

MINUTES OF A HOCKHAM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING OF 24TH JULY 2023

Attending; Fabian Eagle (NCC); Aaron Lambert (chair); Tom Bennett (Vice chair); Calvin Thomas, Dona Lloyd, Robin Guppy, Tony Loft, Jonathan Leech and Chris Garrod (Clerk). There were 6 members of the public attending.

- 1) **Apologies for absence.** None
- 2) **Declarations of Interest.** A Lambert (Landlord and owner of the Eagle), J Leech (Farmer at Little Hockham); Tom Bennett (Allotment holder); A Loft (Allotment Holder).
- 3) **Requests for dispensation.** None
- 4) **Minutes of meetings of June 19th 23 and 30th June 23,** were taken as read, agreed and signed.
- 5) **Progress Report.**
 - a) **Wheelchair Ramp.** The access had been tested and there appeared to be only one way to solve the issue with a set of ramps at carrying degrees. The green itself was considered ok. The chair would draw out the potential proposal.
 - b) **Streetlights.** The test light was on a very long lead time.
 - c) **Hedges.** An article in In Touch had been published. A Facebook follow up would happen in September.
 - d) **Dog Fencing.** This was being looked at by the new Playing Field committee.
 - e) **Surgery.** The clerk would follow up meeting progress with the surgery manager.
- 6) **The meeting was adjourned** for a public participation meeting.
- 7) **Fabian Eagle gave a report for NCC.** He said that NCC had £40 million savings to make plus the current inflation rate would increase this by £13 million. Adult social care was a county issue, more assisted homes were required. A47 dualling was awaited. Western link was awaiting a decision. Lotus was making a large number of redundancies. He pointed out that his highways budget had very limited funds available.
- 8) **Highways and Road Safety.** The councillors had had a site meeting with Jack Griffiths, regards a width restriction request. Mr Griffiths had explored many options but had concluded that the only potential solution was double yellow lines. He said to fund this Councillor Eagle would need to be asked about funds in his budget but expected them to be limited. A TRO would need progressing that could cost

between £4k and £10k, with no guarantee of success and parking on double yellows had been decriminalised and the police did not prosecute any more. The Borough and West Norfolk parking team were responsible but had very limited staff and would be unlikely to cover it.

The conclusion was that despite trying, it was unlikely this matter could be taken any further give that Councillor Eagle had already said he was unable to fund a TRO.

No other works reported, but the resurfacing of Wretham/Watton Road junctions was being chased by councillor Thomas.

9) Planning.

The FOI had not been responded to. The clerk would write again and then report the matter to the ICO if there was no response.

Dates for the planning meeting were discussed. Late September/Early October seemed the best.

St Merryn had been approved.

10) Finance.

The clerk reported a bank balance of £16331.58

Income since the last meeting was £414.6 from the bottle bank.

Expenditure to approve was;

Pearce & Kemp maintenance for July and August at £45.60 each

Clerk's salary for July and August at £166.86 each

Clerk's back pay of £681

(Note Clerk's salary and back pay will be net £698.06 for July with PAYE of £199.20 due to a PAYE credit of £28.20)

N Power DD July £115.03

11) Allotments

It was agreed that the Harling Road fees would increase to £25 from September, Shropham Road fees would stay as is.

The clerk was asked to write to everyone and also to the non-utilised Harling Road allotment holders. There was a waiting list and three under utilised half plots.

The clerk and councillor Bennett would revisit and edit the rules.

12) Footpaths and Rights of Way

RB7 was overgrown the Pingo trail access by the old railway bridge was overgrown. The trod had been cut back by councillor Leech and maintenance work on it would be requested by councillor Thomas.

The footpath by the chicken sheds on the B1111 would be looked at for signage by the clerk.

13) Playing Field discussion.

There was no new constitution yet, so the Parish Council Could not vote on the scheme. Further discussions with the new committee were planned. The clerk would assist with the risk assessment for the car boot planned in August.

14) Plaques for councillors The chair outlined some ideas for plaques for David Childerhouse and Ben Campbell. More next meeting.

15) Bottle bank Income.

The tourism board for the green would be looked into with the recent income and past two years too. Picnic tables and a bus shelter were also discussed.

16) Policy Updates. Pol 008; 009; 016; 017; 018 & 019 were reviewed approved and signed.

17) Risk Register. This was approved and signed.

18) Councillor Updates.

A dog fouling issue was reported. In Touch would be approached for an article.

There was concern about human waste found on the Old road just past Scotgate Cottage. Environmental Health would be contacted.

19) Correspondence. A PAYE credit had been received and the AGAR submission had been approved.

20) Next PC Meeting would be 4th September 23