

## Minutes of the Hale Parish Council Annual Meeting held on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> May 2026 at 7pm in Hale Village Hall (Downstairs)

**Councillors Present:** Cllr Donnell, Cllr Lavis, Cllr Gemmell (Chair), Cllr Kyle and Cllr Vickery.

**In attendance:** The clerk, NFDC Cllr Richards and three members of the public.

**26.37 TO ELECT A CHAIR FOR 2026/27** Cllr Kyle proposed, Cllr Vickery seconded and it was unanimously **RESOLVED** to elect Cllr Gemmell as Chair for 2026/27. Cllr Gemmell signed a declaration to formally accept the role of Chair.

**26.38 TO ELECT A VICE-CHAIR FOR 2025/26** Cllr Donnell proposed, Cllr Vickery seconded and it was unanimously **RESOLVED** to elect Cllr Lavis as Vice-Chair for 2026/27.

**26.39 TO RECEIVE ANY APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** - Cllr Gillmon

**26.40 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.

### 26.41 MINUTES

26.41.1 It was unanimously **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2026.

26.42.2 Matters arising from the minutes not elsewhere on the agenda.

*Harry's Meadow* - Hale PC compiled some question which were addressed at a meeting between the NPA and the Harry's Meadow operators, and a response was received. Cllr Lavis has compiled some further responses which will be sent to David Illsley (NPA)

*Defib* – The new defibrillator has now been installed at the village hall, is operational and registered on the circuit and is emergency ready.

**26.42 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME** – Jacqui Hartas enquired as to some of the logistics of managing the new defib. Jacqui will continue to carry out the checks, aided by Cllr Lavis when required. The clerk will update all necessary information on The Circuit. Many thanks to Jacqui for her help with the new defibrillator

Two members of the public spoke regarding the planning application 26/00206FULL.

### 26.43 PLANNING APPLICATIONS:

Case Number	26/00206FULL
Proposal	Agricultural barn
Site	Land Adjacent To, Aubann House, Hatchet Green, Hale, SP6 2NE

Councillors discussed the application and also listened to the views of parishioners and **unanimously agreed to Option 4. REFUSAL.**

Councillors are very concerned about the proximity of this development to adjoining neighbours but also to the wider population of Hale. Aubann House has boundaries with 5 properties in Hatchet Close who have not been informed of this application.

Hale PC is very concerned about the scale of this venture; this proposal is associated with a large growing commercial business in a small village which would generate a level of activity which would be detrimental to the village and therefore the National Park. This activity includes an increased level of very large lorries which are not suitable for the roads into the area or the protected verges

directly outside the site. It is very likely that lorries will damage Hatchet Green SSSI which contain notable rare plant species.

Such an increase in this commercial venture will also bring with it an increase in machinery noise (on all days of the week including weekends), increased foul odour, an increase in vermin and the increased threat of bird flu to the area.

Hale PC is very concerned about the amount of waste which will be produced and hence the amount of nitrate leaching which will find its way into the local water course and then into the River Avon which already shows high levels of nitrates.

The proposed new agricultural barn is very large and will have a significant impact on the surrounding distinctive area of Hatchet Green, particularly due to the height of the building. The addition of a separate access and driveway to the proposed barn is of concern and as this could in the future lead to proposals for a separate residence.

Hale PC believe that as the site borders the New Forest SSSI and is within the Western Escarpment Conservation Area it is not a suitable location for a large commercial venture which will have such a negative impact on the area and therefore feel that this proposal does not comply with policies DP50, DP2, SP1 and SP6.

Case Number	26/00142FULL
Proposal	Side extension to garage; relocation of existing garage lean-to
Site	Stonecroft, Forest Road, Hale, Fordingbridge, SP6 2NR

Councillors discussed the application and it **was unanimously agreed to recommend option 5 - We are happy to accept the decision reached by the National Park Authority's Officers under their delegated powers.**

Case Number	26/00173FULL
Proposal	Outbuilding
Site	Mays Cottage, Forest Road, Hale, Fordingbridge, SP6 2NR

Councillors discussed the application and agreed that the new building sympathetically replaces the previous building and is similar in size and scale. **It was unanimously agreed to recommend option 3 Permission.**

Case Number	26/00172FULL
Proposal	Storage building for land management
Site	Land West of Mays Cottage, Forest Road, Hale, SP6 2NR
Case Number	26/00431VAR

