Minutes of the Hale Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 1st June 2021 at 7.00pm in Hale Village Hall.

Present: Cllrs Gemmell (Chair), Harrison, Kyle, Lavis and Vickery

In attendance: Amanda Johnson (Parish Clerk) and 6 members of the public.

The meeting was recorded by Cllr Gemmell.

21.90 TO RECEIVE WRITTEN APPLICATIONS FOR THE OFFICE OF PARISH COUNCILLOR AND TO CO-OPT A CANDIDATE TO FILL THE EXISTING VACANCY.
The application date for councillor cooption closed on 21st May, one application was received and reviewed by councillors. Cllr Lavis proposed, Cllr Harrison seconded and it was **RESOLVED** that Gary Kyle be co-opted as a member of Hale Parish Council.

21.91 TO RECEIVE ANY APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Cllr Breedon – holiday and Cllr Edward Heron.

21.9 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS - To receive declarations of interest in respect of matters contained in this agenda in accordance with the Localism Act 2011 and to agree any dispensation requests. None received.

21.93 MINUTES
21.93.1 To consider and resolve to approve the minutes of the Hale Parish Council meetings held on 4th May 2021.
It was proposed by Cllr Lavis, seconded by Cllr Harrison and **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 4th May.
21.93.2 Note matters arising from the minutes not elsewhere on the agenda.
Broadband initiative – the Openreach project continues to be facilitated by John Mangan who has updated HPC and all those parishioners in Hale who have applied. A response has been received from Openreach however it includes many properties extra to those who applied and a revised list is required. It seems probable that no match funding from Hampshire CC will be available. John Mangan is continuing to liaise with Openreach to receive revised costs for those SP6 addresses who have declared an interest. Many thanks to John for his efforts.
Trees – HPC has a Service Level Agreement with NFDC regarding the trees to the right of the village hall which are the responsibility of HPC. The clerk has contacted the Tree Officer who inspected the trees in Sept 2019 but has not yet had a reply. The clerk will contact NFDC for advice on whether the trees require attention.

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

Cllr Gemmell opened the meeting to members of the public.

A parishioner questioned the effectiveness of the public participation section being at the beginning of the meeting and asked if parishioners could be given more opportunity to comment.

Cllr Gemmell replied: the public participation section will remain early on the agenda but parishioners will have the opportunity to respond to/comment on other agenda items.

Cllr Gemmell closed the meeting to members of the public.

21.95 TO AGREE A DATE FOR THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE TO MEET AND CONFRIM ATTENDANCE OF THE MEETING.
Members RESOLVED that a closed meeting will be held with all members of the council present to discuss the complaint involving 3 councillors in respect of the council meetings held on the 2nd and 16th March. Members agreed that an unfettered facilitator should be present at the meeting and enquiries will be made to find a suitable person. Cllr Gemmell proposed, Cr Lavis seconded and it was agreed that a maximum sum of £400 be approved for payment of a facilitator.

21.96 TO APPROVE THE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE FOLLOWING APPLICATIONS.

APPLICATION NUMBER:	21/00364 /FULL
ADDRESS:	Mole End, Hatchet Green, Hale, SP6 2NB
PROPOSAL:	Replacement bungalow; rainwater harvesting tank; air Source heat pump; associated landscaping (demolition of existing bungalow and store building).
CASE OFFICER:	Ann Braid

Members discussed the application and felt the new dwelling is a great improvement on the existing buildings with good design and the advantage that the new building has many sustainable features. Members unanimously agreed to recommend Option 3 – Permission.

APPLICATION NUMBER: 21/00388/FULL

ADDRESS:	Tree Tops, Hale Road, Hale, Fordingbridge, SP6 2NW
PROPOSAL:	Outbuilding to house swimming pool
CASE OFFICER:	Emma Shaw

Members discussed the application focussing on the size and scale of the building in relation to the house and the nature of the design for a forest setting. Members agreed by majority to recommend Option 1 – Permission, but would accept the decision reached by the National Park Authority's Officers under their delegated powers.

21.97 AFFORDABLE HOUSING

21.97.1 National Park Planning Committee Meeting 18th May – Report by Cllr Lavis

Cllr Lavis spoke at the NPA Planning Committee on 18th May on behalf of the HPC in support of the reason to recommend Option 4 – refusal. The committee voted unanimously to refuse the application for the following reasons –

- It has not been demonstrated to the satisfaction of the NPA that there is a need for the scheme as proposed, nor safeguards in place to ensure that they would be affordable and in perpetuity.
- The location is some distance from local services and unsustainable.
- There would be pressure to fell or significantly prune the red oak tree which is considered of high public amenity and the future retention of other important trees along the boundary cannot be assured.
- The site lies in close proximity to internationally and nationally designated sites and it has not been demonstrated to the satisfaction of the NPA that there would not be significant impact on the ecological sensitivities of these areas.
- It has not been demonstrated that the necessary access arrangements can be secured in view of the third party land.

