

**MINUTES OF A PARISH COUNCIL MEETING OF HOCKHAM PARISH COUNCIL ON MONDAY  
17<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 7.30PM AT HOCKHAM VILLAGE HALL.**

Attending; Ward Member P Cowen; Councillors; A Lambert (chair), T Bennett; C Thomas; R Guppy; A Loft; D Lloyd; J Leech and C Garrod (Clerk). Plus, two members of the public and Simon Round, Practice Manager from East Harling Surgery.

- 1) Apologies for absence;** F Eagle (NCC)
- 2) Declarations of Interest;** A Lambert landlord and owner of the Eagle pub, J Leech tenant farmer, T Bennett and A Loft as allotments.
- 3) Requests for Dispensation.** A request was granted to T Bennett, regards a planning application.
- 4) Minutes from 20<sup>th</sup> March 2023.** All agreed these were a true record and they were signed.
- 5) Progress report.**
  - a) Liz Truss questions. It was agreed to go through the questions at the end of the meeting.
  - b) Defibrillator Light. Mr Bennett was chasing Community Heartbeat Trust for the repair.
  - c) Wheelchair ramp. It was agreed to trial this ASAP.
  - d) Flower Boxes. Cllr Guppy had purchased the wood and was making the boxes. Highways had agreed they should be 1 metre from the posts with a 450mm gap to the highway. Some boxes would be different sizes.
  - e) Streetlights. The lamp by the old school was being trialled with a softer LED lamp. If this was successful, then the rest would be replaced.
  - f) Surgery Matters. Simon Round the practice manager from East harling Surgery gave a talk with questions and answers regards the issues with the surgery. Topic's included;  
Computer system changes; A GP National Crisis; Recruitment of GP's and additional support staff. A higher demographic in the surgery catchment area. Staff morale and working hours. Lack of appointments. Long phone call times. Issues with medication availability and approval. Increase to prescription waiting times. Same day appointments. NHS infighting. Planning and Government systems. People lying about their symptoms. Triage system not up and running yet. 680 calls just that day. Medication ordering. Government Directives. Mr Round to update the PC in the future.  
Mr Round was thanked by all for coming and for interacting with the parish council and the parish council would lobby Ms Truss MP and George Freeman MP over the planning issues and the NHS not being a consultee. Councillor Cowen was asked to lobby on the parish behalf.
- 6) Public Participation.** The meeting was adjourned for this matter.
- 7) County and District Reports.** Due to the election councillor Cowen had little to report. He did suggest that as George Freeman was going to be the conservative candidate for the next election, that the PC should talk to him.

**8) Highways and Road Safety.** (Councillor Thomas)

The Rangers team would be visiting soon. They would be asked to clean the village signs and attend to potholes (Little Hockham Lane). The developers had been requested by highways to move the 30mph signs on the Wretham Road. The drain by the pub was reported for investigation.

A discussion regards the Great Hockham Wayland signs took place. The clerk would contact highways regards their ownership and condition.

**9) Planning.**

Mr Cowen said that he had had no reply from Simon Wood regards the fact that the Breckland Website content, suggested that the Smithy Cottage wall removal was against planning guidelines. The PC would write to the Chief Exec at Breckland. The chair explained that the Consultation document on the local plan had been read through by three councillors and several items identified for comments. It was suggested that the school numbers be investigated.

Planning application 3PL/2023/0334/HOU and 3PL/2023/0375/HOU were considered and no objections as comments approved.

3PL/2023/0307/PIP was discussed at length and an objection would be placed.

**10) Finance.**

The bank account had £18,211.83 in it.

Income had been received from allotment rents and half the precept.

The VAT rebate had been applied to.

To approve were outgoings of:

NALC membership £188.87.

Pearce and Kemp £45.60 monthly maintenance.

Clerks Salary and PAYE of £125.

Payment of £126 to reimburse the clerk for the auger.

In touch cheque for s137 monies of £200 was approved.

£500 max was approved to spend on a ramp for the green if the system worked ok when tested.

The Playing Field insurance was being discussed with Zurich.

**11) Allotments** (Councillor Bennett)

Allotment inspections had taken place. Two allotments were identified for letters to be sent out. The auger would be tested soon. All bar one Shropham Road allotment rent had been received.

**12) Footpaths and Rights of Way.** (Councillor Loft)

Nothing to report.

**13) Playing Field.**

Once the insurance had been sorted by mint end, the new committee could be installed.

**14) Councillor Updates**

The councillors ratified changes to the constitution for the Hockham Fuel Allotment

**15) Elections May 23.** The parish council election was uncontested. Photo ID was required for the forthcoming local elections.

**16) Correspondence.**

CPRE information had been received.

**17) Next meeting** was to be 22<sup>nd</sup> May 23. Annual Parish Meeting and PC AGM. 7PM start.