

HALE PARISH COUNCIL
Draft Minutes of Hale Parish Council Meeting
held at 7.00 pm on Tuesday 3rd September 2019 in Hale Village Hall, Hatchet Green, Hale

Present:

Cllr Hartas – Chairman; Cllrs Gemmell, Harrison, Mangan and Lavis

In attendance:

Mrs Bev Cornish – Locum Clerk

Mrs Amanda Johnson – Clerk

Mr Edward Heron – County Councillor

22 members of the public

Notifications had been received that the meeting was being recorded by a member of the public.

Report by and questions to Cllr Heron

Budget cuts within HCC have led to discussions on the viability of the lengthsman scheme which costs £500K per year and is not a priority. Funding may be withdrawn or need to include match funding from parishes.

Cllr Mangan questioned Cllr Heron regarding potholes which have been reported and are located in high risk areas. Cllr Heron replied that the online reporting system is the most efficient system. Discussion also included the sides of the road along Hale Purlieu where the only option is to repair with hoggin which is often a short term solution. Cllr Mangan discussed this recently at an NT meeting and other solutions eg. passing places would require multi-organisational discussions.

1. **To receive apologies for absence** – Apologies were received from Cllr Delves for reason of a family bereavement.
2. **To receive any Declarations of Interest, written requests for dispensations and to grant any dispensations as appropriate**
None received.
3. **To consider and approve the Minutes of Hale Parish Council Meeting 6 August 2019 and matters arising from previous minutes not elsewhere in the agenda.**

Hale Parish Council members RESOLVED to accept the minutes of the meeting held on 6th August as a true record and they were signed by the Chair.

3.1 Broadband update – Cllr Mangan reported that he found it difficult to obtain comprehensive information. The two newly installed cabinets should supply fibre to the majority of properties and it was believed that BT could extend further to the more remote properties through Fibre to the Premises 'FTTP'. At present therefore no need to explore a Community Scheme.

3.1 Ash dieback survey – Cllr Gemmell reported that there has been no further progress and he will have further information for the next meeting.

3.2 Ragwort – the ragwort has been removed.

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

Cllr Hartas advised that as all the questions raised were in relation to Agenda Item 12, she would re-open the meeting when the item was to be discussed.

Cllr Hartas closed the meeting to members of the public.

5 To receive reports on matters of interest from external meetings attended:

5.1 Cllr Mangan attended the North West Quadrant meeting on 2nd Sept which focussed on the recent adoption of the revised Local Plan by the NFNPA. This focuses on 7 objectives – awareness; negative impact of visitor/inhabitants; remaining barriers to educating people; spatial distribution; funding; evidence base and monitoring. A number of Hale councillors were to attend training on the new Local Plan on Wednesday 4th September.

5.2 Cllr Mangan reported on his meeting with Jennifer Sutton from the National Trust. The discussion and recommendations included:

- An Annual work programme – focussing on habitat restoration.
- Higher Level Stewardship Scheme
- Dog control – suggest to adopt and publicise dog walkers Code of conduct.
- Verges along Hale Purlieu – discussions with NT/Verderers/HCC Highways/HPC would be beneficial.
- Additional volunteer litter picking days.
- Deer culling – done in partnership with Forestry England.

6. To review Risk Assessments completed.

As 3 of the 4 risk assessments were completed it was RESOLVED that this item be deferred to the next meeting when all risk assessments could be reviewed and approved together.

7. To consider matters relating to the Cemetery including:

7.1 Cllr Mangan reported that the volunteer meeting held on 27th August had been well attended and further parishioners had expressed interest. Work on the path had been completed and further work was scheduled. Some volunteers still needed to fill out GDPR forms.

7.2 Councillors reviewed and considered the conditions to require grave owners to level/returf plots. Cllr Mangan proposed, Cllr Hartas seconded and it was RESOLVED that a maximum of one year after internment be allowed for the levelling/returfing of plots and amendment should be made to this effect in the Council's Burial Regulations.

8. To consider a report on potential improvements at Woodfalls Cross junction and determine next steps.

It was RESOLVED to defer this item to the next meeting.

9. To consider replacement of the bench on Hatchet Green and review other street furniture generally

Cllr Mangan reported that unrepairable damage had been caused to a bench by a car on Hatchet Green and the other bench was in poor condition. Councillors considered the £250 budget for replacements and was advised by Cllr Heron of some grant money available. A discussion followed on whether the Council's historic policy of not accepting Memorial benches should be continued.

Cllr Mangan proposed, Cllr Gemmell seconded and it was RESOLVED that Memorial benches should be considered subject to defined conditions. Cllr Mangan agreed to draft a policy for the next meeting and Cllr Hartas agreed to investigate the cost of purchasing two new benches.

10. To review and agree the HCC car park rental calculation

The rental for the use of the car park by the school was renegotiated in 2016 from £500 to £700 with annual inflationary increases with this year's rent set at £761. It was proposed by Cllr Lavis, seconded by Cllr Gemmell and RESOLVED to agree this payment.

A discussion followed on parking by school staff and parents and Cllr Harrison advised that he would raise this at his next meeting with the school.

11. To receive tree wardens report including consideration of tree works application ref CONS/19/0539

Proposed Works: Prune 1 x Oak tree, Prune/pollard 1 x Goat Willow tree, Fell 1 x Sycamore tree

Site Address: The Homet, Higher End Lane, Hale, Fordingbridge, SP6 2RA

The tree warden Steve Whitmarsh (SW) reported that he had assessed the pruning of the trees and believed it to be necessary. He had not been able to view the sycamore so advised that the Parish council should accept the findings of the Tree Officer.

