

HALE PARISH COUNCIL
DRAFT Minutes of Hale Parish Council Meeting
held at 7.30 pm on Tuesday 5 March 2019 in Hale Village Hall, Hale

Present:

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

In attendance:

Miss K Cleary – Clerk

Mr S Whitmarsh – Tree Warden

12 members of the public

1. To receive apologies for absence –None.**2. To receive any Declarations of Interest, written requests for dispensations and to grant any dispensations as appropriate**

- As Chairman of the Hale Village Hall Committee, Cllr Hartas declared an interest in any part of item 6 of the agenda (Tree Wardens Report) in relation to Tree Work Application ref CONS/19/0055
- As a Director of Hale CLT who is prepared to sell/donate some of his own land to Hale CLT, Cllr Templeton declared a pecuniary interest in item 10 of the agenda; Affordable Housing
- As a Director of Hale CLT, Cllr Aitken-Sykes declared a personal interest in item 10 of the agenda; Affordable Housing.
- As a resident who owns and lives on the land immediately adjacent to the only site currently being considered by Hale CLT (Folly Hill) Cllr Gemmell declared a personal interest in any part of item 10 of the agenda (affordable housing) relating to the Folly Hill site.
- Clerk confirmed that Cllr Gemmell was entitled to discuss and vote on any matter in relation to Affordable Housing other than in respect of the Folly Hill site. Cllr Gemmell had submitted a written request to stay in the room for any discussion of items relating to the Folly Hill site; this was granted for an initial period of one year from the date of the meeting. There were no other written requests for dispensations to be considered. Cllrs Templeton and Aitken-Sykes had valid dispensations in force to allow them to stay in the room for discussion of item 10; Affordable Housing.

3. To consider and approve the Minutes of the meeting held on 5 February 2019 – Minutes having been circulated in advance were approved by majority decision and signed by the Chairman. Cllr Gemmell dissented.**Matters arising from the minutes**

- Cllr Lucas advised that the Council had held a closed session on 4th March to consider evidence presented in support of a complaint received by the Council dated 6th January; the Council had agreed on a course of action; Clerk to draft follow up letters and submit to HALC and NFDC monitoring officer for guidance. The issue is ongoing.
- Cllr Gemmell requested that clarification be sought from Tim Davies of NFDC in relation to the '600 target' referred to in the HPC meeting with NFDC on Affordable Housing. Clerk to action.
- National Grid had responded to HPC's letter requesting a reappraisal of the tunnelling option. Letter to be posted on HPC website.
- Clerk confirmed that she had yet to contact H&W Horticultural Society/ Oaktree Cottage resident in relation to the potential re-siting of the Woodfalls Cross noticeboards.

4. Members of the public are invited to address the council on agenda matters and to raise any matters not otherwise on the agenda.

- A resident noted increased levels of crime being suffered in the Village, particularly in the area of theft from outbuildings. Some neighbouring Parishes have set up social media based methods of information sharing. There have been some issues with Police engagement given the cross-county aspects of suspect behaviour. Cllr Lucas/ Clerk to seek to arrange a local Parish meeting with a sufficiently senior member of Hampshire Police.
- A parishioner member of PHPM noted that a PHPM delegate had been invited to join the HPC meeting with Alaska restoration on Hale Purlieu in relation to the VIP project but expressed disappointment that their request to attend with a soil expert had been refused. The PHPM noted that there were still unanswered questions and they had several areas of ongoing concern about the

soil renovation proposals. Cllr Lucas noted that HPC were not informed by PHPM of any request to bring along any soil expert. Position to be clarified by PHPM.

Separately, PHPM noted that National Trust appeared to be removing trees from the undergrounding route; contrary to their assurances and without informing the Council or residents. Clerk to clarify with National Trust.

Cllr Mangan noted that some of the PHPM concerns were a matter of interpretation; he had found the Alaska meeting useful and while the project was clearly not without risk, he had been encouraged by some aspects of the meeting encouraged by some aspects, notably the clearance of several hectares of tree stumps from recently felled pine and reseeded as heathland.

- A parishioner member of PHPM requested that Clerk clarify (1) if notification had been received from National Trust of recent tree removal works and (2) source of her advice in Feb minutes re legal implications of HPC taking a position on VIP project prior to receipt of any planning application. Clerk confirmed that she had not received any correspondence from National Trust since their confirmation in Q4 that there were no winter works planned other than 'normal activity'. Clerk to clarify source of her advice re planning comment.

In addition, the parishioner repeated a previous request for HPC to confirm that they would not support any planning application which broke conservation and any other laws, irrespective of any IROPI process.

Cllr Lucas proposed at this point to invite general comment from County Cllr Edward Heron. All agreed.

