Minutes of the Hale Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 2nd January 2024 at 7pm in Hale Village Hall.

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

In attendance: The clerk and District Councillor Janet Richards.

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

24.2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS - None received.

24.3 MINUTES

24.3.1 It was unanimously **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 21st November 2023.

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

Budget and Reserves – The 2024/25 budget discussion held at the November meeting led to suggestions for amounts of restricted and unrestricted reserves. This will be included in an updated Reserves Policy which will be ratified at the next meeting.

24.4 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION. No members of the public were present.

24.5 HARRY'S MEADOW UPDATE Steve Avery has recently had communication with both the organisers of Harry's Meadow and Hale residents regarding the processes around any future camping. Hale Parish Council will meet with Steve Avery in a closed meeting in February to clarify the situation for 2024 and future years.

24.6 REPORT BY DISTRICT COUNCILLOR Janet Richards

New Corporate Plan The Council has produced a new draft Corporate Plan which is now out for consultation until 26th January. The Plan can be seen here: Corporate plan consultation - New Forest District Council. This is a very important document that sets the strategic direction of the Council for the next 4 years, so please do have a look and send in your comments and let me know your thoughts on it too.

New Parking Strategy I am part of a new "Task and Finish Group" which is looking at coming up with a new parking strategy. This covers all aspects of the council's car parks and so if you have any views on parking, then please let me know, as this is the time to influence this new strategy.

Affordable Housing Strategy I am also part of another new Task and Finish Group for affordable housing, looking at how we might reduce the cost and speed up the delivery of more affordable housing. Again, if you have any ideas or views on this subject, please let me know!

24.7 PLANNING APPLICATIONS:

Application No: 23/01410FULL
Proposed Works: Polytunnel
Site Address: HOME FARM, HALE LANE, HALE, FORDINGBRIDGE, SP6 2RE

Cllrs discussed the application and **RESOLVED** to approve Option 1 - We recommend **PERMISSION** but would accept the decision reached by the National Park Authority's Officers under their delegated powers. Hale Parish Council supports the application however have reservations about the height of the Polytunnel and the impact it may have on the neighbouring amenity. HPC would suggest that it be a condition of the planning permission that no lighting is permitted in order to follow the guidelines in the Design Guide which aim to reduce light pollution in the National Park.

Application No: 23/01383FULL

Proposed Works: Extension to barn associated hard & soft landscaping
Site Address: LAND ADJACENT OAKLEA, FOREST ROAD, HALE, SP6 2NP

Cllrs discussed the application and **RESOLVED** to approve Option 4 - We recommend **REFUSAL**
This is already a large agricultural building located in what is essentially a predominantly residential area of Hale and associated with a residential property. The current agricultural buildings are already relatively large in relation to the setting and any increase in the size would further exacerbate this. HPC feels that the size of the proposed barn does not meet the criteria of SP7, SP17, DP2 and DP50.

Application No: 23/01522OHL
Proposed Works: Application under section 37 of the Electricity Act 1989 and section 90(2) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 for 4no. replacement electricity poles and overhead lines
Site Address: Land at Redlynch, SP5

As these are essential works Hale PC are happy to accept the decision reached by the National Park Authority's Officers under their delegated powers.

24.8 EXTERNAL MEETINGS -
No meetings have been attended.
Cllr Kyle reported that the Village Hall committee are hoping to receive a grant from NFDC towards the roof insulation in January and if this work goes ahead Hale PC will contribute the £2000 previously agreed.

24.9 ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY – The Annual Parish Assembly will be held on April 30th with presentations from village organisations. It was discussed that a different format of more informal stands by local organisations may be more inclusive. The clerk will discuss with the other organisations and the format will be finalised at the next meeting.

24.10 REVIEW OF CEMETERY FEES – The cemetery fees have not been reviewed since 2016 and the income received to manage the cemetery does not meet expenses incurred. After much discussion it was unanimously agreed and **RESOLVED** to increase the fees to be in line with Woodgreen Cemetery. It was agreed that Hale cemetery will only have one classification of fees (there is currently a discounted rate and non-discounted rate) which will apply to all. Hale Cemetery will continue to be available to Hale parishioners and people associated with Hale; applications will be at the discretion of Hale Parish Council. The increased fees will come into effect on 1st April 2024 and will be published on the website.

24.11 S137 GRANT – Victim Support have requested a S137 grant of £50; it was unanimously **RESOLVED** to approve a grant of £50.

24.12 ACCOUNTS.
Councillors **RESOLVED** to approve the accounts for the months of November and December.
The Treasurers account balance is currently £1,408.39 and the Business account balance is £27,539.60.

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

PAYEE	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT	VAT	PAYMENT METHOD
A.Johnson	Salary –December			Standing Order
Cutting Edge	Cemetery maintenance	£150.00		Bank Transfer

	- December			
Victim Support	S137 Grant	£50.00		Bank Transfer
SLCC	Annual membership (shared equally with Woodgreen)	£91.50		Bank Transfer
ICO	Data Protection fee	£35.00		Direct Debit
New Forest Association	Annual subscription	£22.00		Bank Transfer
TechB/IT Shack	Disposal of old laptop	£37.50		Bank Transfer

24.14 CORRESPONDENCE –
The following correspondence was noted.
22/11/23 HALC Newsletter
24/11/23 Cllr King-Adams – Utility works on the Highway (to Chair and Vice- Chair)
27/11/23 National Park Authority Latest news
27/11/23 HALC - Invitation to Participate in Emergency Planning & Resilience Focus Group for Hampshire Resilience Forum - *Cllr Donnell will attend.*
06/12/23 Cllr Heron – December Report
15/12/23 National Park Authority – Nature Recovery survey
Shared on website
01/12/23 Cllr Jill Cleary sets goals for NFDC after first year as leader.
01/12/23 NFDC Christmas and New Year recycling and rubbish collection and recycling advice.
06/12/23 Give your views on NFDC draft Corporate Plan.

25.15 ANY OTHER BUSINESS None.

24.16 DATE OF NEXT MEETING – The date of the next meeting will be 5th March. The Annual Parish Assembly will be held on 30th April and the Annual Parish meeting on the 7th May.

The meeting ended at 9.00 pm.

Signed by .....

Date .....