IN-TOUCH

Great Hockham News Sheet

Issue No 560 May 2025



Editorial

Well, this year seems to being going by fast. In a month's time the village will be hosting the annual Hornfair; let's hope for nicer weather this year.

With the largely dry and warmish weather so far this year things in the gardens and forest are coming along nicely. Late on the evening of the 23rd April we heard our first cuckoo of the year; with smart phone in hand and bird song ID App running we logged a number of summer visitors: willow warbler, chiffchaff, black cap and more; now we await the arrival of the Nightjar.

The playing field committee are holding a car boot and farmers market on the playing field on Sunday 4th May. Come along and search for a bargain.

For anyone who hasn't had a walk around the local East Wretham nature reserve we can highly recommend it; with two bird viewing hides it makes for a nice afternoon - dogs on leads are welcome, in some areas that must be a short lead due to nesting ground birds and wildlife.



See inside for more details



See inside for more details

The Wayland Group of Parishes

Breckles, Caston, Great Hockham, Griston, Stow Bedon and Thompson In the Church of England Diocese of Norwich

Worship in Wayland Benefice May 2025

Sunday 4th May 10.30am United Holy Communion St Margaret's, Breckles

Sunday 11th May 10.30am United Holy Communion Holy Cross, Caston

Sunday 18th May 10.30am United Holy Communion Holy Trinity, Gt Hockham

Sunday 18th May 6.30pm Evensong St Martin's, Thompson

Sunday 25th May 10.30am United Holy Communion St Peter & St Paul, Griston



There's a buzz in the air!

The sun has been shining and there's a buzz in the air which brings a sense of expectation. Some are planning to travel, and others to unleash their long-suppressed ideas for the future. Now, none of this is to ignore the

deep-seated anxieties that are very real for many people. The future will indeed bring further challenges, struggles and needs. Pulling together and practising consistent generosity of attitude and behaviour will always be vital as we adapt to change, but we should never forget that we have so much to be thankful for

.Since moving to Wayland, I have felt a greater sense of welcome and a willingness to help one another, volunteering in the community and in church, a sense of neighbourliness and an awareness of the vulnerable in our villages. I'm grateful to those who step up and put others before themselves, running errands, visiting the sick, shopping, and supporting those in need.

As I write, the air is also a buzz with new growth, not just for young wildlife but with the stunning colours of spring. I love to see the cherry tree blossom, the buds on the trees, and the freshly tilled fields, which should never be taken for granted.

Did you know that the flowers associated with May are Lily of the Valley and Hawthorn? Lily of the Valley, with its delicate white, bell-shaped blooms and sweet scent, is a real favourite for many, certainly it was for the late Queen Elizabeth II, and for my own grandmother. It symbolises humility, sweetness, and the return of happiness. Hawthorn, known for its fragrant pink and white blossoms, is associated with hope, happiness, and faith.

May is commonly known as the month of Mary the mother of Jesus too. In the Catholic Church, it's a time dedicated to honouring and praying to Mary.

As we continue the Easter season, Christians have been remembering the suffering, death, and resurrection of Jesus. And, as a mother myself, I have been reflecting on Mary's own suffering as she watched her son dying on the cross. Yet, we mustn't forget that Christ's resurrection brings new life for all people, and we should always look towards him to bring hope, joy and love into the world, a love and light that shines so brightly from all those who work tirelessly to care for and support others, just as Jesus taught us. Thank you. For it is people like you who add to that buzz in the air!

With every blessing.

Vanessa.

Reverend Vanessa is the rector for the Wayland benefice of Breckles, Caston, Great Hockham, Griston, Thompson, and Stow Bedon. You can contact her on 07984 318885 or by email at vanessadlayfield@gmail.com

Great Hockham's 753rd Horn Fair 25th May 12- 4pm

The Horn Fair is held on the village green in the centre of the village.

Parking for this event is on the playing field, Harling Road, IP24 1NT.

This event hosts a variety of entertainment including a visit from the Dads Army platoon, maypole dancing and a wood chopping competition!

There will be a BBQ and refreshments available throughout the event with the Eagle pub open for custom.

Do you have a classic vehicle? Then you are welcome to park at Chestnut Square on Shropham Road (IP24 1NJ) where a variety of classic cars and bikes will be displayed.