- In response to public concerns raised about VIP and HPC predetermination issues, Cllr Heron confirmed that the use of IROPI was legal. He had not yet formed a definitive view on the VIP project and it was the applicants job to show that they have 'ticked every box' to allow support. Cllr Heron had identified a number areas of the draft proposals that concerned him and certain 'red lines' that he considered necessary in order to support the project.
- County Cllr Heron urged residents to debate strongly held views with respect and treat fellow residents with respect so as not to allow large and potentially divisive issues to destroy the previous good nature of the village community.
- County Cllr Heron urged the Parish Council to ensure that a suitably senior member of Hants police attended the Annual Parish Assembly.

5. To consider matters relating to the Cemetery including:

- **To consider the following cemetery applications received**

RASEY: Erection of new memorial

EMM: Additional inscription on existing memorial

MAJURY: Additional inscription and re-siting of existing memorial

- **To consider quotation received for cemetery maintenance 2019**
- **To consider proposals for path update**

- It was proposed by Cllr Hartas and seconded by Cllr Templeton and therefore **RESOLVED** to allow the memorial applications received in respect of Mr Rasey, Mr Emm and Mr/s Majury. All agreed.
- Clerk confirmed that she had received a costed proposal from Cutting Edge for cemetery maintenance for 2019/20. Alternative quote to be sought including joint working with Redlynch cemetery. Clerk/ Cllr Lucas to action to allow decision at April meeting. Clerk to ask Cutting Edge to do the March cut which was due.
- The council considered costed proposals submitted by Cllr Mangan to redefine the planting area of the cemetery and repair/ upgrade the path edging and top up gravel on path. Cllr Mangan to liaise with Susan Witt in respect of edging and organise Volunteer works party to place new materials. It was proposed by Cllr Hartas and seconded by Cllr Templeton and therefore **RESOLVED** to procure edging materials and gravel up to a cost of £940 + VAT. All agreed.

6. Tree warden report

- Steve Whitmarsh as tree warden reported that a Tree Preservation Order had been proposed on the tree that had been the subject of the Village Hall committee application considered at the February meeting. It was noted that the Tree Warden and HPC had considered the proposed works and had not identified any issues so had resolved to accept the decision of the National Park Authority. It was noted that the Village Hall Committee were seeking further advice.

7. To receive an update and determine next steps on the Parish Plan

7.1. Cllr Lucas reported that the Housing section remained outstanding and would be worked on with the Housing Consulting Group.

8. To consider and determine next steps on Hatchett Green restoration – car park repairs – including

- **Review of overseeing arrangements for Earlcote works April 19**
- **Funding application status**

8.1. Cllr Lucas advised that National Lottery funding of £4,356.00 had been received and thanked Cllr Hartas for all her hard work in preparing the application.

8.2. Cllr Aitken-Sykes confirmed that Earlcote were booked for the works in the Easter holidays, w/c 8th April 2019. Clerk to publicise on website and using Information Update email list.

8.3. The Council discussed the possibility of using Council reserve funds to supplement the existing works with further drainage channels. Cllr Aitken-Sykes to liaise with Earlcote. It was proposed by Cllr Gemmell and seconded by Cllr Hartas and therefore **RESOLVED** to augment the project with up to £2000 + VAT funded from HPC reserves to facilitate more drainage. All agreed.

8.4. Clerk to arrange receipt of contributions promised from Transition Group (£400) and Village Hall Committee (£1000).

9. To consider and determine next steps in relation to the National Grid Visual Impact Project including:

- **Receiving a report of site meeting with Alaska 26 Feb 2019**

9.1 In addition to the points of interest from the Alaska site meeting raised under item 4 of the agenda, Cllr Gemmell noted that details, including an artist's impression of the Sealing-in compounds (which would be visible from the road) were outstanding.

9.2 Cllr Hartas reported that she was in ongoing discussions with the Verderers to try and organise a meeting with the Verderers and Sue Blanche (National Trust representative) to ensure clarity of understanding and information. There was a discussion whether PHPM should be invited to any meetings but the Council agreed that any meeting should be as informal as possible to build a dialogue of trust.

9.3 Cllr Lucas advised that SAG meeting minutes had been received and had been posted on HPC website. Costing details remained outstanding. Clerk to chase.

10. To consider and determine next steps for Affordable Housing project including

- **Receiving a report from the Housing Consulting Group meeting 4 Mar**
(Cllrs Templeton and Aitken-Sykes moved to the public area for the duration of this item)

10.1. Cllr Lucas reported that a meeting had been held with HCG. The meeting acknowledged that the HCG had effectively kickstarted HPC communication with Hale Village CLT but that HPC had not been effective at directing HCG volunteer efforts. The meeting agreed a way forward that HCG would focus on 'red lines' and criteria to be met by any affordable housing in Hale and also to clarify the Village Design Statement in the Parish plan.

10.2. Ian Winson, as Chair of the HCG reported that a meeting had been held on 4 March for the HCG to consider the HPC proposals. An action plan was being drawn up. HCG meetings would in future be held between HPC meetings to allow minutes and actions to be considered before HPC meetings.