Cllr Hartas proposed from the Chair and it was RESOLVED that the decision be left to the Tree Officer.

SW offered to do the annual risk assessment for trees owned by HPC, this was agreed and SW thanked for his work.

At this point in the meeting Cllr Hartas proposed from the Chair and it was RESOLVED that the meeting be open for members of the public to speak.

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

- Review and consideration of comment received
- To finalise and ratify the draft affordable housing 'Conditions' document
- To consider disbanding Hale Housing Consultative Group

4 members of the public spoke.

A member of the public sought information on the HHCG group and the Minutes of meetings which he had been unable to find despite writing to the Clerk. He also suggested that social media would be a useful tool for HPC eg. for posting minutes and for advertising litter picks..

A member of the public referred to an email dated 22/09/18 requesting an open parish meeting. He said this was no further forward and he felt that the village was now more divided on the issue of affordable housing. He requested again that an open meeting be held to enable the CLT to present their plans and enable parishioners to properly express their opinion.

A member of the public expressed concern about the anonymous leaflet distributed to all houses in the parish and the corresponding website and said both were provocative and inaccurate and something from which HPC had rightly distanced themselves. The CLT aimed to work flexibly with the HPC under the terms of the Conditions document and should move on with this matter.

A member of the public reported that the CLT had been open and had held two public meetings outlining plans and proposals. In March 2019 it was suggested that the CLT should endeavour to raise its membership and this had increased from 28 to 73. The CLT

was willing to compromise in order to work with the HPC including creating a subsidiary charity. The CLT felt the Conditions document was biased against the CLT and would like a meeting with Councillors.

Cllr Hartas closed the meeting to members of the public.

12.1 Cllrs debated the addresses from the public and from the anonymous survey. While some Cllrs felt that an open meeting is still necessary others felt that the two surveys already completed have already assessed parishioner's views. Cllr Gemmell said that he would be asking the Clerk to include a proposal on the agenda for the next meeting to hold an open public meeting.

12.2 Cllrs considered all the points of the Conditions document including comments from Tim Davis (NFDC), HHCG and the CLT.

A discussion followed and voting took place for two points.

It was RESOLVED that "The requirement of HPC is for the provider to be a Charity".

It was RESOLVED that "The provider must demonstrate to HPC that it has the support of the majority of Hale parishioners."

Cllr Gemmell proposed, Cllr Lavis seconded and it was RESOLVED that the Condition document be ratified with a review in 6 months (March 2020).

12.3 A discussion followed on whether the HHCG was still required. Cllr Hartas felt that it had fulfilled its role and a working group was no longer needed as any remaining work on the Conditions document could be completed by HPC.

Cllr Hartas proposed, Cllr Mangan seconded and it was RESOLVED that the HHCG be disbanded. Cllr Gemmell asked for his objection to be recorded.

13. To consider correspondence (1) received before 28th August 2019 and (2) any urgent correspondence received after the agenda was finalised not dealt with elsewhere in the agenda

1. 8th July – Parishioner ref charity cricket match on Hatchet Green 8th Sept
2. 1st Aug – NFDC ref Hatchet Green Rd closure 19th Aug (sep Attach)
3. 2nd Aug – HALC ref NALC's latest model finance regulations and guidance notes (sep attach) – Deferred to next meeting.
4. 7th Aug – Inspector Scott Beney ref Police Social Media Accounts
5. 7th Aug – NFDC licensing notification ref temporary events notice- Noted
6. 9th Aug – Action Hampshire re AGM 17th Oct
7. 9th Aug – Citizens Advice ref survey into closure of New Forest post offices (JH completed)
8. 19th Aug – New Milton Town Council ref NF Sportive 14 Sept (sep attach)
9. 19th Aug – NFNPA ref New Forest walking festival (sep attach)
10. 19th Aug- Parishioner ref Councillor bias.- Noted.

14. To receive the Clerk's report

The Clerk's report included information on HCC car park rental and grave levelling – both items have been covered on the agenda.

Also a financial update of the income/outcome for the bespoke planning session held on June 19th – this was noted.

15. To consider the following payments requests:

03.09.19	Cutting Edge – June cemetery cut x2	£385.00
03.09.19	PAYE due on outgoing Clerk's salary	£220.12
03.09.19	Outgoing Clerk's expenses/overtime	£270.34
24.09.19	Clerk's salary	£431.74

Cllr Gemmell proposed, Cllr Lavis seconded and it was RESOLVED that all payments be approved.

16. To approve the accounts for the three months to 31 August 2019 and record the bank balances.

Cllr Gemmell proposed, Cllr Hartas seconded and it was RESOLVED that the accounts for this period be approved.

17. Any Other Business

17.1 Cllr Mangan asked that a message of condolences be sent to Cllr Delves. (Clerk to action)

17.2 Cllr Lavis formally thanked Cllr Gemmell and the HHCG for all their work. Cllr Hartas will thank the group in writing.

17.3 A meeting led by PCSO Stephen May and organised by Neighbourhood Watch will take place on 18/10. All questions to be submitted in advance.

17.4 Planning training meeting takes place tomorrow (04/09) in Brockenhurst.

18. To note the date of the next meeting at Hale Village Hall Tuesday 1st Oct 2019 at 7.00pm

There being no further business to discuss the Meeting closed at 10.50pm

Signed:
Chairman

Date: 3 Sept 2019