

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF HOCKHAM PARISH COUNCIL ON
MONDAY 4TH SEPTEMBER 2023 AT 7.30 IN HOCKHAM VILLAGE HALL**

Attending Councillors; A Lambert, T Bennett, C Thomas, D Lloyd, R Guppy, A Loft and the clerk C Garrod plus 5 members of the public.

- 1. Apologies for absence;** Councillor Leech. The clerk had missed inviting councillors Cowen and Eagle so offered their apologies in their absence. Simon Round practice manager from East Harling was unable to attend as planned, so offered apologies.
- 2. Declarations of Interest;** A Lambert as landlord and owner of the eagle pub, T Bennett and A Loft as allotment holders.
- 3. Requests for dispensation;** None
- 4. Minutes of the last meeting of July 24th;** These has been read and all agreed they were a true record.
- 5. Progress Report;**
 - a) Wheelchair Ramp; No further progress
 - b) Streetlight Progress; LED lamps ordered
 - c) Hedges; the chair would do a Facebook follow up
 - d) Tree works; The work had been ordered following planning approval
 - e) Dog fouling; An article would be in October In Touch
 - f) Old Road past Scotgate Cottage; Human waste reported to environmental health
- 6. Public Participation.** The meeting was adjourned for the public to speak.
- 7. District and County Councillor Reports.** Not available due to the clerk not inviting the two councillors
- 8. Highways and Road Safety;** The trod was being progressed for some maintenance work soon. Obscured warning signs had been reported and sorted. There was a debate on drainage issues within the village. Issues were being looked at in Shropham Road. Redressing of the road by the village green/Wretham road turn was scheduled to be done soon.
- 9. Planning;** Councillor Bennett would draft a reply to the FOI. There were no outstanding applications. The chair would attend the Issues and Options meeting, in Thetford.
- 10. Finance;** There was £15,114.73 in the account. Income was an allotment rent at £12.50. Expenditure to approve was the clerks salary for end September of £166.86, N Power DD for electricity; Pearce and Kemp £41.60 for streetlight maintenance. All were approved. The finance committee would meet to look at the 2024/25 precept. Fireworks were ordered for November.

- 11. Allotments;** The rents on Harling Road allotments had been raised and all allotment holders advised. The Serco cutting was working well. The council needed to act on unused allotments. Councillor Bennett would look at the allotment rules.
- 12. Footpaths and Rights of Way;** The clerk had reported the footpath by the B1111 chicken sheds to NCC. No other matters to report.
- 13. Playing Field;** No further discussions had taken place so far. Stock fencing would be acquired to help block an access route from the park to the road.
- 14. Plaques for councillors;** The chair was in discussion with Harry Stebbing.
- 15. Flower Planters;** It was agreed to have a £150 budget for replanting. This would come from accrued bottle bank monies.
- 16. Bottle Bank Income;** See above. The clerk had not progressed an information board yet.
- 17. Councillor Updates;** A litter pick was being organised. The road sweeper had done a fantastic job and the clerk would write to thank the gentleman for his diligence. Two benches needed moving to the bonfire.
- 18. Correspondence;** A letter asking for a point on the next agenda regards an early warning system for large traffic movements would be discussed at the next meeting under Highways and Traffic Safety. Channel 5 would feature the village soon. An enhanced bus service was being provided to other local villages but not Hockham. The parish council had been invited to a quiz in Caston on Friday 17th November. 4 councillors were required. There were concerns over potential forestry operation at Hills and Holes. The clerk would make contact with the Forestry Commission.
- 19. The next meeting** would be Monday October 16th 2023