

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF HOCKHAM PARISH COUNCIL ON MONDAY 13TH FEB 2023 AT
7.30PM IN HOCKHAM VILLAGE HALL**

In attendance; Councillors Lambert, Leech, Bennett, Thomas, Lloyd, Guppy and Loft plus the clerk C Garrod. 3 members of the public were in attendance.

- 1) Apologies for absence.** None
- 2) Declarations of interest;** Councillor Lambert as owner and landlord of the Eagle public house, Councillor Leech as a farmer in Little Hockham and councillor Bennett as an allotment holder.
- 3) Requests for dispensation.** None
- 4) To approve as accurate the minutes from 9th Jan 2023.** These were approved with one minor date amendment.
- 5) Progress Report for Information**
 - a) Because of the need for planning permission, the clerk asked if the tree work could be deferred to the autumn. This did not affect the risk assessment. This was agreed.
 - b) It was agreed to meet Ms Truss as arranged with her request of a private meeting. Questions would be sought of the parishioners via In Touch.
 - c) The village litter pick has been arranged for 4th March and being organised by Councillor Bennett with assistance from Breckland Council.
 - d) Neighbourhood Plan. The grants are between budgets, so it was agreed to put an expression of interest in for now.
- 6) Public Participation.** The meeting was adjourned to allow the public to speak.
- 7) County and District Councillors Reports.** None
- 8) Highways and Road safety (Councillor Thomas)**

A discussion on dirty road signs took place. These would be looked at during the litter pick.

The 30-mph sign near the Gathering on Wretham Road needed to be moved as agreed before people moved in. The works foreman would be approached and asked the question of when.
- 9) Planning Applications and Planning Issues.**

There had been no progress with the Smithy Cottage planning letter. It would be chased by the clerk.

It was agreed to run an In Touch article about the sites for submission and local plan update.

There was no comment on the La Finca application.

Ms Truss would be asked about the EDP article that mentioned potential nuclear waste storage at STANTA.

The application for 14 Shropham Road had been approved.
- 10) Finance**

Received with thanks from Townlands, **£227.16** towards 2022 cutting of the grass on the green.

The councillors approved to pay the following;

Clerks' salary **£114.40** and PAYE **£5.60** for January 23; Community Car scheme **£11** (To CG); PC Insurance Zurich **£548.23**; Pearce & Kemp Feb invoice £45.60 contra against outstanding credit note. So, no monies due for payment. This applies to March too, leaving a small credit for April. Internal box light repairs for defibrillator to Community heartbeat Trust £110 plus vat. **£132**; Defibrillator annual phone hire **£72**; N Power Direct debit for Feb 23 **£165**; Village Hall hire for 10 meetings @ £12 per hire Total £120; Stamps £7.60 to the clerk

The councillors approved payment and contracts as follows;

Clerk's salary & PAYE for action End Feb 23 at **£125**

Grass Cutting. £1248.32 plus VAT Fixed for two years Note this is a 3 cuts price.
Pearce and Kemp New contract for streetlight maintenance from 01/04/23-31/03/2026

The Current Account bank account has **£12775.68** in it, with unpresented cheques of £1336.01, excepting the Feb clerk's payment totalling £125, which will be actioned at end Feb. We have one direct debit of approx. £160 to come out in March too for electricity.

- 11) **Grass Cutting.** It was agreed not to ask Townlands to pay for grass cutting of the green in the future.
- 12) **Allotments (Councillor Bennett);** Formal inspections would be in early April of all allotments. All allotment holders had been emailed or received a letter. The water grant had hit a stumbling block. The estate would be asked about the lease length by the clerk. The rules would be refreshed for the annual payment times.
- 13) **Footpaths and Rights of Way. Councillor Loft.**
- 14) **Defibrillator light repair.** This item had been covered under finance.
- 15) **Wheelchair Access to the green;** The clerk would borrow the ramp from the Eagle and offer it up to see how practical it was.
- 16) **Flower boxes at village entrances;** Councillor Guppy would look at making some boxes. Investigations would take place to see if the flowers could be donated.
- 17) **In Touch Donation Request.** It was agreed to pay In Touch £200 in April 23, due to increased publication costs.
- 18) **Coronation and Hornfair.** The HSCA were making an application for £500 for a grant for the coronation. It was agreed to the standard road closure application and payment for Hornfair at a cost of approximately £40.
- 19) **Councillor Updates:** 40 free hedgerow trees had been planted around the playing field orchard. A bench would soon be put in too. It was reported that the pigs in Little Hockham Lane were now all gone, with some straw still to be moved.
- 20) **Elections May 23;** The clerk outlined the procedure for councillors and interested parties to put their names forward for the new council term.
- 21) **Correspondence:** The clerk outlined new National salary scales for clerks. A potential environmental grant had been sent by ward member Suggitt. The clerk would look at an application to see what was required.
- 22) **Date of next meeting;** Monday 20th March 23 at 7.30pm