Minutes of the Hale Parish Council Annual Meeting held on Tuesday 2nd September 2025 at 7pm in Hale Village Hall (Downstairs)

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

In attendance: The clerk and 4 members of the public.

25.76 TO RECEIVE ANY APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: **-**NFDC Cllr Janet Richards.

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

25.78 MINUTES
25.78.1 It was unanimously **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 1st July 2025.
25.78.2 There were no matters arising from the minutes not elsewhere on the agenda.

25.79 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION
Three parishioners were included in discussions relating t item 25.80
One parishioners was included in the discussion relating to item 25.81

25. 80 HARRY'S MEADOW - The campsite called Harry's Meadow which is set within the grounds of Hale Park operated from 4th July until 31st August in 2025. Local parishioners and the parish council were very concerned that fire pits were allowed in such dry conditions particularly as there were many very large forest fires in the New Forest area. Hale PC objected strongly to the NPA regarding the use of fire pits however the NPA permitted their use through a Discharge of Planning Conditions. Parishioners were also concerned that equipment was still currently present on site therefore exceeding the 60 days allowed for operation. Concerns were also raised that camping was seen under the avenue of lime trees, many of which are in poor health and in such dry conditions susceptible to falling boughs. Parishioners can report any infringements to the NPA Planning Enforcement team.
HPC will invite David Illsley (NPA) to the next meeting in November to discuss parishioner concerns.

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

Case Number 25/00818FULL
Proposal One & two storey extensions; front porch; new windows and doors; cladding to the existing garage; a detached single storey timber frame garage and carport to the front garden
Site TURBARY EDGE, FOREST ROAD, HALE, FORDINGBRIDGE, SP6 2NP

The applicant attended the meeting ad was able to answer many questions relating to the proposals. Councillors discussed the application and agreed that the design was good and recommended permission for the proposals if the NPA conclude that the proposal is within the 30% increase rule.
It was unanimously agreed that Hale PC recommend PERMISSION but would accept the decision reached by the National Park Authority's Officers under their delegated powers.

25.82 EXTERNAL MEETINGS - To receive reports from external meetings attended.
Village Hall Committee Meeting 19th August– Cllr Kyle attended. Work was carried out over the summer to install new lighting and solar panels. A CIL bid has been submitted for the funds to carry out the works for a new accessible toilet.
NW Quadrant meeting July 25th - Cllr Lavis attended.
Matt Wisdom (NFDC) presented the Local Government Reorganisation (slides were circulated to all).

John Stride (NPA - Net zero with Nature Programme Manager) presented an Overview of the Special Area of Conservation Plan (slides were circulated to all).
Nigel Stone will represent the NPA at NW Quadrant meetings; Cllr Lavis questioned him regarding Harry's Meadow concerns.
NPA Ranger Hayden Bridgeman presented what his work entails and would like to visit Parish Councils to explain the role of a Park Ranger.
Charlotte Belcher (Forestry England) reported on improvements to car parks and the increase seen in the amount of nesting birds due to habitat restoration..
Neighbourhood Tasking Group 20th May - Cllr Vickery attended. There has been a significant decrease in crime in the Downton and surrounding area largely due to the arrest of 2 individuals. The Community Policing Team now has another full time officer.

25.83 TREES AT HATCHET GREEN Remedial works (to ensure the safety of the trees) planned to be carried out on in August by ADS Treecare will now take place on 17th September. Further works are required on two oak trees in the area to the right of the village hall. It was agreed to approve the cost of £1500 for ADS Treecare to carry out all these works. Permission for the tree works has been received by New Forest Planning Authority.

25.84 CHANGE OF ADDRESS: The address for Hale Parish Council gong forward will be C/O Woodgreen Community Shop, Hale Road, Woodgreen, Fordingbridge SP6 2AJ.

25.85 DEFIBRILLATOR AT VILLAGE HALL: Hale PC has been notified that the defibrillator at the village hall is currently inactive as the battery has failed and the device is now quite old and in need of replacement. A contact in the ambulance service has offered to find a replacement battery and recommend a new device for purchase. The original device was purchased by the Transition Group. Hale Parish Council unanimously agreed to approach these organisations to propose the purchase of defib equally between the three organisations. – Hale PC, Hale Village Hall and Hale and Redlynch Transition Group.

25.86 FINANCE
25.86.1
It was RESOLVED to accept the accounts for 25/26 and note the following balances - Community account £1,114.33, the Commercial Instant Access account £3,514.89 and the 32 Day Notice Account 20,326.72.

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

PAYEE	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT	VAT	PAYMENT METHOD
Amanda Johnson	Salary – August and September	N/A		Standing Order
Amanda Johnson	Home working costs - April to September	117.00		Bank Transfer
Cutting Edge	Cemetery Maintenance – July and August	£190.00 and £130.00.		Bank Transfer
Lloyds Bank	Monthly bank fees	£4.25 each month		

25.87 CORRESPONDENCE - **The following correspondence was noted. Any actions in italics.**
10/07/2025 New Forest National Park launches official WhatsApp channel
14/07/2025 NFDC – Consultation on proposal to extend Public Spaces Protections Orders
17/07/2025 NFDC – Phase 2 to start new waste and recycling service
17/07/2025 New Forest Association – July Newsletter

18/07/2025 NPA - Newsletter Warm days, wild ways.
22/07/2025 New Forest Association – Devolution and Local Government Re-organisation.
25/07/2025 HALC AGM and Annual Conference Oct 22nd.
28/07/2025 NPA Newsletter - Summer spirit and celebrations in the New Forest
31/07/2025 Cllr Jill Cleary (NFDC) – Keep the Forest Whole. Have your say on Local Government Reorganisation.
31/07/2025 Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner – July 2025 Newsletter
04/08/2025 New Forest Association - More about Devolution and Local Government Re-organisation
12/08/2025 HCC County Councillor update
15/08/2025 NPA New Forest National Park Authority Chair sets out challenges ahead in its 20th year
15/08/2025 New forest Association – August Newsletter
22/08/2025 NPA Newsletter
26/08/2025 NFALC Minutes following AGM on 7th August
26/08/2025 NPA Slides from NW quadrant meeting
27/08/2025 NPA – Slides on the Update on Local Government Reorganisation.
28/08/2025 NFDC – Waste and recycling service Extraordinary Council meeting held – new measures announced for pannage.
29/08/2025 NFDC – Good causes invited to join launch of New Forest Community Lottery
29/08/2025 Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner – August 2025 Newsletter

Parishioner emails
02/09/25
Email regarding parking on the verges at Tethering Drove.
This is an ongoing issue, HPC will contact the National Trust.

25.88 ANY OTHER BUSINESS AND MATTERS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA
Lengthsman – The Lengthsman will be working in the village on 15th September and jobs will include repairing benches.

25.89 DATE OF NEXT MEETING – Tuesday November 4th at 7pm in Hale Village Hall (Downstairs)

The meeting ended at 20.42pm.

Signed by .....
Date .....