

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF HOCKHAM PARISH COUNCIL ON MONDAY 9<sup>TH</sup>**  
**DECEMBER 2024 IN HOCKHAM VILLAGE HALL**

Attending, Cllrs Bennett (Chair), Lambert, Lloyd, Loft, Thomas and Leech, District Cllr Cowen, The clerk C Garrod and 7 members of the public.

- 1) Apologies for absence.** None
- 2) Declarations of interest.** Cllrs Bennet & Loft as allotment holders, Cllr Leech as a farmer at Little Hockham and Cllr Lambert as owner and license holder of the Eagle pub.
- 3) Requests for Dispensation.** None.
- 4) Minutes for 04/11/24.** These were unanimously approved.
- 5) Progress Report.**
  - a) Wheelchair ramp.** The clerk had asked for delivery prior to 23<sup>rd</sup> Dec. He awaited confirmation from Portaramp and would chase.
  - b) Info board.** No progress.
  - c) Website.** The clerk would take this up with NALC.
  - d) Drainage.** It was agreed to take this to the next level given that the sludge gulpers had visited the village regularly and issues remained.
  - e) Councillor Co-Option.** There had been one formal interested party Chris Wiltshire, who was duly elected and took his seat with the other councillors.
  - f) Bollards.** The highways engineer had been advised. No reply yet but this would be chased alongside other highways matters.
- 6) Public Participation.** The meeting was paused briefly for public questions.
- 7) District & County Councillors reports.** Cllr Cowen discussed the Breckland Council budgeting issues, and advised the council had reached a figure despite several open issues. It was difficult to balance the books amongst variable statutory items as well as changes by the current government. There was no County Council report.
- 8) Highways.** (Cllr Thomas) There were no new items to report. An issue at Little Hockham lane would be chased.
- 9) Planning.** No new requests.
- 10) Finance.** There was a bank balance of £18802.69 in the Parish Account, Due for approval were payments of £45.60 for Pearce & Kemp, £186.96 for the Clerks salary and the community car at £93. These were approved. A direct debit for N Power was due at £239.18. The clerk had requested a new UMS certificate, so the UMS value could be reduced.  
The playing field account balance was £16925.32 with some cash in hand. A grant had been agreed for 50% of the ramp fee and £100 received for the community car grant.  
It was discussed if some new Xmas lights should be bought and agreed to buy some new strings.
- 11) Allotments.** (Cllr Bennett). No new works, given the season
- 12) Footpaths & Rights of Way.** Extensive work had improved the trod, but the surface needed redressing. The clerk would chase.
- 13) Playing Field** (Cllr Lloyd) Plans for 2025 were being looked at. Tony Loft was praised for his mole relocation exercise.

- 14) Breckland Car Park Consultation.** A meeting of parish councils and Breckland Councillors was taking place Wednesday at Thompson. Some of the parish council would attend.
- 15) Community Car Scheme.** There had been a very busy November, and new drivers were required to assist. An advert would be run.
- 16) Councillor Updates.** The chair sent season's greetings to one and all. There was concern on overgrown hedges and it was suggested that an In Touch article might help.
- 17) Correspondence.** The Boundary Commission had a consultation regards new ward boundary's in Hockham. An information piece would be put in In Touch.
- 18) The next meeting would be on 6<sup>th</sup> January 2025.**