

Minutes of the Hale Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 21st November 2023 at 7pm in Hale Village Hall (Downstairs)

Councillors Present: Gemmell (Chair), Gillmon, Kyle, Lavis and Vickery.

In attendance: The clerk and 5 members of the public.

23.100 TO RECEIVE WRITTEN APPLICATIONS FOR THE OFFICE OF PARISH COUNCILLOR AND TO CO-OPT A CANDIDATE TO FILL THE EXISTING VACANCY.

Two candidates applied for the position of councillor, both sent written applications which all councillors received prior to the meeting. Both applicants were invited to make verbal representations and answered questions. All members of the public and the candidates then left the room while the councillors discussed the applications. Nominations were sought for the candidates to progress to the next round – Susan Witt was proposed by Cllr Kyle and seconded by Cllr Vickery; Andy Donnell was proposed by Cllr Lavis and seconded by Cllr Gillmon. A vote was conducted. Andy Donnell received 3 votes and Susan Witt 2 votes. Andy Donnell signed a Declaration of Acceptance and joined the meeting as a Hale Parish Councillor.

23.101 TO RECEIVE ANY APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Janet Richards, New Forest District Councillor

23.102 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST - To receive declarations of interest in respect of matters contained in this agenda (in accordance with the Localism Act 2011). None received.

23.103 MINUTES

23.103.1 It was unanimously **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 3rd October 2023.

23.103.2 Note matters arising from the minutes not elsewhere on the agenda.

Speed Indicator devices (SID) – The SID along Forest Road is working well, the SID at Hatchet Green is not in a suitable location and will be taken down and stored until further locations are approved. The installation of posts to hold SID's along Tethering Drove and Hale Purlieu require permission from the National Trust and Natural England. The posts will be removable and the only permanent fixture will be short sleeves in the ground. A National Trust Ranger has approved the locations but this needs to be verified by an NT surveyor. The Verderer's have been consulted on this matter and permission has been granted by Natural England.

23.104 REPORT BY NEW FOREST DISTRICT Cllr Richards sent the following written report
Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) update I have already sent through information relating to the new scheme allowing parish councils and others to bid for CIL funds. I asked whether Parish Councils in the National Park would be eligible to receive CIL funds (since the National Park authority does not collect CIL from developers), and the answer is that they are eligible where the effect of new development nearby means that new infrastructure is needed. One example would be for traffic calming measures (e.g. a Speed Indicator Device) needed because of the extra traffic generated by all the new housing going up around Fordingbridge.

Pop-up campsites I have been working with residents in Hale to request that the National Park Authority and Natural England withdraw permitted development rights for all temporary campsites in the New Forest (except for those run by bona fide recreational organisations such as the Scouts). This would mean these campsites would require planning permission before opening, and neighbours and the Parish Council would be consulted as part of the process.

Report from full council meeting – Monday 9th October • The new Medium Term Financial Plan was approved. The plan identifies significant budget pressures over the next few years, predicted to result in the £3.5m cumulative deficit by 2027/28. • Increase in parking charges from 1st January

was agreed. • Motion to support the Climate & Ecology bill currently going through parliament was not supported by the Conservative administration and so was not passed

23.105 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - Members of the public are invited to address the council on agenda matters or raise any matters not otherwise on the agenda.

Three parishioners spoke regarding Harry's Meadow campsite. 35 households within the village are in support of a campaign to question the procedures carried out by Natural England and The National Park Authority in relation to permitting Harry's Meadow Campsite at Hale Park. A formal complaint has been made to Natural England regarding the Exemption Certificate issued; this is currently at a Tier 1 level and will be taken to a Tier 2 level if required. The parishioners believe that the proposed Article 4 Direction can include provision to exclude some Class C camping which would then not permit Harry's Meadow to function under "rally" status. The parishioners believe that the Habitat Regulations submitted this year were not sufficient or processed correctly; no full assessment was done and therefore they did not comply with EU Law.

23.106 POP-UP CAMPSITES AND HARRY'S MEADOW

A response to the current Article 4 Direction consultation was drafted by Cllr Lavis and it was agreed to submit this as the response from Hale PC. Steve Avery was unable to attend the meeting today, the clerk will contact him and request a meeting before Christmas.

