

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF HOCKHAM PARISH COUNCIL ON MONDAY 25TH JULY 2022

Attending; P Cowen (District Councillor, Councillors A Lambert (Chair), T Bennett, C Thomas, A Loft, C Garrod (Clerk) & 5 parishioners.

- 1) **Apologies for absence;** Received from County Councillor F Eagle, B Campbell; C Childerhouse and J Leech
- 2) **Declarations of Interest;** A Lambert as owner and landlord of the Eagle, T Bennett as an allotment holder.
- 3) **Requests for Dispensation;** None
- 4) **The minutes from 13th June 2022** were approved
- 5) **Progress reports.**
 - a) **Vicarage Rd Ditch** No progress known.
 - b) **Access to the green for those with impaired mobility;** The clerk had made enquiries but no progress so far.
 - c) **School Tree work;** A volunteer work party outside of the parish council would be dealing with this matter following school approval.
 - d) **Old Village Sign;** This would be dealt with in the winter.
 - e) **Legality of bonfires;** Councillor Bennett advised that information could be found on the Breckland Council website located at <https://www.breckland.gov.uk/environment/bonfires>
- 6) The meeting was closed briefly for a public participation session
- 7) **County & District Council Reports**

There was no County report, but Councillor Cowen gave a district report. Nutrient Neutrality directive from Natural England was holding up 700 Breckland planning applications, but clear guidance was expected soon. The 5-year landbank was being stretched by this.

There had been a call for development sites that were being analysed under the local plan.

Neighbourhood plans were becoming the norm and the latest from New Buckenham was worth looking at as it was a community similar to Hockham. The energy rebate had been made to direct debit council tax customers. Electricity supplies to Snetterton Business Park were under way which should promote growth.
- 8) **Highways and Road Safety (Councillor Thomas)**

Repair works to the Tottington Road from the A1075 to Woodcock had been made.

The finger post repair on the B1111 was still to be actioned.

The A1075 trod had been reported as needing serious maintenance.
- 9) **Planning.**

The council raised the Smithy Cottage Wall with Councillor Cowen, over Breckland Planning making a dangerous precedent, He would report the matter back. A formal letter would be sent.

3PL/2022/0740/HOU Hazelwood House, No objections

3PL/2022/0800/HOU Chiltonwood. No objections.

Larkshall. Councillors Bennett and Lambert had attended the consultation and gave a precis of their observations. After discussion with Councillor Cowen about

the potential traffic issue should the A1075 be closed and current HGV issues, it was decided to write to Tom McKabe regards a potential weight restriction. It was noted that OCO (the Larkshall owners) were in support of the idea. Local HGV traffic would be protected.

10) Finance.

The clerk reported that issue with EON continued, that there had been bottle bank income of £308.10 and that payments due for approval were, Savills (allotment rent) £175; Pearce & Kemp £45.60; Clerks fees (£250 June/July) and Car scheme £32. The account had a balance of £14509.38.

11) Allotments (Councillor Bennett).

Nationals Lottery Awards for all grants had been investigated. Councillor Leech would be approached for an opinion on water supply. A borehole was also a possibility.

12) Footpaths and Rights of Way. (Councillor Lambert)

It was agreed that Councillor Loft would take on this responsibility.

13) Arboreal Survey.

It was agreed to get an arboreal survey completed. Mention was made of some estate trees that needed potential attention. The clerk would speak to the estate.

14) Streetlights.

It was reluctantly agreed to replace the Wretham Road concrete streetlight post, but an LED would be investigated to reduce power consumption. It was agreed that the precept would need to potentially increase substantially, to include future streetlight maintenance work, following the risk assessment.

15) Playing Field.

The parish council approved making a grant application for more playing field equipment from proposed playing field funds, which would be gifted to the PC. The PC would have ownership. At this time the PC could not offer alternative funds.

There had been no progress on the insurance, though Zurich had been approached.

16) Documentation Review.

Hockham PC Policies Pol 001;002;003;004;005;006;007;008;009;010;011;012;013 and 014 were in need of review. It was agreed to keep all as current, other than amendments to POL 008 & POL 009.

17) Councillor Updates.

It was noted the Wretham Rd 30mph sign had been removed by the developers. Councillor Lambert said that the bottle bank was not being emptied quickly enough. The clerk would contact the contracts manager.

18) Correspondence

Broadland Housing were organising a meeting for the villagers in the village hall on Tuesday 23rd August. All households would get a flyer from Broadland.

There had been notification of the Parish Partnership Scheme

There was an NCC consultation on mobile libraries and a campaign to encourage bus use.

The ICO registration had been renewed and a certificate received.

19) Next meeting Monday Sept 5th.