchair ramp was being tested soon.
 - d) The LED streetlight ordered was on a long lead-time and had yet to arrive.
 - e) An article re hedge trimming had been sent to In Touch. Clarification would be sought on nesting birds and hedge cutting.
 - f) The clerk had yet to source some suitable dog fencing.
 - g) The idea of toilet access at the village hall was not possible to manage.
- 6) **Public Participation**. The meeting was adjourned for a lively discussion by the members of the public present.
- 7) **District & County Council Reports**. None
- 8) **Highways and Road Safety**.

Councillor Thomas reported that signs had been cleaned, grass verges and junction vegetation cut and some road repairs to Little Hockham Lane and Harling Road completed. The Wretham Road 30mph signs had been installed, though an old one remained. The Gathering advertising board was stopping junction visibility. Councillor Lloyd would check with the developers. There had been no quote received for the Wayland signs.
- 9) **Planning Matters**. The owners of St Merryn had said they were unhappy with the parish council comments. An extension had been sought for altering comments, but as the applicants were not present, the comments would remain as is.

Kay Gordon from Highways had been approached regards the lack of comments regards Vicarage Road.

The applications for Pascali, Barkers Farm and Cleobury Cottage had been approved. An FOI request had been requested from Breckland Council, regards Smithy Cottage wall.
- 10) **Finances**.
 - a) The Certificate of Exemption AGAR 2022/23 Form 2 was signed and completed.
 - b) Payments approved were Clerks salary and Paye £165.86
Pearce & Kemp £45.60; ICO Registration £40; Savills £175; N Power DD £129.09; Clerks back pay of £681.60 (pay in July).

Allotment rent of £2.50 had been received. Balance after all these payments would be £16004.75

It was agreed to hold a Finance committee meeting to discuss the clerk's contract of employment.

11) Allotments

- a) The borehole project had been reasonably successful, with water being located. More work was needed to get sufficient flow and storage.
- b) One plot on Harling Road was of concern due to lack of any work done. The individual would be contacted again.
- c) New rules would be drawn up for September and fee increases considered.
- d) Serco were now cutting the main grass strips at the Harling Road allotments.

12) Footpaths and Rights of Way.

The trod needed attention. Highways would be spoken to. Councillor Leech would investigate some tree branch management.

Bramble management would be investigated at Parliament Lane.

RB2 needed some work doing to it. Shropham PC would be contacted regards FP7.

The Parish Council would support the Fuel Allotment regards the fen sporting rights access issues.

13) Playing Field Discussion.

A meeting was planned for Monday July 10th. Robin would sort bench repairs soon.

14) Tree Works.

Black Dog were approved as the preferred contractor at £1640. The clerk would investigate permissions from planning.

15) Councillor Updates.

The chair asked to put an item on the next agenda regards plaques to the two recently departed councillors.

From public participation, the clerk would look into advertising the mobile library and contact the surgery about the Patient Participation Group.

16) Correspondence

Two Emails had been received regards highways issues and damage to property, parish finances and the planning committee. The clerk would respond, but NCC Councillor Eagle had stated he would get a highways representative to speak with the parish council to try and help.

A further email about horse riding on the bridleway was considered something outside of the parish council remit, though the pc understood and sympathised with the issues.

17) Date of next meeting; Monday July 24th.