

**MINUTES OF A HOCKHAM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING ON MONDAY 16TH OCTOBER 2023 AT
HOCKHAM VILLAGE HALL**

Attending: A Lambert (Chair), T Bennett (Vice Chair), C Thomas, D Lloyd, R Guppy, A Loft, J Leech and the clerk C Garrod plus 5 members of the public and S Round the Practice Manager for East Harling surgery.

- 1) **Apologies for absence;** None
- 2) **Declarations of Interest;** A Lambert as landlord and owner of the Eagle pub, J Leech as a farmer from Little Hockham and T Bennett and A Loft as allotment holders.
- 3) **Dispensation requests;** None
- 4) **Minutes from the meeting** of September 4th 2023 had been circulated all agreed they were a true record of the business of the meeting.
- 5) **Progress Report;**
 - a) Wheelchair ramp. The chair had found a company who might assist the idea and had sourced potential grants.
 - b) The new LED streetlight lamps were due for fitting soon.
 - c) Tree works. These were being actioned on Wednesday 18th Oct at 0830
 - d) Info board. No progress.
 - e) Flower Planters; Flowers would be ordered soon. The old ones would be cleared out in preparation for this.
 - f) Plaques for Councillors; The Childerhouse and Campbell families, had agreed to the plaques, wording was being sorted by the chair.
 - g) Forestry Operations Hills and Holes. The new track was just that and no felling work was to be done anytime soon.
- 6) The meeting was adjourned for public participation. Simon Round, from the East Harling Surgery, gave a brief resume of the situation at the practice. He said that 3 doctors were leaving two of which leave in mid-November, so the surgery would work with the practicing partners and locums for a while. Recruitment was difficult but reception and dispensary staffing was now sorted. There were concerns about non-attendance of booked appointments.
A question regards the new bus timetable prompted a request to contact NCC for comments.
- 7) **Reports.** The clerk read the district councillor report for October. There was no County report.
- 8) **Highways and Road Safety.** Councillor Thomas Reported that the Shropham Road sign had been repaired very quickly. There was a debate about village drainage, following works to clear the gulley's and then issues with a recent downpour causing flooding on all village roads. It was agreed to ask our County Councillor and District Councillor for assistance. The contractors who cleared the drains had said they would report the issues they found. The clerk would try and locate a drainage map. The request to notify parishioners of any potential heavy farm traffic movements was taken onboard by councillor Leech who would use the village Facebook pages. He advised that he could only report heavy traffic movements he knew or had been advised of, but also said that these would decrease as the contractor vegetable production would likely decrease significantly in the next 12 months.

- 9) **Planning** There were no planning applications to consider.
The chair reported that he felt the Local Plan Issues and Options meeting a waste of time as had the other parishes attending.
Simon Wood had received the FOI reply and this has been passed to the FOI team for comment.
- 10) **Finance.** The clerk reported that the bank balance was £22498.52 but there was significant spend in the next few months.
It was agreed to apply for a grant for a potential new SAM traffic awareness sign with Bluetooth.
Payments to Pearce and Kemp £45.60 and to the clerk for salary and PAYE totalling £166.86 were agreed for October and November. N power direct debit of £115.58 was being actioned and the playing field and PC had paid for the fireworks and been reimbursed. The poppy appeal £250 S.137 donation was agreed.
The box on a streetlamp pole was agreed for repair at £1171.15, though the Power Networks part for the invoice was considered scandalous.
The precept had been discussed by the finance committee and Councillor Bennett gave a full report detailing the recommendation of the committee, to increase the precept to £16,500 for 24/25. This was agreed unanimously.
- 11) **Allotments.** Some welcome progress had been made on the overgrown allotments. There had been a work party who had cut and moved a significant amount of hedging. More regular work parties would be organised over autumn/winter.
- 12) **Footpaths and Rights of Way.** The clerk would follow up the reported issues the other side of the B1111. The overhanging hedge from a property at Home Farm Park on Little Hockham Lane would be reported to NCC.
- 13) **Playing Field Discussion.** A letter had been received from a new committee. This had yet to be circulated but the chair had given permission for the current administrative committee to see it. It was felt that the two parties needed to thrash out the issues as soon as possible and then present the matter to the parish council.
- 14) **Litter Pick.** Councillor Bennett would be organising another litter pick once vegetation had died back.
- 15) **Councillor Updates.** The chair explained his wishes to stand down as chair and would tender his resignation to the clerk. The clerk would ask for proposals for a new chair at the next meeting. In the meantime, the vice chair would assist once the resignation had been tendered.
- 16) **Correspondence.** A quiz team for 17th November at Caston was needed.
- 17) **Date for the next meeting.** Monday 27th November 23.