

HALE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Hale Parish Council Annual Meeting held at 7.30 pm on Tuesday 5 June 2018 in Hale Village Hall, Hatchet Green, Hale

Present:

Cllr Lucas – Chairman, Cllrs Aitken-Sykes, Hartas, Harrington, Mangan and Templeton

In attendance:

Miss K Cleary – Clerk

Ms Bev Cornish – Locum Clerk

Mr S Whitmarsh – Tree Warden

16 members of the public

1 member of the press

- 1 **To receive apologies for absence** – none

- 2 **To receive any Declarations of Interest** – all Councillors confirmed the 3 April 2018 declaration in relation to item 5 on the agenda – Housing Consultative Group.

- 3 **To consider and approve the Minutes of the meeting held on 3 April 2018** -
 It was noted that due to other pressing matters of the Visual Impact project and the Housing Consultative Group, the Parish Action plan would be reconsidered in September rather than June as stated in the minutes.
 A parishioner noted a factual inaccuracy in the minute relating to the Visual Impact project in that local opposition to the project was united in one action group, rather than two. It was agreed that the minute should read
 “A group of six villagers have formed a group (named subsequently to the meeting 'Protect Hale Purlieu Movement') to inform the residents of Hale and surrounding areas of the implications of the National Grid plan to replace the 400KV overhead lines which cross Hale Purlieu by burying the cables underground; and to raise such a large number of objections from residents that the plan will be dropped. A public meeting has been arranged for 22nd May to explain to residents the issues and gain support for opposing the National Grid plan.”
 Subject to these above points, the minutes were approved by all and signed by the Chairman.

- 4 **To receive any matters (not otherwise on the agenda) raised by members of the public** – A parishioner noted that the T-junction at the top of Tethering Grove with Forest Road had become overgrown such that visibility is affected. Clerk to raise the issue with Highways and request that it be cut back.

 It was agreed to deal with agenda item 6 next.

- 5 **To receive an update on the Visual Impact project on Hale Purlieu and to determine the next steps** – Cllr Lucas reported that all Parish Councillors had been invited to attend a meeting of all Stakeholders organised by National Grid on 19th June. The Parish Council proposed to use this meeting as a fact-finding opportunity and to question the Stakeholders on the steps that they had taken to consider the proposal. The meeting will be clerked and the summary of the meeting will be made public. An invitation has now been extended by National Grid for one representative of the Protect Hale Purlieu Movement group (“PHPM”) to attend that stakeholders meeting on 19th June. The Parish Council had had a useful meeting with the PHPM immediately prior to the Parish Council meeting to

discuss next steps and approach to that stakeholder meeting. It was agreed at that meeting that Cllr Lucas would liaise with a representative of PHPM to finalise a list of questions from Hale to be sent to the stakeholders in advance of the meeting in order avoid duplication. A parishioner on behalf of the PHPM thanked the Parish Council for the meeting and confirmed that it had been helpful to get an understanding of how each attendee proposed to represent themselves at the stakeholders meeting. A parishioner asked how the Parish Council would respond to National Grid's proposed process of wider consultation, including a potential public meeting on 18th July.

Cllr Lucas confirmed that the Council would not respond to future consultation proposals until after the stakeholder meeting on 19th June. She said that it was unclear whether the drop in sessions and public meeting suggested would be of benefit and she would raise these issues at the stakeholder meeting. A parishioner on behalf of PHPM wished to put on record an update on their petitioning activity. PHPM has the support of around 30% of residents and expected to be able to secure the support of a majority of residents to oppose the plans. Petitioners were being asked to declare which parish they lived in when signing the petition.

6 To receive feedback from the Housing Consultative Group meeting including approving draft terms of reference and determining next steps –

Cllr Lucas reported that the first meeting of the HCG had been held and that the group had appointed Ian Gemmell as Chair and Chris Fairgrieve as Secretary. Minutes of the initial meeting and a draft timeline for community consultation had been produced.

A Parishioner on behalf of the HCG confirmed

- The HCG planned to canvass opinion as widely as possible amongst local residents to assist the PC in their decision whether or not to support the Hale Community Land Trust.
- This would be done primarily by face-to-face doorstep survey and would aim to define 'need', assess the true level of local need and identify locations that would be supported by parishioners.
- The survey activity would invoke responsibilities of confidentiality and so those doing the questioning would receive training and the survey questions would be reviewed in advance.
- The HCG had set out an initial timeline of twelve months but asked whether this timeline would dovetail with that of the CLT.

Cllr Templeton on behalf of the CLT confirmed that:

- the CLT had put in hand the opening of a bank account and people had applied for membership.
- The next step was to arrange a meeting of the members to decide strategy of the CLT.
- The CLT was not aware of any time deadlines to submit a planning application, although the members would not necessarily wait for input from the HCG.
- There were no further public meetings planned nor were there any plans to invite HCG to present to CLT. It was felt that there was enough cross over with members of the Parish Council, CLT and HCG to facilitate sufficient information flow.

There followed a conversation about attendance of individuals at HCG meetings and whether any individuals would be excluded. Various points were raised. Cllr Mangan said that his understanding of the Consultative Group minute was that:

- At least one member of the Parish Council would attend each HCG meeting and that this representation would exclude Cllrs. Templeton and Aiken-Sykes who had declared interests. He did not believe that the minute intended to imply that any member of the public should be excluded.
- The HCG would report to the Parish Council but because the HCB was a large number a committee had been formed as a smaller group accountable for the group for the purposes of coordinating the work done and reporting back to the Parish Council

Due to the overrunning of the meeting with PHPM, it was agreed to adjourn the Parish Council meeting at 8.30 pm to allow the meeting of the Planning Committee to take place and to consider the planning application received (see separate minutes)

At 8.45 pm Cllr Lucas reconvened the meeting of the Parish Council

7 To approve the use of Hatchet Green by Hale Primary School for the annual summer fete on 1 July – approved

8 To receive an update on the Hatchet Green Regeneration project and determine the next steps for the following

1. Verge protection – North of the Green and near the school

No update. To be considered at the next meeting.