There will also be a selection of local produce and craft stalls, bouncy castle, face painting and children's games!

History of the Horn Fair

This annual fair's history stems back to 1272. King Henry III granted Hockham an annual fair and a weekly market, which took place where the village green is today. The fair which became known as the Hornfair lasted 4 days from the feast and morrow of the Nativity of St Mary and the two days following. In the past this was the 8th -11th September, but in more recent times the Hornfair has been moved to May/June. It's likely the fair was older, but in 1272 it became both official and, more importantly for the crown, taxable!

The Hornfair likely sold goods made from cow horn, like knife handles, drinking vessels and even shades for lamps and there are two more Hornfairs known of in the UK.

The Horned man was a feature of the Hockham Hornfair (he sports a yellow and green tunic on the village sign, clearly an early Norwich City fan) and it was customary for him to require a stranger to undergo the dosh, where the hairy pad between

the Horns was butted by said stranger. It's likely a forfeit was requested for anyone refusing.

In the early 1900's the fair faded out but was resurrected in 2000 and celebrated its 750th anniversary of being granted in 2022. The Horns will be out and on show, for their annual display.

For any other information required for this event, please contact:

Aimie - 07930158911

Or follow the Great Hockham village Facebook page for regular updates.

Calling out to all

Classic cars & bikes Super cars & bikes
Vintage tractors & military vehicles

Great Hockham 753rd Hornfair invites you to attend our event held

25th May 12-4 All vehicles to be sited at Chestnut square, Shropham road. IP24 1NJ



Get them vehicles polished This will be a great event to support. This is an annual meet for all petrol heads plus this is a great community and your support will help provide vital upgrades and replacements to the village leisure activities.

Loads to look at and see along with, food, drink, traditional games and many other stalls. Family friendly and well-behaved dogs welcome.

Aimie Taylor

Thank You

The In-Touch team would like to thank Linda and Steve Campbell, and the Parish Council, for their kind donations which are very much appreciated.

Sunday, 4th May 9am till 1 pm Great Hockham Farmers' Market and Car Boot Sale

Held at the Village Hall and field opposite (IP24 1NT).

Our farmers' market will be bursting with fresh and local produce. With home bred meats, delicious fresh baked pies and bread, stunning sweet treats and cakes and impressive range of sauces, preserves and local honey. We'll have beautiful botanical body care products, incredible juices and freshly roasted coffee. A gorgeous range of garden plants and floral displays, painted bird boxes and charming wooden crafts to complement your produce purchases.

Hot and cold beverages will be served by our own local coffee truck, Piglets Brew, along with bacon and barbecue refreshments provided by the wonderful playing field committee as they host their spring car boot sale, raising funds for new play equipment.

Car boot sellers may arrive from 8 am (open to public from 9 am). No need to book! Pitches are £5 per car or £10 per trailer/van.

We hope to see you there!

Aimie Taylor

THE EAGLE

Harling Rd, Great Hockham, Thetford IP24 1NP 01953 498893

May Dates for your Diary:

(Food truck every Thursday evening May – September 5pm onwards)

1st May
Patron (Paella Food Truck) 5-8pm
5th May Bank Holiday Monday
Food served 12-3pm

6th May Book Club 7.30pm

8th May Grab A Burger 5-8pm

14th & 28th May
Bingo 7.45pm Arrival
(Call ahead to book a table)

15th May Bad Boi Burritos 5.30-8.30pm

22nd May The Field Kitchen 5-8pm

25th May Horn Fair – open all day Chips available

26th May Bank Holiday Monday Food served 12-3pm

> 29th May Dirty Fryer Boys 5-8pm

Join us for Cribbage every Wednesday lunchtime 12.30-3pm except for the last week of the month when we meet for Whist. Both are £1 to play each week and have small cash prizes available.