10.3. Cllr Lucas reported that Hale Village CLT had submitted a number of documents for comment to HPC including

- a. Minutes of the CLT meeting on 4th Jan (these have been posted on HPC website)
- b. Information around the suitability of the CLT as a vehicle for delivering affordable housing
- c. Draft housing allocation policy
- d. Draft housing application form

10.4. Bill Templeton, as director of Hale Village CLT expressed disappointment at the relative level of engagement from HPC with the CLT since the need for affordable housing had been agreed at the August 18 HPC meeting. Mr Templeton pointed out that other CLTs had Parish Councils on the committee.

10.5. Councillors noted that engagement with the CLT to date had been hampered by the ongoing issues of monitoring perceived conflicts of interest. Cllrs Hartas and Mangan both expressed a desire to engage more with Hale CLT but also for Hale CLT to actively increase membership and share more information including draft business plans with HPC. Cllrs felt that the current CLT activities had not yet evidenced that the CLT would be of long term benefit to Hale. Cllr Lucas to arrange a further meeting between HPC and CLT.

10.6. A request had been received from NFDC (Tim Davies) for HPC to confirm CLT support in order to progress a grant application. Cllrs agreed that at this stage, unqualified support could not be offered. This would be discussed further at the meeting with the CLT and considered again at the April HPC meeting.

11. Correspondence (not dealt with elsewhere)

11.1. 7/8 Feb – NFDC/ Tree Warden – Hale Litter Pick/ Spring Clean – 30th March, starting at Village Hall at 10am. Clerk to publicise.

11.2. 7 Feb – Church of England Parish Church survey – Clerk to distribute

11.3. 12 Feb - HALC notification of annual meeting 13 March – no HPC attendees

11.4. 22 Feb – Fordingbridge Rotary – Citizen of the Year – No HPC nominations proposed.

12. Clerk's report including:

- Potential rescheduling of April HPC meeting
- HPC election timelines and new Councillor publicity
- Interaction with other local PCs ref crime/ neighbourhood watch
- GDPR update/ review of draft data protection policy

12.1. Cllr Lucas confirmed that she could not attend April HPC meeting as currently scheduled. Clerk/ Cllr Lucas to investigate potential to hold at Woodgreen on Wed 3rd.

12.2. Election timelines and information relating to nomination forms and deadlines had been received and posted on website. Information to be posted on noticeboards. Clerk had approached HALC for potential information document for those residents considering standing for election.

12.3. Clerk to approach Neighbourhood Watch coordinator to consider interaction with neighbouring parishes and use of social media for information dissemination.

12.4. Clerk reported that GDPR compliance requests had been sent to all on HPC information update email lists so that new email distribution lists could be compiled. Draft privacy policy to be prepared for consideration at April HPC meeting.

13. To consider and approve the following payments:

	£
05.03.19 Fordingbridge Town Council (lengthsman materials)	32.69
05.03.19 Clerks expenses/ overtime June 2018 – Feb 19	197.21
05.03.19 Councillor Expenses (HDMI cable for Clerk)	7.19
24.03.19 Clerks Salary	330.17
24.03.19 HMRC - PAYE on Clerks Salary	330.00

It was proposed by Cllr Lucas and seconded by Cllr Gemmell and therefore **RESOLVED**: that the payments be approved. All agreed.

14. To approve the accounts for Feb 2019 and to record the bank balances – approved.

15. Any other business

15.1. Cllr Mangan reported that more fibre broadband capacity was being installed on Forest Rd

15.2. Cllr Templeton reported the following points of interest from the North West Quadrant meeting on 4th Mar

- a. Steve Avery reported that Local plan was being reviewed with a report due end April 19 and planned adoption in May 2019
- b. John Sanger advised that as part of National Park 70th Anniversary celebrations, grants of up to £150 were available for schools and other organisations to apply for community activities such as litter picking.

15.3. Cllr Hartas confirmed that Sarah Delves was happy to speak at the Annual Parish Assembly on her work with the Secret Spitfires film. Clerk to coordinate.

15.4. Cllr Hartas noted that Village Hall Committee had received a wedding application for summer 2020 with a proposed 2am finish. Cllrs felt this was potentially too late.

15.5. Cllr Hartas on behalf of the Village Hall committee had received an invitation from NFDC to schedule a new tree survey. Given the charges for travel, it was agreed to combine with HPC tree survey due. Clerk/ Tree warden to coordinate with Cllr Hartas.

16. To note the date of the next meeting is **to be confirmed**

There being no further business to discuss, the Meeting closed at 10.15pm

Signed:
Chairman

Date: 5 March 2019

Clerk: Miss Kathy Cleary, 5 Blue Valley Mews, Fordingbridge, SP6 1AE
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