

**MINUTES OF THE HOCKHAM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING ON MONDAY 20TH MARCH 2023 AT
HOCKHAM VILLAGE HALL**

Attending councillors Lambert, Bennett, Thomas; Lloyd; Guppy, Leech and Loft plus the clerk C Garrod and four members of the public.

- 1) **Apologies for absence;** Fabian Eagle NCC
- 2) **Declarations of interest;** Councillor Bennett as an allotment holder and neighbour to a tree application, Councillor Lambert as Landlord and owner of the Hockham Eagle and Councillor Leech as a tenant farmer at Little Hockham.
- 3) **Dispensation requests.** There were no requests for dispensation.
- 4) **The minutes** from the meeting of Feb 13th, 2023, were approved and signed.
- 5) **Progress Report.**
 - a) **Ms Truss meeting.** Stow Bedon and Breckles parish council had been invited to the meeting with Ms Truss. There were questions in from the parishioners. It was agreed to hold a closed meeting to organise and prioritise the questions.
 - b) **The litter pick** had been successful. Councillor Bennett thanked the Breckland Council and SERCO teams for all their help. It was agreed to consider a children's litter pick around the playing field.
 - c) **Defibrillator light.** This had yet to be repaired. Councillor Bennett would chase the repair up.
 - d) **Wheelchair Ramp.** The clerk had tried the Portaramp from the Eagle and believed it could work for temporary access to the green but was concerned about the gradient and uneven nature of the green. It was agreed to try it with a wheelchair and someone with a walking stick, to see how easy it was. The clerk had previously completed a risk assessment and was concerned anything more permanent was not possible. Ramp cost was £435, but cheaper options were potentially available.
 - e) **Flower Boxes.** It was agreed to go ahead with the planters presented by Councillor Guppy. The clerk would source compost at the best rate he could find. Plants would be sought.
 - f) **The environmental grant** had not been successful.
- 6) The meeting was adjourned for a public participation session. An items raised would be put under Councillor updates.
- 7) **County and District Council Reports.** None.
- 8) **Streetlight Upgrade.** A new quote for softer LED lights had been received for £6014.40 (£375.90 per unit). It was agreed to try one, near the Old School, to see what it looked like.
- 9) **Highways and Road Safety.** Councillor Thomas explained that the grips had been dug. There was a debate over the Wretham Road 30mph sign relocation. It appeared that the signs were not being moved as far away as had been first thought. The signs were being positioned at the Western end of the development, but not taking in the new access to the property near the church.
Councillor Bennett had seen some signs being cleaned but the vast majority still needed cleaning.
- 10) **Planning Applications.** There was no reply re Smithy Cottage. It was agreed to write some comments regards Scotgate Cottage change of use 3PL/2023/0175/F

Councillor Bennett would do this, and they would be circulated before putting online.

It was noted that TRE/2023/0079/TCA had been submitted. There was a Local Plan discussion, as there was a consultation currently in progress till May 15th. It was agreed to meet up, go through and complete the 68-page document.

Councillors Lloyd, Leech and Lambert would do this. The clerk would print the document. In Touch would run an article on the consultation.

It was mentioned that The Gatherings planning application was just to amend some house number documentation.

11) Finances. The clerk gave an update on finances. The end year should have a balance of £10,741.67 with VAT due back of £1031.04.

Approval was given of payments of clerk's salary and PAYE of £125, Stamps at £5.44, Community car scheme £11, Community Heartbeat Trust annual fee at £151.20.

Pearce and Kemp monthly fee of £45.60 was reducing a credit we have with them, with a £15.90 balance still outstanding for 23/24. Npower direct debit was £151.20.

The defibrillator costs had now been itemised on the account.

The clerk stated the importance of getting new signatories on the bank mandate.

12) Allotments. Councillor Bennett said that the formal inspections were in hand for April. It was agreed to 50% fund an auger to investigate potential for a borehole.

13) Footpaths and Rights of Way. Nothing to report.

14) Councillor Updates. It was agreed to write a letter on behalf of disgruntled parishioners, regards the service at East Harling surgery, to the practice and to ask Ms Truss about the NHS "improvements". To include issues calling the surgery, the length of routine appointments and the poor new computer system.

The British Heart Foundation were leading free defibrillator courses.

15) Elections May 23. The clerk explained that nominations and papers needed to be at Dereham by 4th April. The clerk would try and get electoral numbers.

16) Correspondence. Several questions had been received for Ms Truss.

A grant for £100 had been received for the Community Car Scheme. There was notice of a police meeting on 21st April. Zurich had offered free Coronation event cover if certain criteria were met. The BBC had waived licences for screenings of the coronation.

17) Next meeting Monday 17th April 2023