Fancy joining one of our clubs?
We hold clubs/teams throughout the week including Crib, 4 Darts Teams, 4 Pool Teams,
Whist and Book Club

Opening Hours

Monday – Thursday 12-2.30pm/6-11pm Friday – Saturday 12-11pm Sunday 12-10.30pm

Food Available

Monday: 5-8pm Takeaway Night (Eat in available)

Fish and Chip Fryday: 12-8.30pm (Takeaway and eat in)

Saturday: 12-8.30pm Sunday: 12-3pm

Pool and Darts at The Eagle

Pool

Thetford and District Charity Pool League:

Poke and Hope won the league (Division 1 champions)

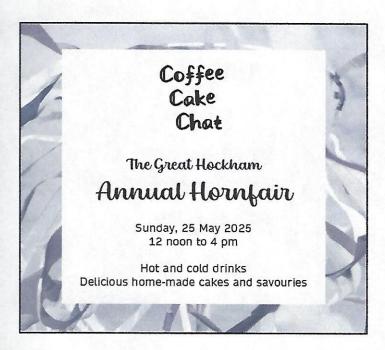
Hockham Hillbillies finished 8th in the league out of 10.

Darts

Friday Night Barningham and District Darts League:

Hockham Eagle finished 2nd in the league.

Kirsty Smith



Do you play cards? Would you like to?

We have a whist drive in the village. We play on the last Wednesday of each month in the Eagle pub, from 1pm till 3pm, and we are looking for new players.

If you play whist, or would like to learn how to, come along and have a go - we are not experts, but we're a friendly bunch.

Come along and join us!

Village Hall Bookings May 2025

Regular Bookings

Monday	Reserved for		
	Parish Council	Evening	
Tuesday	Carpet Bowls	Evening	
Wednesday	Yoga	6.00-7.30pm	
Thursday	Taekwondo	6.00-8.00pm	
May 2025			

Sat 3 rd	Sound Bath	3pm
Sun 4 th	Farmers Market	

(Car Boot Sale on Playing Field)
Fri 9th Private Event PM

Sat 10th Private Event All Day

Mon 12th Parish Assembly & 7pm

Parish Council AGM

Tues 13th Exploring Drawing 10am-1pm

Sun 18th Private Event 11am-3pm Sat 24th & Sun 25th Hornfair

Tues 27th Exploring Drawing 10am-1pm

For Yoga information ring June on 07766 108075

For Taekwondo contact Dave Robb 01953 882848 or 07710 666133

For Sound Bath contact Tracey Mathison 07748 213397

For Hall bookings contact Chris Garrod 07770 710307 or e-mail chris@oaklands4.co.uk.

March Rainfall

	4.8 mm
	32.0 mm
Jan-March 2025	
	218.3mm
2001	105.7 mm
2025	4.8 mm



Please use the village bottle bank



Mobile Library Service

CHESTNUT SQUARE

10:55 - 11:10

SCOTGATE CLOSE

11:15 - 11:35

Date of forthcoming visits (Thursdays):

22 May / 19 June / 17 July / 14 Aug / 11 Sept / 9 Oct / 6 Nov



Great Hockham Carpet Bowls

The Carpet Bowls Club meets every Tuesday evening at 7pm - 9pm in the Village Hall either for matches in the Spring and Autumn and / or for practice games between ourselves.

For more information - Tel 07737 046121

Robin



Join award winning artist Melodie Cook for twice monthly workshops

Great Hockham Village Hall, Harling Road, IP24 1NT
Tuesday Workshops May 13th & 27th
10am -1pm
£18 per session. All materials supplied

Call melodie on 07531 875713

Email: melcookartist@icloud.com Instagram @exploringdrawing Facebook Melodie Cook Artist



Great Hockham Gardening Club



Wednesday 14th May Visit to

Langham Hall Walled Garden Langham, Bury St Edmunds This is a community garden

Tea and Cake

Membership fees are £10 per annum

Indoor meetings are held in the Edinburgh
Hall, Harling Road, Great Hockham, IP24

1NT on the second Wednesday of the
month

Doors open 1.30 pm / Speakers start at 2 pm

Indoor meetings free to members /£3 to visitors

Outdoor visits are subsidised by the club but members may have to pay a small contribution for some visits

Secretary: Rosemary Martin 07563 505020

secretaryghgc@gmail.com

Website:

greathockhamgardeningclub.org.uk

Attleborough Writers Group

We are a small and friendly local group who enjoy creative writing and reading each other's stories and poems. We meet regularly in Attleborough on Monday mornings.