Councillors discussed the application and agreed that the new building is a suitable replacement for the existing storage building. **It was unanimously agreed to recommend option 3 Permission.**

Case Number	26/00431VAR
Proposal	Application to vary condition 5 of planning permission 25/00024FULL for single-storey extension; demolition of single-storey extension
Site	Mays Cottage, Forest Road, Hale, Fordingbridge, SP6 2NR

Councillors discussed the application and agreed that the variation to the application was minor and therefore **it was unanimously agreed to recommend option 3 Permission.**

**26.44 TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM NFDC COUNCILLOR.** Cllr Janet Richards updated councillors on NFDC's position regarding the decision of the local government reorganisation which sees a division of the current NFDC district. NFDC is considering whether there are grounds for a judicial review in which they would have to prove the government made this decision illegally. If this were found to be true the decision would be quashed and a different decision made which may involve another consultation.

**26.45 EXTERNAL MEETINGS –**

*Hale Village Hall meeting 10<sup>th</sup> March* – Cllr Kyle attended. The village hall agreed in principle to contribute to the defibrillator in future years but will confirm this in 2027.

*North West Quadrant meeting 27<sup>th</sup> April* – Cllr Gemmell attended.

NPA – has a new website but the planning portal remains the same. Currently there are 300 enforcement cases in the New Forest which is unusually high. Planning fees are set to increase. Forestry England – Some car parks have been upgraded with new tarmac. The 2 Public Spaces Protection Orders - which prohibit fires/BBQs and animal petting/feeding - have been extended for another 3 years.

**26.46 FORESTRY ENGLAND CAR PARKING CHARGES –**

Beaulieu PC has now received a response from Forestry England who has stated that they have no plans to make any changes to the proposed parking charges which are now in effect. Hale PC will now monitor how these parking charges impact parking in the village, particularly along the protected verges

**26.47 NEW FOREST TOGETHER –** To discuss letter from New Forest Together regarding Local Government Reorganisation and agree any actions.

Councillors discussed this in relation to the information from Cllr Richards and felt that a change to the local reorganisation decision (a division of the current NFDC area) could result in a worse situation for Hale. It was agreed that more information was required to make an informed decision.

**26.48 STANDARDS AND PERSONNEL COMMITTEE –** It was **RESOLVED** that The Standards and Personnel Committee will be represented by Cllrs Gemmell, Lavis and Vickery for 2026/27.

**26.49 PARISH COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES**

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the following representatives for 2026/27 –

Hale Village Hall – Cllr Kyle

North West Quadrant – Cllr Gemmell and Cllr Lavis

Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan – Cllr Vickery

Neighbourhood Tasking Group – Cllr Vickery

Downton Link - A councillor will aim to attend the AGM.

New Forest Association of Local Councils – A councillor will aim to attend the AGM.

**26.50 PARISH COUNCIL RESPONSIBILITIES**

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the following responsibilities for 2026/27.

Footpaths – Cllr Gemmell

Trees – Cllr Gemmell

Finance – Cllr Kyle

Highways – Cllr Gemmell

Commoning – Cllr Vickery

Planning – Cllr Lavis

Cemetery – Clerk will cover the cemetery.

Community and Resilience Planning – Cllr Donnell

**26.51 REGULATIONS:** The updated Standing Orders and Financial Regulations for 26/27 were approved and accepted.

**26.52 TO RECONFIRM ELIGIBILITY TO CONTINUE THE GENERAL POWER OF COMPETENCE**

Hale Parish Council confirms that it still meets the criteria (At least 2/3 elected members and a qualified clerk) to hold the General Power of Competence.

**26.53 TO APPROVE THE ASSET REGISTER FOR 2026/27**

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the updated Asset Register.

**26.54 TO REVIEW AND APPROVE THE END OF YEAR ACCOUNTS FOR 2025/26.**

Councillors **RESOLVED** to approve the accounts of 2025/26. The income for the year 2025/26 was £18,263.85 and expenditure was £17,008.81.

**26.55 TO RECEIVE THE INTERNAL AUDIT REPORT FOR 2025/26.**

Councillors **RESOLVED** to approve the internal audit report, there were no recommendations

**26.56 TO CERTIFY HALE PARISH COUNCIL AS EXEMPT FROM A LIMITED ASSURANCE REVIEW DURING THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2025/26 (AS HALE PARISH COUNCILS GROSS INCOME FOR THE YEAR OR GROSS ANNUAL EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR DID NOT EXCEED £25,000.)**

Councillors **RESOLVED** to certify Hale PC as exempt from a limited assurance review for 2025/26 and the certificate of exemption was signed by the Clerk/ RFO and the Chair.

