

Draft Minutes of the Hale Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 6th 2025 at 7pm in Hale Village Hall (Downstairs)

Councillors Present: Donnell, Gemmel I (Chair), Kyle and Lavis and Vickery.

In attendance: The clerk, David Illsley (Interim Head of Strategy and Planning, National Park Authority), Cllr Janet Richards, NFDC and 19 members of the public.

26.1 TO RECEIVE ANY APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: - Councillor Gillmon.

26.2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST - To receive declarations of interest in respect of matters contained in this agenda (in accordance with the Localism Act 2011). Cllr Vickery – Planning Application 25/00853FULL, close friend. Not strictly required but notified her abstention.

26.3 MINUTES

26.3.1 It was unanimously **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 4th November 2025.

26.3.2 Matters arising from the minutes.

Recycling – NFDC concluded at a meeting on 15th December that all properties within the cattle grids will have their food waste bin collected and emptied from behind gates and within their boundary.

Western Escarpment Conservation Group – This group has not been active since 2019 however would like to resume meetings to discuss and monitor the effects on parishes of the new parking charges by Forestry England, especially verge parking. A representative from each parish is requested, this does not have to be a parish councillor. If anybody would like to take on this role please contact the clerk.

Speed Indicator Devices – Cllr Gemmell continues discussions with the company regarding the devices and the solar panels provided which were not suitable given their large size. One item is currently out of service.

26.4 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

1. Rev. Ruth Crosland, Lynda Warne and Chris Calder spoke on the next phase of the repairs to the church roof at Hale. Repairs have been carried out over recent years at a cost of approx £45,000 but further repairs will be required. There is currently no ingress of rain so the church is currently safe but repairs to the rest of the roof need to be carried out to prevent further deterioration. These repairs will cost around £20,000 to £30,000 and will be needed in the next 3-5 years. Help was requested for any sources of funding which may available. Hale PC responded to say that whilst the full costs were outside their jurisdiction, support, including financial grants, would be available.

2. Jacqui Hartas updated the council that the battery power on the defib has reduced by one bar to 2 bars out of a possible 5. Cllr Lavis has researched replacement options, looking at comparisons of the price of a new defib for Hale ownership and full governance and rental options available. This was presented and will be discussed further under a dedicated agenda item at the next meeting.

3. Many members of the public spoke regarding Harry's Meadow which is recorded in full under 26.5.

4. An abandoned vehicle is present in Tethering Drove – this will be reported to the relevant authorities.

5. Cemetery – a group of volunteers has worked hard at the cemetery over the last few years to increase its bio diversity and aesthetic, creating a central bed and wildflower areas. More volunteers would be greatly appreciated and if anyone has time to spare please contact the clerk.

6. A parishioner expressed concern about the state of the ditches in Tethering drove. HPC share this concern and will place some information in the magazine for residents regarding the manual clearing of ditches and culverts. Hale Parish Council will not be in a position to fund this work to be carried out as it is an individual Parishioner's responsibility.

26.5 HARRY'S MEADOW- David Illsley, Interim Head of Strategy and Planning at the National Park kindly answered questions in relation to the planning consent regarding the operation of camping at Harry's Meadow, Hale Park both in 2025 and in the future. The current planning permission is temporary and runs to May 2027. There were many questions but they included the following -

- Fire pits – Parishioners are very concerned about the use of fire pits especially last in summer when the conditions were so dry. David Illsley responded that a planning authority does not have absolute jurisdiction to restrict the use of BBQ and fire pits on private land.
- Pitch size – The campsite is limited to 50 pitches however a pitch can be a collection of tents which are camping together, such as a “family unit”. There appears to be some ambiguity about the size of what constitutes a pitch and it appears to be larger than 1 pitch = 1 tent.
- Lime trees – HPC remains concerned that this row of trees is dangerous for campers as they are mature, heavily festooned with Mistletoe and prone to bough breakage.
- South side of site – Although this is not officially used for camping it was used for recreational purposes, such as dog walking and children playing. Is this within the granted planning?
- Biodiversity Enhancement Plan – HPC would like clarification as to whether this has been submitted as to date, it is not included in the documentation on the planning website.
- David Illsley reported that an issue with lighting was dealt with immediately by the Enforcement Team, once they were made aware (on day one).
- David Illsley is meeting the operators of Harry's Meadow on site in February and is happy to take a list of points and concerns from the parish council and parishioners. This is not a public forum.