21.97.2 Discussion on whether to revisit the HARAH report.

HPC ratified the HARAH report in August 2018 and again in September 2019. Members discussed if the HARAH report is still a viable document and if so does HPC wish to continue to support it. Cllr Gemmell will write to Cllr Heron to try and ascertain the current value of the report before a decision is made.

21.98 TO REVIEW AND APPROVE THE MID-TERM SURVEY

Members agreed to include "social cohesion" as one of the list of priorities in question 8.
It was discussed that it would be beneficial if the survey was available to all (not just online) by delivering paper copies and also not able to be duplicated. The clerk will investigate how the survey can be best facilitated.

21.99 UDPATE ON THE WOODFALLS CROSS ROADS IMPROVEMENT MEASURES AND OTHER HIGHWAYS ISSUES.

Woodfalls Cross – Both the clerk and Cllr Harrison have spoken to members of Highways, Highways believe that the works carried out were done so according to the plan, although the plan was not scalable. The road width at that point does not allow for the edge line to be further out thus creating a "walkway". Highways have agreed to cover the costs for the work. HPC have paid an application fee of £250. The clerk will contact Highways to ask if a signpost (parent/child) can be installed.

Forest Road/Hale Road Speed Data – The data shows a significant increase in traffic along Hale Road at school drop of and pick up times however speeding is not a significant issue. The data for Forest Road shows a high volume of traffic consistently with peaks at "going and returning from work" times.
Speeding is an issue here with the data showing a significant amount of speeds between 35 and 45mph and some higher. HPC will continue to investigate both Community Speed Watch and Temporary speed signing, discussing with other local bodies to try and find a suitable solution.

Ladies Mile/Hale Purlieu – The potholes along Ladies Mile are becoming significantly worse and in some places undermining the road. Historically there have been attempts to move forward with solutions but difficulty in attaining consensus from all the parties involved. The clerk will contact the National Trust, Verderers, Natural England and Highways to begin discussion.

21.100 TO APPROVE THE FINANCAIL STATEMENTS FOR 2020/21
The financial statements for 2020/21 were discussed. An income of over £25,000 requires an Annual Governance and Accountability Return to be submitted. Due mainly to a grant received the amount of reserves is currently high and should be addressed before the next budget is set.
Members **RESOLVED** to approve the accounts of 2020/21**.**

21.101 TO **RECEIVE THE FINAL INTERNAL AUDIT REPORT FOR 2020/21 ACCOUNTS**
The internal audit report showed no issues or recommendations.
Members **RESOLVED** to approve the internal audit report.

21.102 TO APPROVE SECTION 1 OF THE ANNUAL GOVERNANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY RETURN 2020/21 PART 3
Members **RESOLVED** to approve the Section 1 of the AGAR 2020/21 which was signed by the RFO and the Chair.

21.103 TO APPROVES SECTION 2 OF THE ANNUAL GOVERNANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY RETURN 2020/21 PART 3
Members **RESOLVED** to approve the Section 2 of the AGAR 2020/21 which was signed by the RFO and the Chair.

21.104 TO APPROVE DATES FOR THE PERIOD FOR THE EXCERCISE OF PUBLIC RIGHTS.
Members **RESOLVED** to approve the period for the exercise of public rights which will run from Monday 14th June until Friday 23rd July. The notice will be placed on the website and noticeboards.

21.105 TO APPROVE HANDOVER OF PAYROLL TO JEFF BUTT
Members **RESOLVED** to approve the handover of the management of payroll to local accountant Jeff Butt & Co for a fee of £100 per annum. This will be effective immediately and will ensure greater transparency.

21.106 ACCOUNTS - To review the accounts for the month of May 2021.
Members **RESOLVED** to approve the accounts for the month of May.

.
21.107 MONTHLY PAYMENTS - To approve the following payments**:**

Payments already made:

24.06.21	A.Johnson – Salary	Standing Order	452.40
20.05.21	Cutting Edge – May cemetery cuts	Bank Transfer	170.00
19.04.21	IT Shack – Webroot antivirus	Bank Transfer	25.00

Members **RESOLVED** to approve the payments.

21.108 CORRESPONDENCE - To consider correspondence received before 25/05/2021 and any urgent correspondence received after the agenda was finalised not dealt with elsewhere in the agenda.
Letter from Godshill and Bramshaw Parish Councils - B3078 Average Speed Camera Project
HPC will reply agreeing to support any measures to reduce speeds and therefore animal deaths across the Forest, indicating a preference to include the B3080 (Forest Road) in any such measures.

21.109 . ANY OTHER BUSINESS
Cllr Gemmell will attend a Chairing skills course on 29th June (postponed from last year).
The clerk will enquire as to whether there are any new councillor's courses available.

21.110 DATE OF NEXT MEETING - 20TH July 2021 at 7pm in Hale Village Hall

21.112 CLERKS SALARY
The clerk's salary will increase from SCP 7 to SCP 9 as per contractual agreement backdated from April 2021. As per contractual agreement the clerk informed the council that she has accepted a job as Clerk for Woodgreen Parish Council.

The meeting ended at 10.00 pm.