For more details please email:

attwritersgroup@aol.com

Yvonne Jones

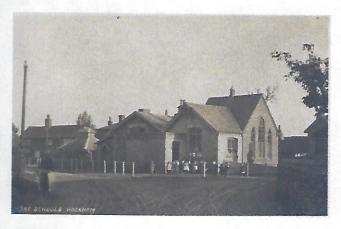
Hockham Schools

OLD SCHOOL

Hockham School was originally the old school situated as part of the hourglass shape that it forms with the village green and was built in 1832 by Henry Samuel Partridge the then lord of the manor. It was two classes, Senior and Junior and was run by a school board from 1872, so changing from a National School to a Board School. It was enlarged in 1882 and again in 1896 and by 1908 had 152 children in three classrooms, with two teachers and some class assistants. The school had its own playing field on the Wretham Road, and sports were a keen part of its teaching. The school had many extra uses, being an occasional courthouse, the headquarters of the Oddfellows Society and used as a type of village hall for social events until the current one was built.

On 23rd July 1962 the new school was officially opened, and old school became a set of Church Rooms for a while before being sold as a private residence in the 1980's.

Old school is the home of the village clock, which was rescued from the old Reading Room when it was demolished.



NEW SCHOOL

Opened in 1962 at a cost of £13,281.9s. 8d.by the local MP, there were some villagers who thought it a waste of money and the old school should have just been given a bit of a facelift. Time has proven the money was good value and the building has had several extensions and even had mobile classrooms at one time. When it opened there

were around 60 pupils and there are close to 90 at present. Many of its children have grown up and have had their own children attend and most pupils have nothing but affectionate memories of their time there.



Chris Garrod

School Birthdays



"Happy Birthday" to Jasper, Logan F, Noah L-C, Alexander, Holly S and Eva.



Wayland Show – Sunday 3rd August 2025

Do remember to put the date of Sunday 3rd August in your diary. The Wayland Show Committee is very busy organising the event which will be held at the Showground in Brandon Road, Watton.

Please look at the website for all the details: www.waylandshow.com

Sheila Mathers

Life and Gardening Down Under (Part 1)



A few years ago I took a trip to see relatives in Australia and, apart from an horrendously long flight each way, the whole experience was truly magical. However, it gave me an insight into gardening on an entirely different level and I thought I'd share with you just one or two travails that the English gardener wouldn't dream of having to tackle, in their efforts here in temperate and largely benign rural Norfolk.

I hadn't been prepared for the day-to-day variability of the weather in south Australia. We arrived in mid-December, just before their midsummer's day (21st December), and left in late January, a little before the weather had (in their words) begun to 'warm up'. In that time, we'd had two spells when the mercury went over 39C, the first peaking at a strength-sapping 41C.

On both occasions, the wind had swung, quite suddenly, into the north and brought with it a blast of air straight from the interior, and what a fearsome blast it was: With all the nonchalance of an uninformed 'pom' (which, contrary to all expectations, I was never called during my stay) I'd sauntered out of the air-conditioned (and thoroughly bug-proofed) house my Australian brother-in-law was kindly sharing with us, to be met with the heat of Hell. All the hot air blowers in Christendom had been turned on full and were being directed my way.

Similarly, the rain. We had only one spell of it during our five-week stay. It was tropical for an hour or two but the puddles had all disappeared within 24 hours and the grass then resumed its slow descent to largely total desiccation, which we were told usually happened at the end of Feb.

Generations of settlers had clearly seen it before and had planted gardens that took all this in their stride. If anyone had tried to recreate Surrey in the Melbourne suburbs, they'd long since given up and, as you might expect, native trees and shrubs predominated, with gnarled old tea trees at the roadside, obviously decades old, which made my miserable attempts to establish one on my warmest fence here look pathetic.

Picking a fresh lemon from the back garden to go with my gin and tonic was a novelty I never tired of, nor the totally unfamiliar bird alarms that I provoked during my forays into the garden. The Australian Magpie (*Cracticus tibicen*) was particularly vocal, having what the books describe as: "loud musical flute-like song, often performed as a duet or by groups".

