

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF HOCKHAM PARISH COUNCIL HELD IN
HOCKHAM VILLAGE HALL ON MONDAY 17th OCTOBER 2022**

Attending: Councillors A Lambert (Chair), T Bennett (Vice chair), J Leech, C Thomas and A Loft, C Garrod (clerk), District Councillor P Cowen and 8 members of the public.

- 1) **Apologies for absence;** These had been received from Norfolk County Councillor F Eagle and B Campbell. David Childerhouse had tendered his resignation.
- 2) **Declarations of interest;** received from A Lambert as landlord and owner of the Eagle, J Leech as a farmer in Little Hockham, and T Bennett as an allotment holder.
- 3) **Requests for dispensation;** None
- 4) **The minutes from September 5th 2022** were approved.
- 5) **Progress Report for Information:**
 - a) Vicarage Rd ditch. The farmers had investigated and cleared their pipes and ditch areas. Only time would tell what progress has been made.
 - b) Green mobility access. The clerk had drawn a blank with Norfolk County Council
 - c) The tree work on the footpath by the school had been given the go ahead by the school.
- 6) **The meeting was adjourned** to allow for public participation.
- 7) **Phil Cowen** gave a report on the new local plan submissions, for which a closing date was at the beginning of December. He explained that Nutrient Neutrality had still yet to be clarified and could affect the five-year land bank.
- 8) **Highways and Highway Safety.** Councillor Thomas explained that the Wretham Rd junction by the A1075 would be repaired soon, but the Watton Road/Wretham Road damage by the green, had been inspected but not been approved for repair. Contractors would deal with the grips soon. 2023 would bring a resurfacing programme. The drain near the Eagle which repeatedly floods, would be reported.
- 9) **Planning.** The clerk reported there had been no update received and additionally Councillor Cowen had no more information on the Smithy Cottage wall and sign. The council resolved to write formally to Breckland Council's Planning Service, detailing the issues raised and asking the District Council's officers to respond accordingly. Chiltonwood plans had been approved. There was a debate over the Kingshill planning in principle application. This was not a fully detailed proposal. Councillors had no objection, in principle, to a single, small 2-bedroomed bungalow development on the site but reserved the right to comment in full on any detailed application that might be made. A letter written to Tom McCabe re Larkhall had yet to be replied to. Councillor Cowen was looking into the enforcement progress regards the land on the bypass with an enforcement notice.
- 10) **Local Plan Site Submissions.** Attention was drawn to a webpage that had the current submissions at <https://brecklandlocalplan.commonplace.is/proposals/development-responses/step1>
- 11) **Norfolk Mineral & Waste Submissions.** Hockham did not appear in the submissions.
- 12) **Finance.** Councillor Bennett gave a precis of the Finance Committee meeting, where it was inevitable in order to maintain the streetlights and consider converting to LED, that costs were to rise and the precept along with that. Currently a figure of £10,500 was under consideration which would be a small increase per household per year. A grant was being considered to help fund the streetlight modernisation. The clerk gave an update on EON/Npower and the invoices and credit notes received. The invoices

did not tally with monies taken as it appeared two similar credits had been applied. There was currently just under £15,000 in the bank, with the second precept half, allotment rents and a car scheme grant having been received. Approval was given for the clerk's salary for September and October (total £250), streetlight maintenance for £45.60 and CPRE membership for £36.

- 13) Allotments.** Councillor Bennett explained the progress with looking at a potential water supply. Allotment rents had been brought up to date and one half an allotment was now available for rent.
- 14) Wayleave Request.** A wayleave request for county broadband at Chestnut Sq to undertake some overhead cabling work was approved.
- 15) Footpaths and Rights of Way.** Nothing to report.
- 16) Poppy Appeal and Remembrance Service.** It was resolved to donate £250 using the s137 to the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal. The chair had wreaths from the legion. The annual service was at Shropham Church, with services at Hockham on the Friday 11th and Sunday 14th November.
- 17) Streetlight Risk assessment.** Discussed under finance.
- 18) Councillor Updates.** From public participation there was an observation that the Forestry Commission car park was being use for unauthorised overnight stays, with attendant littering problems. It was resolved that the Parish Council write to the Commission, to make them aware of this and asking them to take appropriate action. It was also suggested to Cllr Cowen that Breckland Council should do the same, as a potential Planning issue.
- 19) Tree Risk Assessment.** The clerk would get some quotes for identified works.
- 20) POL016, POL017 & POL018** were reviewed with no changes.
- 21) Playing Field.** It was agreed that any finances would be ring fenced, a playing field subcommittee formed, and the insurance changed to Zurich, but after the fireworks event.
- 22) Correspondence.** None
- 23) Date of Next Meeting;** Monday 28th November.