26.6 REPORT BY DISTRICT COUNCILLOR Cllr Richards asked that all Councillors and parishioners partake in the Local Government Reorganisation consultation which runs until 11th January.

26.7 PLANNING APPLICATIONS: To consider the responses to the following applications.

Case Number	25/01223LDCE
Proposal	Application for a Certificate of Lawful Development for Existing use of land for the siting of a caravan for agricultural use and occasional accommodation
Site	Aubann House, Hatchet Green, Hale, Fordingbridge, SP6 2NE

Councillors discussed the application and agreed that a caravan has been present on the site for over 20 years and there have been no recent changes to this situation which would lead to any concerns. Cllrs recommend Option 1 - PERMISSION, but would accept the decision reached by the National Park Authority's Officers under their delegated powers

Case Number	25/00853FULL
Proposal	Single-storey rear extension; 3no. rooflights; replacement of existing windows
Site	4 Carters Close, Hale, Fordingbridge, SP6 2NU

Councillors discussed the application and agreed that the extension meets the general development principles, is appropriate in terms of scale, appearance, siting and layout and has no significant impact on the neighbouring properties. Of note, the immediate neighbours have not complained. Cllrs recommend Option 3 - PERMISSION, for the reasons listed below . Cllr Vickery abstained.

Case Number	25/01049FULL
Proposal	Roof alteration to form pitched roof over existing flat roof and installation of roof lights to form habitable accommodation at first floor.

Site

Heather Cottage, Forest Road, Hale, Fordingbridge, SP6 2NR

Councillors discussed the application and agreed that further information from the planning authority clarify that the application is within the 30% rule as set out in DP36 and therefore councillors are happy to approve this application. The proposal has no significant impact on the character and appearance of the dwelling, its curtilage and the surrounding area. It also has no significant impacts on tranquillity or neighbouring amenities. Cllrs recommend Option 1 - PERMISSION, but would accept the decision reached by the National Park Authority's Officers under their delegated powers.

26.8 EXTERNAL MEETINGS - To receive reports from external meetings attended.

Hale Village Hall Committee meeting – 11th November 2025. Cllr Kyle attended. The committee agreed to an increase in hire rates as no increase has occurred since 2023.

26.9 CONSULTATIONS –

To note those responses already submitted (Deadlines 19th Dec) –

NFDC – Extension for a further 3 years of Public Spaces Protection Orders.

Hale PC submitted a response in favour of extending the current PSPOs for a further 3 years.

New Forest National Park Authority – Local Plan Review

Hale PC submitted a response which outlined concerns that the proposal to allow 50 new houses in Woodfalls would increase traffic along Forest Road.

To discuss current consultations –

Local Government t Reorganisation

Hale PC will submit a response in favour of Option 1.

Hampshire Minerals and Waste Plan Main modifications Consultation

Hale PC will not comment on this application.

26.10 CLERKS REPORT:

Lengthsman and repairs – The Length man is in Hale on Jan 9th and will repair the two benches at Hatchet Green.

Reporting – The following have been reported to HCC.

Tree across road (Moot Lane) 7th Dec – This was cleared immediately by SSE as it took down a power line.

Hale Road/Moot Lane cross roads – flooding. Highways closed the road for 2 days and undertook repairs but the issue is still the same.

Cattle grid (Hale Road) – Pedestrian gate at cattle grid stuck. Reported on 5th Dec.

Gate at footpath (going down to Homet) – Larger gate difficult to open for horse riders. Reported on 18th Dec.

Trees - SSE have cut back trees (which were interfering with power cables) at Hatchet Green – to the left of the school and at the Windmill area.