We took a train to Sydney. It was incredibly comfortable and we were given the exemplary service we'd come to expect in all things Australian. Surprisingly, the train was of the same type as the old British Rail Intercity 125, with 'Made in Derby' embossed on every carriage door thresh plate. I hadn't expected that. The 600 miles through Victoria and into New South Wales took 11 hours but, as it was all during the day (there is a night train you can catch if you wish), we were given a wonderful tour through the Great Dividing Range, through Canberra, and on to the coast.

Oddly enough, we started with the parched fields of the bush and on into ranges of wheat stubble — I found they grow their corn during their wetter winter — and the occasional plot of heavily irrigated potatoes, before going through progressively greener fields, as we neared Sydney itself. In the end, we *could* have been in Surrey, but for the inevitable gum trees and mobs of kangaroos which could be seen nonchalantly lolloping through the countryside, here and there. Incidentally, I was informed that 'mob' is the correct collective noun for roos but 'troop' or 'court' are equally acceptable. Tom Bennett

Adventures of the Church Mice.....!

Well, the cat is out of the bag! – yes - we are knitting again (36 of us actually).

Fortunately, the cat is mouse friendly. And why does that matter I hear you ask. Because we are knitting Church Mice........

We are making ready for a weekend of fun and adventure in the Wayland Group of Churches (Breckles, Caston, Great Hockham, Griston, Stow Bedon and Thompson) from Thursday 4th September to Sunday 7th September, when Knitted Church Mice Characters will be incorporated into tableau in each church following a theme. One or two characters have already appeared on the Facebook page Needles and Threads.

Themes such as — Christmas, Music, Disney Films and Children's Bible Stores, Harvest and Local Landmarks, Summer Activities, History and Dad's Army.

Although this isn't a flower festival, each church will be enhanced with decorations to fit the theme. Refreshments available at each venue.

To help with our fundraising, we are actively seeking sponsors for each tableau. If you would like to sponsor us, prices start at £30.00 per tableau, to include a free ticket to the preview reception evening on 4th September at Griston church where drinks and canapés will be served. Additionally, your personal name or business name will be highlighted against the tableau you sponsor, and you'll gain free entry to each of the six church festivals throughout the weekend.

Please contact Reverend Vanessa about sponsorship at vanessadlayfield@gmail.com or 07984 318885.

For all others, tickets for the preview evening on 4th September including drinks and canapes are £15 or you can upgrade to a ticket giving you entry to all the churches over the weekend 5th, 6th, and 7th September for £20.

Ticket price to all the churches on 5th, 6th, and 7th September between 10am and 4pm will be £10, or pre-booked at £8 per person. Entrance to children aged 12 and under is free.

All profits will be divided equally between the 6 churches who are working hard to ensure churches are maintained or utilised as flexible community spaces for all.

If you think you can help with stewarding and refreshments, please be in touch with Lois Gill <u>loisgill@btinternet.com</u> or 07881783953 or Reverend Vanessa at vanessadlayfield@gmail.com or 07984 318885

If you're interested in being part of the creative team, you are invited to a get together/ crafting session in Caston Village Hall on Wednesday May 14th between 2pm and 4pm.

Finally, we look forward to welcoming all, except cats..... 😉



Vanessa and Lois

Dear Reader

If you know of somebody who has recently moved to the village who may like to receive a paper copy of In-Touch, please ask them to email us or contact any committee member (details on last advert page).

Thank you.



The book club meeting took place on Tuesday 1st April at The Eagle, and the March book being discussed was The Lacuna by Barbara Kingsolver.

The Lacuna is the story of Harrison Shepherd, the son of a Mexican mother and an American father, and is told through his diaries and letters. The author cleverly intermingles real characters and events with fictional ones.

While living in Mexico, Harrison finds himself working for the artists Diego Rivera and his wife Frida Kahlo and he later meets and works for the exiled Bolshevik leader, Lev Trotsky - this relationship later causing difficulties when Harrison moves back to the USA.

The book started and ended well, but we all agreed that the book was a chore to read and could have been shortened. It certainly wasn't one that you would rush to pick up because you were enjoying it. Saying that, it was a lovely evening and the book initiated a lot of discussion.

The raffle prize was won by Karen.

Our April book looks much more exciting, we will be reading The Leviathan by Rosie Andrews.

If you enjoy reading and like the idea of discussing what you have read, then why not come and join us - we meet on the first Tuesday of the month.

