

Great Hockham Parish Council.

Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly held at 7:00pm on May 17th 2021 in the Eagle Car Park.

Present: Chairman D Childerhouse
 Clerk D Childerhouse
 Councillors: C. Thomas, B Campbell, A Lambert
 fourteen members of the public

David Childerhouse welcomed everybody to the meeting.

The minutes of the 2019 parish meeting were taken as read.

The Chairman's Review

The Chairman outlined the success of the PC over the last two years. The first was to object to the application for 5 bungalows outside the Settlement Boundary on the grounds that they, together with the 22 approved applications, would represent a significant increase over 5% of the properties in the Settlement Boundary. This was accepted and the application refused. There should not be more building outside the settlement boundary in the foreseeable future. The second was to install flashing 20mph signs for the School in conjunction with NCC.

He stated that all parish council assets had operated and maintained during the "lock down" and all financial commitments met and returns made.

He reported that a complaint had been made to the Breckland Standard officer regarding non action in solving traffic problems in Harling Road

He thanked the County and District Councilors and Parish Councilors for their support throughout the year and all those involved with other parish organisations and charities.

Village Charities

Fuel & Furze Chris Garrod

ANNUAL AWARD

In 2020 payments were again £75 per household, applicant award numbers were 9. 2021 awards were of similar numbers and value. They were well received by the applicants.

FINANCES

COIF interest income continues to pay well at around 3-4%, which has given the trustees the ability to pay the larger annual awards. Further COIF investment of £2000.00 was been actioned in 2020 and 2021

Income £1177.02 Expenditure £2869.80 Balance £4015.76 Investment £17,332.62

The accounts were independently audited.

MAINTENANCE

Work continues on maintenance of the woodland by the trustees, including large strides to rid the area of the invasive Himalayan Balsam. The annual tree survey has been completed. Maintenance continued despite Covid restrictions.

Water levels in 2021 as elsewhere, were exceedingly high, causing flooding in some areas.

Considerable planting has been made in 2021, with around 50 sweet chestnut, hazel, hawthorn and beech trees being planted, for future generations.

SCHOOL

School activities continued within the triangle portion of the woodland.

Recently the trustees made outside “furniture” for the Woodland Club that can be seen when driving past the woodland.

HCSA Chris Garrod

It has not been customary nor a requirement, to publicise the accounts of the HSCA (Hockham Sports and Community Association) a little known organisation formed in 2000 to try and fill a gap in village activities, however as this account is the one that may run the finances for the 750th Hornfair in 2022 and because it’s the account being used by the HGNS (Hockham Good Neighbour Scheme) it felt wise to do so at this time, so that all can see the accounts details and to see that everything is fully transparent.

All transactions in 20/21 have been for the HGNS only. Accounts have been independently audited.

Income £2821.77 Expenditure £1132.48 Balance £2743.20

The HGNS comes under the Community Action In Norfolk (CAN) banner and follows their guidance for policies, risk assessments and procedures.

The HGNS was formed in March 2021. It has a page on the village website and its own mobile phone for emergency calls. It comprises 3 co-ordinators (Chris Garrod, Stella Lawrence and Aaron Lambert) and 25 volunteers who have all been DBS checked and performed tasks in general such as shopping, shopping click and collects, taking on the Community Car Scheme, prescription deliveries and dog walking, during the pandemic.

The scheme has performed close to 1000 assists, from around 60 households, during this time, with prescription deliveries being the main but certainly not the sole focus. Its future is unclear as it will depend on demand going forward, but it has without a doubt made a significant difference to Hockham during these difficult times. It must be noted that Little Hockham has played a vital role in the workload, with Rebecca Leech bringing prescriptions back three days a week from Harling and the prescription delivery team of usually but not exclusively, Chris & Julia Wiltshire have been out in all weathers to ensure that prescriptions got to those that needed them.

The accounts show that the main outgoings going forward are to pay for the mobile phone use and to cover some DBS checks, with accounts healthy following a well subscribed cycle fundraiser in August 20. All people who took part and donated, however small or large we must thank enormously, as we should thank all the volunteers for wanting to help.

Village Hall and Playing Field

Gerry Grant presented the Village Hall and Playing Field Accounts to 31st December 2020.

	Income	Expenditure	Balance
Village Hall	£14,751.50	£8,911.87	£24,551.50
Playing Field	£12,001.00	£625.07	£11,375.93

Each organisation receive grants of £12001.00 to compensate for loss of income during the Lock Down from Breckland.

Chris Wiltshire reported that during the lockdown the Village Hall had been redecorated and new curtains fitted. The playing field has experienced severe flooding due to the collapse of a land drain. A ditch was excavated which drained the problem. However this closed the permissive path to Little Hockham Lane It is proposed to install two flumed crossings. He outlined plans to demolish the Pavillion and Create a playable Football Pitch

Town Lands

The Hockham Town Land Charity accounts for the year ending 31st December 2020 have been examined by an independent examiner as required by the Charity Commission. Income from rent was £2,505.00, Shooting Rights £75 and from UK Power Networks £114.04. The COIF investment increased in value by £1959.14.

The Village truck insurance was £668.00 and Road Tax was £260.00. £291.20 was passed to the PC for the Village Green Grass Cutting, Zurich waved the premium on the public liability insurance due to the Pandemic £200 was donated to the Good Neighbourhood scheme and £147 to Gt Hockham PCC.

The balance at 31st December 2020 was £28,653.67, an increase of £321.28. £2159.00 is reserved for a Playing Field Container.

Parish Accounts

The Clerk presented the unaudited Parish Council accounts for 2020-21. Income was £9,089.69 and expenditure £6,150.19. This resulted in a increase in the reserves from £12,479.96 to £15,419.46.

Details of the accounts will be posted on the Village Web Site once the audit is completed.

Breckland Council.

Philip Cowen submitted a comprehensive report on Breckland in 2020-21. It will be posted on the Web Site

Other business

There was no other business.