

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF HOCKHAM PARISH COUNCIL ON MONDAY 12<sup>TH</sup>  
FEBRUARY 2024 AT HOCKHAM VILLAGE HALL**

Attending; Councillors Bennett, Lambert, Lloyd, Thomas, Guppy, Loft and Leech, 7 members of the public and the clerk.

- 1) **Apologies for absence.** It was noted that councillors Eagle and Cowen were not present as the clerk had not invited them in error.
- 2) **Declaration of Interests;** Councillor Lambert as owner and landlord of the Eagle, Councillor Leech as a farmer at Little Hockham and councillors Bennett and Loft as allotment holders.
- 3) **Requests for dispensation;** None
- 4) **Minutes form January 8<sup>th</sup> 24.** These were edited for the date (6<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup>) and approved.
- 5) **Progress Report.**
  - a) Litter pick. This had been successful.
  - b) Streetlights. No further progress.
  - c) Wheelchair Ramp. No further progress.
  - d) Info Board. No further progress.
  - e) Councillor Plaques. Examples were shown. The green versions were considered the best.
  - f) Website. The council were signed up. The clerk was progressing with Norfolk ALC.
  - g) Grants. The community car grant had been made. The D Day grants were being looked at outside of the parish council.
- 6) **Public Participation.** The meeting was adjourned for 20 minutes for a public discussion. Items from this will be put in councillor updates.
- 7) **District and County Council Reports.** None, due to an invitation error by the clerk.
- 8) **Highways and Road Safety.** (Councillor Thomas). The drain near the village green had been repaired. Road surfacing and potholes on the Wretham Road had been reported. Hedge cutting had progressed in some places. NCC were pursuing an issue on Little Hockham Lane. The council would write to Councillor Eagle and highways over this matter.

The trod was discussed. It was considered the NCC Highways actions insufficient. The clerk would obtain a quote from SERCO for maintenance, albeit some councillors felt spending parish monies unacceptable, as this was highways responsibility.

Damaged signs on the A1075 had been replaced or reported.

Contractors had addressed some of the grips to avoid standing water.

In general village drainage was still an issue. A WhatsApp group was collating photos as evidence. The chair would write to highways.
- 9) **Planning.** There had been no response to the FOI letter. Moat Farm application 3PL/2023/1163/F had been approved. The Local Plan was still progressing but there were currently no items for discussion regards Hockham.
- 10) **Playing Field.** It was unanimously decided that the parish council take on all responsibility and finances for the playing field. A working party would meet

soon. The committee would consist of Councillors Lloyd, Loft and Leech plus co-opted members of the parish and the previous committee members and plans for a spend limit would be addressed at the next meeting. The clerk would progress the finances. The pedestrian entrance would be looked at. SERCO were thanked for the excellent work done on cutting back vegetation and hedges.

- 11) Finances.** The current bank balance was £11501.43. Approval was given for the following payments: Clerks salary for Feb and March at £179.40; Pearce and Kemp maintenance for Feb and March at £45.60, PC Insurance £1232.67, Village Hall water and hall hire at £99 and £144; Community heartbeat Rental at £72, clerk's expenses at £133.28 and the annual Community Heartbeat Support payment when it was received. The clerk would look to progress a VAT reclaim.
- 12) Allotments. (Councillor Bennett).** The allotment under eviction had been given a good tidy up. The clerk would investigate further. Some tree maintenance had occurred.
- 13) Footpaths and Rights of Way. (Councillor Loft)** Councillor Leech had completed culvert works on the Roundhouse footpath. The Illington bridge had been repaired. The Pightle footpath that had been reported was considered no problem.
- 14) Community Climate Action.** It was decided not to progress a speaker, suggested from another parish.
- 15) Councillor Updates.** Following public participation discussions, the following decisions were made; Councillor Leech would progress the felling of two dead oaks by the permissive path. A fence would be erected whilst this was being actioned. The council would ask the Norfolk Fire Service of their opinion on the dangers of the flammability elephant grass, which was due for cutting soon. A request to ask people to cut hedges by end Feb was agreed. A property identified with lots of rubbish outside would be discussed at the next meeting.
- 16) Correspondence.** None.
- 17) Date of next meeting.** Monday 18<sup>th</sup> March, which may be preceded by a public Playing Field Committee meeting.