2. Permanent car park repairs

The works edge repairs carried out by Hampshire County Council have been completed and the car park currently looks good. However, water will continue to drain from the green and permanent drainage repairs remain necessary. Sadly the Pound Bottom grant application was unsuccessful. Possible next steps were discussed. Points raised included:-

- Consider proceeding with a limited version of the proposed works. To install a drain next to the new edge would probably incur preliminary costs of c.£1200 and work costs of c.£1760.
- Research alternative funding sources in order to continue to be able to do all work as originally planned given the level of preliminary costs which would effectively be duplicated in a piecemeal approach.
- If piecemeal approach was followed it would also impact on our ability to provide match funding for future work.
- If a grid were installed without an appropriate substrate it would probably sink into the gravel. There are restrictions on types of substrate which can be used in the New Forest.
- Consider putting in a French drain adjacent to edge which diverts water to the two side drains, which currently do a tolerably good job.
- £2000 has been promised by the village hall committee. County Councillor Heron has been approached to fund £3000 of cost; no response received to date. Clerk to follow up.

Paula Downard to make enquiries to identify permissible substrates and obtain firm quote for limited work, installing a drain/ French drain next to new edge and linking it to both existing side drains. Clerk to follow up funding request to Cllr Heron. Cllrs Mangan, Hartas and Lucas to work with Clerk to prepare full financial review to ascertain

- How much of the current reserve can be committed to the repairs
- Future maintenance requirements funding
- Alternative funding options such as Barker-Mill foundation

Cllr Lucas expressed thanks to Paula for all her continued efforts and hard work

3. Cemetery Improvements

Sue Witt reported that work was progressing. The volunteer group had not yet been formed. The Hale and Woodgreen Horticultural Society had offered to gift plants and funds. Susan Witt to liaise with David Mussell for any support needed.

- 9 To certify Hale Parish Council as exempt from a limited assurance review as during the financial year 2017/18, the higher of HPC's gross income for the year or gross annual expenditure for the year did not exceed £25,000** – Cllr Mangan proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Hartas and therefore **RESOLVED:** that HPC met the requirement and could be certified as exempt. All Agreed.
- 10 To approve Section 1 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2017/18 Part 2** – Cllr Aitken-Sykes proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Templeton and therefore **RESOLVED:** approved. All Agreed.
- 11 To approve Section 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2017/18 Part 2** – Cllr Hartas proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Lucas and therefore **RESOLVED:** approved. All Agreed.
- 12 To receive the Clerks report:-**
1 Bench. Following a request received from a parishioner, the Clerk had written to National Trust to request whether an additional bench could be installed on Hale Purlieu in the location of the original. No response had yet been received. Steve Whitmarsh explained that the bench had been relocated to save further relocation in the event that the Pylons project were to proceed. Clerk to follow up for formal response.
- 13 Correspondence** – none.
- 14 To consider any matter referred by the planning committee** – none.
- 15 To receive a report from Councillors on meetings attended:**
1. Cllr Harrington – North West Quadrant –
 - the pylons project was discussed and it was made clear that this was not yet an agreed project that was definitely going ahead. PHPM made a presentation to the panel. HPC's current neutral position was stressed to the Chairman.
 - National Park update; NFDC will be publishing a district plan for housing next week. There will be some impact on green belt land for affordable housing and there is a proposal to require 50% of new housing in certain areas to be affordable. Michael Gove led review of National Park status may impact earnings for existing National Parks. Representations have been made.
 - NFDC may stop sending hard copies of planning applications due to GDPR concerns.
 - Proposal of wetland restoration by raising waterbed level at Dead Man's Bottom, Cunniger Bottom, Shobley Bottom Mire and Pitswood Mire. The RSPB have been gifted and also purchased a total of 953 acres of land between Hamptworth and Nomansland which is now named Franchises Lodge.

16 To consider and approve the following payments:

05.06.18	Cutting Edge	£170.00
05.06.18	Clerk's expenses	£ 15.83
24.06.18	Clerk's Salary	£330.17

It was proposed by Cllr Hartas and seconded by Cllr Lucas and therefore

RESOLVED: that the payments be approved. All agreed.

17 To approve the accounts for May 2018 and record the bank balances – approved.**18 Any other business**

1. Cllr Mangan had received a concern from a parishioner that Swallow Wines had erected a new sign advertising as a wedding venue and to check that any necessary permissions had been sought. Cllr Hartas will contact National Park authority to check conditions of licence, potential change of use and planning requirements for sign.
2. Cllr Hartas had been informed that Hale Pre-School is scheduled to close at the end of term, due to an inability to find a suitably qualified supervisor.
3. Cllr Lucas had become aware that the New Forest cycle sportif in July was proposing to travel down Water Lane and Hale Lane. It was agreed that if this were the route it would be dangerous and so Cllr Lucas to continue to seek clarification on the proposed route and express safety concerns as appropriate
4. Cllr Lucas expressed thanks on behalf of all to Robert & Cylvean for the use of their field as a temporary car park.
5. At the request of NFDC, Cllr Templeton attended a meeting to give an update on CLT progress.

19 To note the date of the next meeting is 3 July 2018 at 7.30pm at Hale Village Hall

There being no further business to discuss the Meeting closed at 9.45pm

Signed:
Chairman

Date: 3 July 2018

Clerk: Miss Kathy Cleary, 5 Saddlers Close, Fordingbridge, SP6 1AE
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