

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF HOCKHAM PARISH COUNCIL ON MONDAY 5TH SEPTEMBER
2022 AT 7.30PM AT THE EDINBURGH HALL**

Attending; P Cowen (District councillor), Councillors A Lambert, T Bennett, J Leech, A Loft, C Thomas, C Garrod (Clerk) and 11 members of the public.

- 1) Apologies for absence;** Received from B Campbell
- 2) Declarations of interest;** A Lambert as owner and landlord of the Eagle, J Leech as a local farmer and T Bennett as an allotment holder.
- 3) Requests for dispensation;** None
- 4) The minutes from 25th July 2022,** were approved
- 5) Progress Reports.**
 - a) Vicarage Rd ditch. This item was proving an issue due to the run of the ditch.
 - b) Mobility Access to the green. No progress.
 - c) School Tree work. The school would be recontacted for permission to do some work. A tree had been removed which improved matters.
 - d) Arboreal Survey. This had taken place on 1st September. The report was yet to be received, though the clerk expected some work may be required.
 - e) Bottle Bank emptying: The contracts manager had been contacted and the emptying team had been spoken with regards prompter collections.
- 6) The meeting** was closed for a public participation session.
- 7) County and District Reports.**

There was no County report.

Councillor Cowen gave a district report. He mentioned that if the village wished to pursue a neighbourhood plan an officer from Breckland could be invited to explain how to go about it. New Buckenham plan was mentioned. It was noted a Parish Appraisal carried no weight.

The district was being allocated 120 Afgan refugees soon, but it was unsure where they were being located.

Breckland had achieved 100% of cases of the £150 council tax energy rebate.

It was hoped more support may appear in the next few weeks over the energy crisis.

Nutrient Neutrality, despite being European legislation, was on the UK statute book.

It is being sorted as it was holding up planning in a big way, but now some applications are filtering through.

8) Highways and Road Safety.

Councillor Thomas explained that the Rangers and Highways had been contacted.

The Wretham Rd warning sign had been replaced. The speed sign will be reinstated by the building contractors. Highways will not action repairs to the verge or carriageway on Wretham Road. The carriageway by the green will not yet be repaired by Highways. The ditches and grips will be checked in the next few weeks.

Village entrance and speed signs had been made more visible. Harling Road warning signs had been cleaned. Shropham Road potholes have been prioritised for repair.

Slow Down bin stickers were available at £2 each for residents. They were selling well.

9) Planning.

There had been no communication from our County Council over the Watton Rd street sign move by Smithy Cottage.

The chair explained that a question regards Heathley House building reinstatement, had been answered by enforcement with no issues. It was noted this subject had been missed off a previous meeting agenda.

Councillor Bennett had sent a report to the Larkshall consultation about potential traffic movements through Hockham.

3PL/2022/0658/HOU Frog Manor had been approved

3PL/2022/0740/HOU Hazelwood House had been approved

It was noted a planning committee may be needed before the next meeting to agree on applications received since the agenda was published.

10) Finance

The clerk explained the current financial situation. There was £11,930.74 in the bank, with the second half of the precept yet to be received. Money was however likely to be tight. N Power had still yet to take any money for the streetlight use.

Payments due were the regular monthly streetlight maintenance contract at £45.60, the clerk's salary of £125 for August and the tree survey when invoiced at £285 plus vat. It was agreed to form a committee to look at the precept for 23/24 and advise the full council. This would consist of councillors, Bennett, Thomas and Leech. The clerk will take minutes and prepare documentation.

11) Allotments

Councillor Bennett explained that investigations of how to connect a supply to the mains for the Harling Rd had begun. The landowner needed to be consulted and a borehole cost was being looked at.

Harling Road rents had begun to come in, the clerk would chase these.

12) Footpaths and Rights of Way

Maintenance of the trod had taken place, but more would be requested. Councillor Loft explained that Bambridge Lane was likely to flood over winter.

13) Streetlight Risk Assessment.

The Wretham Road post replacement had been requested and a proforma for the road closure paid.

It was noted the replacement would be LED and a grant application was being investigated to see if this would pay for LED lights for the other 17 streetlights.

14) Councillor Updates

Councillor Bennett noted that several defibrillator items had been replaced (pads, battery etc)

Councillor Lambert mentioned a potential fencing issue on the new development ditch. The clerk would speak to the developers.

There had been rumours over reduced postal services for part of the village. This would be monitored.

15) Review of policies and procedures

POL 015, PRO001 & F001 were reviewed with no amendments.

16) Playing Field

The clerk was having issues getting quotes for insurance as the current insurer do not deal with parish councillors.

The grant for play equipment was in progress.

17) Date of the next meeting

Monday 17th October.

18) Formal Complaint Exclusion of public and press

It was resolved to exclude the public and press from agenda item 19

19) Formal Complaint

The parish council discussed at length, the content of the complaints received and agreed the complaints to be unreasonable under the council's Complaints Policy framework and would write to the complainant within 5 working days, explaining that they could contact the Monitoring Officer or Ombudsman if they wished to take the matter further. It was agreed that a relevant paperwork request effectively constituted an FOI and the paperwork would be copied and given to the complainant, which should also help explain matters further.