Hale PC agreed that to ensure impartiality in discussions regarding Harry's Meadow sound legal advice is required. The clerk will contact HALC regarding free legal advice that may be available and if necessary further legal advice will be sought. It was unanimously agreed that a maximum of £3000.00 be approved to cover any legal costs incurred.

All members of the public left the meeting.

23.107 EXTERNAL MEETINGS

Hale Village Hall Committee Meeting 14th November – Cllr Kyle attended. To clarify information published in previous HPC minutes the Village Hall has its own committee for its own social events but this does not function as the previous village Social Committee did. .

Forest Edge Learning Federation – Cllr Lavis attended. The Federation invited local organisations to visit the Hyde School. Hale School is currently struggling with admissions and has about 60/70% capacity.

North West Quadrant Meeting – Cllr Lavis attended. *Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP)* - The consultation is advancing slowly; the plan has become more concerned with utility cycling i.e. home to work, in a few key areas of the Forest rather than recreational cycling which is covered in the Recreational Management Strategy.

Article 4 Direction regarding pop-up campsites - The Article 4 Direction which was previously put in place by the NPA was superseded by new permitted development laws and a new Article 4 Direction has now been put in place and requires ratification by the authority.

Forestry England (FE). PSPO's - Over the first three months of the new PSPOs, the New Forest team used the new powers to intervene in 152 incidents involving over 700 people. More than 120 of the incidents involved petting and feeding ponies or donkeys. Those involved were made aware of the rules and potential fine to prevent them approaching the animals and to intervene where people were getting too close. No fines were issued.

Operation Moutie which targets speeding motorists with the aim to decrease animal collision and death in the Forest found that about two thirds of those speeding were local people with only about 5% being visitors to the area.

NW Quadrant NPA representative - There was discussion regarding the procedures involved in the election of the NW Quadrant NPA representative, the outcome being that the decision stands and any fault around the election process lies with HALC.

Parish Liaison meeting – Cllr Lavis attended. This was the first meeting of this group since the Covid pandemic and the first that Hale has been invited to (it is comprised of all parishes within the same NFDC ward). All parishes updated on issues in their village; speeding and traffic issues were a common problem.

Neighbourhood Tasking Group- Cllr Vickery attended. The meeting focussed on thefts in the area and stressed the importance of ensuring that all properties are secure.

NFDC Climate Change meeting – Cllr Kyle attended. This included a presentation from Community Energy South, however most initiatives are focused on communities with high buildings density and not suitable for communities such as Hale.

Verderers Higher Level Stewardship Scheme (HLS)– Cllr Vickery attended. This outlined how the HLS Scheme works which will be communicated to parishioners through the village magazine.

23.108 CLERKS REPORT

Hedges – Information regarding hedge cutting and associated laws was included in the September Hale and Woodgreen magazine. Hale PC have been informed that the hedges along Hale Road and Moot Lane will be cut in November. The top of the hedge around the cemetery requires cutting, the clerk will check with the landowner if this is scheduled to be carried out.

Lengthsman – The Lengthsman worked in Hale on 10th October, he replaced dragons teeth, installed glass in the telephone box and tried to level up the bench. The bench requires some tightening of bolts which he will do next time when he has the correct tools. He will also install the information sign in the telephone box and the replacement memorial post at Kinges Oak on his next visit. He also met with the clerk in the cemetery to assess the oak tree.

Pylon Refurbishment – The second phase of the pylon refurbishment was unable to be carried out due to technical difficulties. The works will now be carried out at the end of 2024. More details will be received nearer the time. All footpaths have reopened.

Kinges Oak – The memorial and post which marks the Kinges Oak planted on Hatchet Green in 1992 has disappeared. A replacement has been commissioned and will be installed by the Lengthsman on his next visit. The cost of the post and memorial plaque is £232.97(including VAT)

23.109 VILLAGE HALL PLANNING APPLICATION

The Village Hall Management Committee plan to install a rain shelter in the village hall garden. A request was made to see if this could be applied for by the Parish Council under permitted development. Parish Councils are able under Part 12 Class A to carry out some works which would otherwise require planning permission however this requires the Parish Council to own or maintain the land in question. The parish council do not own or maintain the land in question so are unable to apply for permitted development for this project.

23.110 RISK ASSESSMENTS

The following risk assessments were carried out and approved – Woodfalls Cross area, Hatchet Green and surrounding area, Hale Cemetery and Financial processes. The two benches situated at Hale Purlieu are inspected by The National Trust and they plan to have all their benches in a similar style when replaced.