Leonie Jones

Defibrillator

The defibrillator is located in the telephone box by the Village Green.

Press the button to the right of the unit to connect to the emergency services who will give the code to unlock the cabinet.



Dotty Dogs Grooming Salon

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Becky

Watton Rd, Larling

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NR16 2RA

dottydogslarling@outlook.com





The content of the articles in In-Touch is the responsibility of the named contributors, not the Newsletter Committee. Anonymous items will not be accepted.

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF HOCKHAM PARISH COUNCIL ON MONDAY 10TH MARCH 2024 AT 1930 HRS IN HOCKHAM VILLAGE HALL

Attending. Cllr Bennett (Chair), Cllr Lambert (V Chair), Cllr Wiltshire, Cllr Thomas, Cllr Leech, Cllr Loft, the clerk C Garrod and 11 parishioners.

- 1) Apologies for absence. Cllr Lloyd.
- 2) Declarations of Interest. Cllr Lambert as owner of the Eagle pub, Cllr Leech as a farmer at Little Hockham, Cllrs Bennett & Loft as allotment holders.
- 3) Requests for Dispensation. None.
- 4) Minutes from 10/02/25. These were unanimously approved.
- 5) Progress Report.
 - a) Info Board. No further progress.
 - b) Website. Cllr Wiltshire had completed this. https://hockhamparish.gov.uk/
 - c) Drainage. The clerk had had discussions with Cllr Eagle and was contacting highways again. A report was requested of drainage the findings by the Eagle. Ditching in Harling Road was showing positive results and Cllr Leech and his staff were thanked.
 - d) In Touch. It was agreed to respond to the recent letter. 18 new recipients had been identified.
 - e) Litter Pick. 29TH March at 1030. Grabbers etc may be limited.
 - f) SAM 2 Data. The clerk and chair will liaise over this.
 - g) Hornfair Road closure. Applied for.
- 6) Public Participation. The meeting was adjourned to take public questions.
- 7) County and District Council Reports. In the absence of the relevant attendees, the clerk readout February's district report and read a letter from the leader of Breckland Council about unitary councils and highlighting a consultation.
- 8) Highways and Road Safety. A damaged wildlife warning sign on the A1075 has been reported along with a warning sign on the Wretham Road. Little Hockham Lane verge was considered much safer, and Parliament Lane works had had a positive effect.
- 9) Planning. There was no more information regards the appeal for Springfield and Sunnyside. Planning application PL/2024/1207/HOU would be given a no objections comment. The Local plan was in progress after a pause. The Government Bill on planning which would be read in Parliament tomorrow (11/03/25), would have a significant effect. The clerk mentioned an EDP article where Breckland councillors expected villages to be affected by the uplift in housing numbers.
- 10) Finance. Payments were approved for the insurance, the clerk's salary, Pearce & Kemp, a container for the playing field, village hall rent, community car scheme, In Touch grant, a tree survey and defibrillator support costs and line rental. There was currently a balance of £15184.06 in the bank and year end should have a balance of app £13650 with £2100 of VAT to reclaim. N power was in credit by £123.
- 11) Allotments. All were looking good.
- **12) Footpaths and Rights of Way.** The clerk would again talk to highways re the trod resurfacing.
- **13) Playing Field.** The container had already been mentioned. Relocation of electrics to an external cupboard was under consideration. The benches would soon be relocated. It was agreed to try and source any play equipment within two months.

- The field contractor would be asked if they could improve the grass in some way. There was £16897.72 in the bank with credits from AWA (wave) of £450 and electricity (EON) AT £413.10. The cash situation needed clarification for month end. Cllr Leech would need notice to move the container.
- **14) Dog Fouling.** Following a communication from the last meeting, this matter created a lively debate. It was agreed to postpone any changes/bans on the playing field. The concerns raised were that 5% were creating an issue for 95% of dog walkers. That signage needed improvement and that land separation for dogs could be considered. The dog warden would again be approached for assistance.
- **15) 3 Year Strategic Plan.** The clerk would reissue this to councillors, and this would be on the next agenda.
- **16) Tree risk assessment.** This had been given the green light.
- **17) Community Car Scheme.** David Sumbler was doing an extremely good job ably assisted by Amanda Cockburn, but more drivers were needed. None had yet come forward.
- 18) Councillor Updates. None.
- 19) Correspondence. None.
- 20) Date of next meeting. Monday 14th April 2025.