**26.57 TO APPROVE FORMS 1 AND 2 OF THE ANNUAL GOVERNANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY RETURN (AGAR) 2025/26.**

Councillors **RESOLVED** to approve Forms 1 & 2 of the AGAR 2025/26 which was signed by the Clerk/ RFO and the Chair.

**26.58 TO REVIEW AND APPROVE DATES FOR THE PERIOD FOR THE EXERCISE OF PUBLIC RIGHT**

Councillors **RESOLVED** to approve the period for the exercise of public rights which will run from Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> June until Friday 14<sup>th</sup> July. The notice will be placed on the website and notice boards.

**26.59 FINANCE**

The Community Account balance is currently £8,344.23, the Commercial Instant Access Account balance is £1,533.95 and the 32 Notice Account is £20,660.67.

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

<b>2025/26 Accounts</b>				
NFDC	Tree Survey	£60		Bank Transfer
Cutting Edge	Cemetery maintenance – March	£190		
<b>2026/27 Accounts</b>				
Amanda Johnson	Salary – April	N/A		Standing Order
Cutting Edge	Cemetery Maintenance – April	£190		Bank Transfer
Defib Machines	Defib – includes £250 deposit	£775.60	87.60	Bank Transfer
HALC	Annual Subscription	£313.00		Bank Transfer

Lloyd Bank	Account fees	£4.25 each month		Direct
Woodgreen Community Shop	Annual Parish Assembly costs	£57.67		Bank Transfer
J. Butt and Co.	Professional fees	£395.00		Bank Transfer

**26.59.2** It was **RESOLVED** to approve the following annual expenses :-

ICO Data Protection fee  
 Penon Water bills (Cemetery)    Cutting Edge - Cemetery maintenance  
 Lengthsman expenses            HALC/NALC subscription  
 SLCC subscription                Friends of the New Forest Subscription  
 Website fees.                        Laptop virus protection  
 Hale Village Hall usage fees      Payroll fees  
 Homeworking and office expenses  
 Lloyds Bank fees                  Office supplies

**26.60 CORRESPONDENCE** – The following correspondence was noted.

09/03/26 NPA- New spring events in the New Forest.  
 16/03/26 Forestry England – Researchers studying pine marten crossing points in the New Forest  
 19/03/26 Update from NFALC Cycling Rep David Orme  
 23/03/26 New Forest Association March Newsletter  
 25/03/26 NFDC – Local Government Reorganisation decision announced.  
 26/03/26 NPA – Spring takes root in the Forest – Latest News  
 27/03/26 NPA- Outstanding buildings celebrated in New Forest National Park Authority Building Design Awards 2025  
 31/03/26 Beaulieu Parish Council – Car parking proposals  
 31/03/26 Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner – Newsletter March 2026  
 01/04/26 NFDC – Extension of New Forest protection rules extended by NFDC cabinet.  
 01/04/26 NPA - Iconic Sycamore Gap tree to live on opposite New Forest National Park’s most famous tree  
 07/04/26 HCC – Update from Nick Adams-King  
 07/04/26 NFALC – Minutes from the meeting on 25/03/26  
 08/04/26 NPA - New Forest Marque brings the Forest together for the ‘Great New Forest Marque Breakfast’  
 16/04/26 New Forest Association – Notice of AGM on 21<sup>st</sup> May.  
 16/04/26 New Forest Association – New forest Car Parking Charges and Verge Watch  
 21/04/26 New Forest Association – April Newsletter  
 22/04/26 NPA - New Forest nature project uncovers 1,100 species including pine martens, sand lizards and rare fungi  
 22/04/26 New Forest Together – Request for support.

**Parishioner correspondence–**

13/04/26 Correspondence regarding wood used for bench repairs.

**26.61 ANY OTHER BUSINESS AND MATTERS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA**

Actions from Annual Parish Assembly :

The parish council will contact the school to further discuss the proposed new fence.  
 Hale PC will investigate the procedure of proposing 20 mph in some parts of the village.

Next meeting agenda items – Risk assessments, Insurance policy renewal, new laptop.

**26.62 DATE OF NEXT MEETING** – Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> July 2026 in Hale Village Hall (Downstairs)

The meeting ended at 9.20 pm.

Signed by .....

Date .....