Small remedial works outlined in the risk assessments will be carried out by the lengthsman. The oak tree in the cemetery is in need of “dead wooding” and this will be carried out by Marcus Nokes (Lengthsman) at a cost of £420.00

23.111 REMEDIAL WORKS TO THE BOAT (Running from Hale Village Car Park to Hale Purlieu)

Recent heavy rain during storm Ciaran caused considerable erosion to the surface of the BOAT which was hazardous. Remedial works were carried out to improve the surface at a cost of £300.00. More permanent remedial works are planned. HPC is still awaiting approval for the planned works from Natural England. Two quotes have been received and grants will be sought to carry out the works.

23.112 BUDGET AND PRECEPT 2024/245 The budget and precept request for 2024/25 were discussed. The budget was approved but will be amended to include restricted and unrestricted reserves. The precept will remain the same as the previous 3 years at £13,700.00

23.113 ACCOUNTS.

Councillors **RESOLVED** to approve the accounts for the months of September and October, The Treasurers account balance is currently £2,231.97 and the Business account balance is £28,507.11.

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

PAYEE	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT	VAT	PAYMENT METHOD
A.Johnson	Salary - October and November			Standing Order
Cutting Edge	Cemetery cut - October	£195.00		Bank Transfer
NFDC	Election costs	£75.00		Bank Transfer
Jeff Butt & Co	Payroll costs and internal audit	£345.00		Bank Transfer
BDO LLP	External audit	£252.00		Bank Transfer
The Signmaker	Memorial post and plaque.	£232.97	£38.83	Bank Transfer
James Stewart	Track (BOAT) repairs	£300.00		Bank Transfer
Chris Penny	Front hedge cut-cemetery.	£100.00		Bank Transfer

23.115 CORRESPONDENCE – The following correspondence was noted.

For information (circulated)

- 08/09/23 NPA Latest news from National Park Authority
- 14/09/23 NPA Extraordinary meeting 21st September
- 18/09/23 NFDC Safer New Forest Annual Survey
- 20/09/23 NFALC – informal meeting on the 21st
- 29/09/23 Police and Crime Commissioner – September Newsletter
- 03/10/23 NFALC – A letter from the Chairman
- 03/10/23 Hale Village Hall Management Committee – Minutes from the meeting on 21st Sept
- 04/10/23 County Councillor Edward Heron - October report.
- 12/10/23 NPA authority meeting 19th October
- 12/10/23 NPA Latest news from National Park Authority
- 12/10/23 Cllr Adams-King Letters for Parish and Town Councils regarding overgrown vegetation and ditch clearance
- 16/10/23 NFDC Community Infrastructure Levy Funds available
- 16/0/23 Forestry England Press Release – New powers used to tackle 150 incidents.
- 18/10/23 HALC AGM 4th November
- 23/20/23 NPA News Release – New Chair for National Park Authority
- 24/10/23 Forestry England Press Release – Warning to drivers on Forest Roads
- 24/10/23 Damerham Parish Council - Minutes from Parish Liaison meeting

/10/23 NPA – Article 4 Direction for temporary campsites
02/11/23 NPA – Next step towards an updated Hampshire Minerals and Waste Plan
02/11/23 Police and Crime Commissioner – October Newsletter
03/11/23 NPA Latest news from National Park Authority
06/11/23 Brice Stratford – Changes to NFALC

Shared on website

16/10/23 NFDC - Residents can now sign up for garden waste wheeled bin collections
27/0/23 NPA – Have your say on new pop-up campsite planning controls for the New Forest
Various notices about road closures.

23. 116 ANY OTHER BUSINESS AND MATTERS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA

Cemetery Fees – the cemetery fees have not been increased since 2016. The clerk will bring proposals for increases to the next meeting.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING – Tuesday 2nd January 2024 in Hale Village Hall (Downstairs)
Hale Parish Council will continue to meet bi-monthly in 2024 with meetings on 2nd January, 5th March, 7th May, 2nd July, 3rd Sept and 5th November. Extra-ordinary meetings will be held if required. The Annual Parish Assembly will be held in April, the date will be confirmed.

The meeting ended at 9.15 pm.

Signed by

Date