

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF HOCKHAM PARISH COUNCIL ON MONDAY JAN 6TH 2025
IN HOCKHAM VILLAGE HALL

Present; Councillors; Bennett (Chair) Lambert, Lloyd, Thomas Loft, Leech and Wiltshire, the clerk C Garrod, plus 5 members of the public.

- 1) **Apologies for absence;** Councillor Cowen
- 2) **Declarations of interest,** Councillor Lambert as landlord and owner of the Eagle, Councillor Leech as a farmer at Little Hockham, Councillors Bennett and Loft as allotment holders.
- 3) **Requests for dispensation.** None
- 4) **Minutes from 09/12/24.** Unanimously approved.
- 5) **Progress.**
 - a) **Wheelchair ramp.** Purchased and used. It was agreed to remove some soil to make the ramp steadier.
 - b) **Info board.** No further progress.
 - c) **Website.** Councillor Wiltshire was investigating.
 - d) **Drainage.** NCC highways have investigated some drains. It was believed they would camera survey the drain by the Eagle.
 - e) **Bollards.** NCC Highways would not install bollards.
- 6) **The meeting was adjourned for public participation.**
- 7) District and County Council reports. Councillor Cowen had sent a report that was read out by the clerk. (Added in full to minutes)
- 8) **Highways and Road Safety (Cllr Thomas).** The sign on the Watton Rd had been fixed. The condition of Parliament Lane would be reported. Some overgrown hedges would be investigated opposite side of the road to the village fields.
- 9) **Planning Applications and Planning Issues.** As a result of the NPPF changes, the leader of Breckland council had issued a note to say that housing numbers needed to increase by approx. 40%. Two planning appeals were in progress, Sunnyside and Springfield.
- 10) **Finances.** There was £18238.15 in the bank. Approval was given for payments to the clerk for salary of £186.96, village hall water for allotments of £109.68, Pearce and Kemp for streetlight maintenance for £45.60 and to Serco for grass cutting at £1497.98. The latter would need to be an electronic payment and councillor Lambert and Leech agreed to progress the online authorisation.
- 11) **Allotments (Cllr Bennett).** One half had been re let on Harling Rd.
- 12) **Footpaths and Rights of Way (Cllr Loft).** The trod needed a new surface. NCC highways would be contacted.
- 13) **Playing Field.** A meeting was due soon. The chair congratulated the Xmas tree team for the lights this Xmas. It was agreed the PC would fund any new or replacement lights. There was £16907.95 in the bank plus some cash in a float. The benches were soon to be located. An independent inspection of play equipment had highlighted no new issues, and all the old issues had been sorted.
- 14) **In Touch.** An in-depth letter had been received for the In Touch Committee. A meeting would be convened between the two parties.
- 15) **Community Car Scheme.** No new drivers had been found yet. A notice would go on the notice board.

- 16) **Councillor Updates.** Following the public participation, it was agreed to investigate a footpath opposite North Farm. NCC would be contacted re land ownership. It was asked if an update on the Harling Surgery Practice could be sought.
- 17) **Correspondence.** None other than that which had already been dealt with.
- 18) **Next meeting** Monday 10th Feb 2025