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF HOCKHAM PARISH COUNCIL ON MONDAY 14TH APRIL AT 7.30PM AT HOCKHAM VILLAGE HALL

Attending: Cllrs Bennett (Chair), Lambert, Wiltshire, Thomas, Leech, Lloyd and Loft. The Clerk C Garrod and six members of the public.

- 1) Apologies for absence; County Cllr F Eagle and District Councillor P Cowen
- 2) Declarations of interest; Cllr Lambert as owner of the Eagle pub, Cllr Leech as a farmer at Little Hockham, Cllrs Bennett and Loft as Allotment holders.
- 3) Requests for dispensation; None.
- 4) Approval of the minutes from 10th March 25; Approved.
- 5) Progress
 - a) Info board. The clerk would give the chair what info he had. The phone box and railings of the Reading Room Garden had been painted and looked very good. Townlands were thanked.
 - b) Website; All was completed.
 - c) Drainage; No updates from NCC Highways. The clerk would chase.
 - d) Litter Pick. This had been very successful. The chair suggested that there should be two litter picks annually in Spring and Autumn. Pickers would be sourced for potential purchase. Wretham Rd had been particularly bad this time round.
 - e) SAM 2 Data. The clerk had not got the keys at present but would get them so the units could be accessed.
 - f) Tree Risk Assessment. No work needed other than the swing removing.
- **6) Public Participation.** The meeting was briefly adjourned to take public questions.
- 7) District and County Reports. The clerk read out the district reports. These featured on the unitary authority and local plan updates.
- 8) Highways and Road Safety. (Cllr Thomas) All reported issues had been sorted other than the signs being replaced on the A1075 which had new posts ready to take the new signs.
- 9) Planning Matters. There was no word on the two outstanding appeals. PL/2025/0361/VAR Cowslip Cottage No Objections. PL/2025/0443/HOU had arrived that day and councillors were asked to send comments to the clerk.
- 10) Finance; The clerk explained that at year end, subject to audit, there was £16032.33 in the bank with £123.15 of unpresented income. The accounts would incur a £220 fee for external auditing as the income exceeded £25k. Payments were approved for the clerk's salary (£186.96) and for the Norfolk ALC membership of £201.14. To pay the clerks PAYE, online banking was required, and the clerk would resend details to Cllrs Leech and Lambert so they could action. Since year end income had brought the bank balance up to £24252.83. There was an issue with N Power due to the P434 process. Invoices would be issued soon.
- 11) Allotments; All was looking good. One half allotment had been relet.
- **12) Footpaths and Rights of Way**. Cllr Leech estimated £400 for new planings for the trod if purchased However access was not so easy. Weedkilling would be done.

- 13) Playing Field; Cllr Lloyd updated councillors on civils for the benches which had been completed, bench cleaning and sourcing of new play equipment. Finances stood at £16310.54 with a small amount of cash being held for events. There was a car boot on 4th May and Hornfair on 25th May. A completion of the dog fencing area was under investigation.
- **14) Dog Fouling.** A lively discussion took place with there having been a marked improvement in the amount of dog mess evident on both the playing field and around the village. It was agreed to increase signage and to monitor the situation. The dog warden would be contacted for advice.
- **15) 3Year Strategic Plan.** The clerk agreed to reissue the 3 year plan to councillors and had added provision of a lap top computer and new play equipment to the list.
- **16) Councillor Updates**; It was agreed to try and speak to the police about the safety of some on road parking. Repairs to the green had been made.

 The flower planters had been topped up by Cllr Lloyd, who was thanked.
- 17) Correspondence; None.

Next Meetings would be the Parish Assembly and Parish Council AGM on Monday 12th May with a 7pm start.

Microsoft certified

Bailiwick IT

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Joe Richards at

Bailiwick IT

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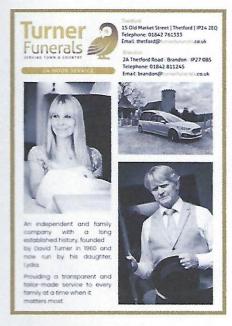
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