

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF HOCKHAM PARISH COUNCIL HELD IN HOCKHAM  
VILLAGE HALL ON MONDAY 7<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2024 AT 7.30PM**

Attending; Cllrs Bennett (Chair), Lambert (Vice Chair), Thomas, Lloyd and Loft plus the C Garrod (Clerk) and 6 members of the public.

- 1) **Apologies for absence.** Cllr Leech, County Councillor Eagle and District Councillor Cowen.
- 2) **Declarations of Interest.** Cllr Lambert as owner and landlord of the Eagle Pub, Cllrs Bennett & Loft as allotment holders.
- 3) **Requests for Dispensation.** None.
- 4) **The minutes of 2<sup>nd</sup> September 24** were unanimously approved.
- 5) **Progress Report.**
  - a) Wheelchair ramp. The clerk had the quote and would action once confirming the price still stood.
  - b) Info Board. No further progress.
  - c) Website. Still under construction.
  - d) Drainage. The sludge gulpers had been round recently. It was noted Vicarage Road had received thorough drain attention. More heavy rain was predicted, and photos would be taken of any problem areas.
- 6) **Public Participation.** The meeting was adjourned to allow the public to ask questions.
- 7) **County & District Councillor Reports.** The Government had cancelled Norfolk's Devolution deal, and it was unlikely the £20m for economic projects would be allowed.
- 8) **Highways and Road Safety.** (Cllr Thomas) Six items had been reported since the last meeting. a) Wretham Road Surface Repairs; b) Little Hockham Lane Road width and repairs; c) Watton Road Grips and ditch needed cleaning. d) Watton Road A1075 junction, drain needed cleaning. e) A1075 Mud and stone debris (rain issue) on the road needed cleaning. f) Name plate for the village sign was repaired by the engineer.

The new SAM 2 unit had been purchased and would soon be installed. The clerk was chasing the NCC payment for this.
- 9) **Planning.** The local plan had been paused awaiting changes to the national planning policy framework. The latter would affect Hockham. With an expected regional rise of 39% on properties to build.

3PL/2024/0737/HOU la Finca cart shed, no objections.  
[3PL/2024/0402/HOU](#) Sunnynook, this application had been refused.  
The two enforcement issues were still being dealt with.
- 10) **Finances.** The PC current account had £18575.87, with the second parish precept instalment having been received.

Payments due were Locks for the SAM 2 £6.39; Clerks salary £179.40, Pearce & Kemp £45.60; CPRE subs were due soon; British Legion Poppy Appeal £250; Community car £36.50. It was noted that David Sumbler was doing an excellent job coordinating the car scheme.  
Some harling Rd allotment rents were still due. The clerk would chase.  
Playing Field accounts stood at £10651.60 in the bank but with some substantial cash to be banked.

There was a lively debate about In Touch and the communication loss and the clerk agreed to speak to the committee about the distribution.

A finance committee meeting would be convened.

The clerk was given permission to sort the new electricity contract.

- 11) **Allotments** (Cllr Bennett). It was asked if the hedges at Harling Road could be trimmed. The clerk would ask. Rents were being chased.
- 12) **Footpaths & Rights of Way**. There was tree down opposite the sewerage works. A hornet's nest had been spotted and signs put up by the Forestry Commission. A tree was reported down on Puddledock Lane.
- 13) **Playing Field** (Cllr Lloyd). The cricket strips had been cleaned (£ 90) and were ready for the benches. A working party was being convened. 21 moles had been relocated. Some play equipment works had been completed. Fireworks were 2<sup>nd</sup> November. Family quiz on 27/10/24. It was suggested a "what's been done" list should be done and circulated.
- 14) **Maintenance & Improvements to Public Areas**. This would be discussed after the finance committee meeting.
- 15) **Councillor Updates**. The clerk would discuss the maize cutting and removal with Larwood Farms. It was suggested that safety posts should be put on the pavement by the Eagle. The clerk to talk to Highways.  
It was agreed to allow up to £200 to pay for dog fouling signs. The dog wardens may visit the village and out up CCTV cameras to catch the offending dogs.  
Townlands were getting the garden railings and telephone box painted.
- 16) **Correspondence**. The clerk announced that there were now two village defibrillators, the new one being at Forest Court.

The next meeting is on November 4<sup>th</sup> at 7.30 pm.