Burglaries – Attempted Burglaries were carried out at two properties in Hale on 25th Nov. These were reported by residents to 101 and information was placed on the website. Parishioners are reminded to remain vigilant during the long winter nights and to ensure valuables are out of sight and locked up.

26.11 ASSERTION 10 - Assertion 10 is a new declaration that parish councils will have to make in the 2025/26 Annual Governance and Accountability Return. It is a requirement that councils will have to confirm that they are complying with data protection legislation and principles. To comply with this Hale PC must have UK based web domain (emails and website should have the same domain name) and an IT policy in place. This means Hale PC must lose its gmail account and adopt a gov.uk domain.

The council unanimously agreed to approve the costs associated with a change in website. The clerk will action the changes.

26.12 ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY. The assembly will be held on April 21st with updates from local groups and a guest speaker.

26.13 GRANT APPLICATION – A grant application was received from the Hale and Woodgreen Community First Responders (CFR); a team of five Community First Responders for the villages of Hale and Woodgreen has recently been set up. These are volunteers, trained to work alongside the ambulance service to respond to 999 calls and give provide assessment and emergency medical care before an ambulance arrives. The scheme is funded by the South Central Ambulance Service Charity (SCAS) who have provided funding for the training, uniforms and three two response bags (including defibrillators). The Hale and Woodgreen First Responders are currently raising money so that the charity can continue to seed CFR schemes in other communities as well as fund ongoing training, consumables and support for the Hale and Woodgreen Team. It was unanimously agreed and approved to fund £1,000 to the SCAS charity to support the First Responders programme.

26.14 ACCOUNTS

The account were discussed and approved. The current balances as of 31/12/2025 are -

Community account – £920.90

Commercial Instant Access Account -£ 5,526.71

32 Day Notice Reserves Account – £20,527.98

26.15 MONTHLY PAYMENTS - It was **RESOLVED** to approve the following payments.

PAYEE	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT	VAT	PAYMENT METHOD
A. Johnson	December and January salary	N/A		Standing Order
Cutting Edge	Cemetery maintenance- November and December	£360 and £130		Bank Transfer
Lloyds	Bank charges	£4.25 each month		
ADS Treecare	Tree work at Hatchet Green	£1,500.00		Bank Transfer
Penon Water Services	Water bill - Cemetery	£36.26		Direct debit
ICO	Data Protection fee	£47.00		Direct Debit
HALC	Training Course	£64.20	10.70	Bank Transfer

26.16 CORRESPONDENCE - The following correspondence was noted. Any actions in italics.

15/11/2025 Cllr Heron – County Councillor Update Nov 2025

17/11/2025 NFDC free parking day sin lead up to Christmas

17/11/2025 NFDC Positive progress continues as phase 2 of new waste/recycling service rolls out.

18/11/2025 HALC Newsletter November 2025

19/11/2025 NFDC Cllr Jill Cleary The future of public services for the New Forest

24/11/2025 Forestry England – Plans for the introduction of parking charges.

25/11/2025 New Forest Association – November Newsletter

25/11/2025 NFDC – Christmas and New Year rubbish and recycling date changes.

28/11/2025 NPA - New Forest community brought together to develop vision of sustainable transport in the National Park.

28/11/2025 Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner – November Newsletter

03/12/2025 NFDC –NFDC plans permanent behind the gate waste collections in livestock areas.
04/12/2025 NFDC – Over £1 million boosts for New Forest Community Projects.
04/12/2025 NFALC minutes following the meeting on 18th Nov.
07/12/2025 NFDC – Local Government Reorganisation briefing for Town and Parish Councils.
11/12/2025 NPA – Winter updates from the New Forest National Park
14/12/2025 New Forest Association. Talk on Needs Ore - Ringed Plover Adventures. Lyndhurst Feb 26th.
23/12/2025 New Forest Association – December Newsletter

26.17 ANY OTHER BUSINESS AND MATTERS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA

Potholes – Hale Lane has many pot holes again which will be reported to HCC Highways.

26.18 DATE OF NEXT MEETING – Tuesday 3rd March 2026 at 7pm in Hale Village Hall (Downstairs)

The meeting ended at 9.45pm.

Signed by

Date