Minutes of the Hale Parish Council Annual Meeting held on Tuesday 4th July 2023 at 7pm in Hale Village Hall (Downstairs)

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

In attendance: The clerk, Janet Richards, New Forest District Councillor and 2 members of the public.

23.61 TO RECEIVE ANY APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: None.

23.62 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST - To receive declarations of interest in respect of matters contained in this agenda (in accordance with the Localism Act 2011). Cllr Lavis is acting as Project Manager for the repairs to the St. Mary's Church roof in a voluntary capacity.

23.63 REPORT BY NEW FOREST DISTRICT Cllr Janet Richards introduced herself. She was recently elected as District Councillor for the Downlands and Forest North ward and represents the Green Party. She has now completed the initial training and has been assigned to the Housing and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Panel and the Planning Committee.

23.64 MINUTES

23.64.1 It was unanimously **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 18TH May 2023.

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

Speed Indicator devices – The Speed Indicator Device currently situated at Hatchet Green will be moved to another location (Tethering Drove or Hale Purlieu) when permission has been obtained to install the required posts. The SID along Forest Road is working better now that it has been moved to the other side of the road however there are still issues with it and Cllr Gemmell is liaising with the suppliers to resolve the problem.

Harry's Meadow – Harry's Meadow campsite operated in Hale Park for 10 days at the end of May. No further correspondence has been received from the New Forest National Park Planning Authority in relation to the camp site.

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

A resident from Dodgson Close outlined the issues associated with a container and portable toilet which have been sited on the car park since September 2022. The container was installed originally to house new windows for the properties in Dodgson House, this work was completed some time ago and the container is now being used by a sub-contractor to service other properties over a large area. The residents have asked the Housing Association (Stonewater) when the container will be removed but have not had an answer.

The clerk will continue to write to Stonewater regarding the issue and will raise it with the National Park Planning team. Cllr Richards will investigate who owns the car park where the container is sited as this could be NFDC

A parishioner spoke regarding the surface of the BOAT (102/15/1) which runs down from the village hall to Hale Purlieu. The water running down from the car park is causing severe erosion.

HCC have stated that they maintain BOATs (Byways Open to all Traffic) to bridleway standard not for vehicle standard. HPC will ask the Countryside Access Manager HCC to visit the site to meet with Cllr Lavis and advise on any remedial works that may be necessary. The clerk will look back at previous minutes to find details of the previous car park improvement works.

23.66 PLANNING APPLICATION - To consider the response to the following applications.

Application Number : 23/00602FULL
Address: Tanglewood, Hatchet Close, Hale SP6 2 NF
Proposal: Roof extension, porch, rooflights, solar panels, new flat room to existing sunroom.

Councillors discussed the application and agreed that the amended plans now comply with the floor space limitation outlined in DP36. The immediate neighbours have no objection to the proposals which would appear to enhance the property both aesthetically and sustainably. Councillors unanimously agreed and **RESOLVED** to recommend Option 1 - PERMISSION, but would accept the decision reached by the National Park Authority's Officers under their delegated powers

23.67 TO CONFIRM ELIGIBILITY AND ADOPT THE GENERAL POWER OF COMPETENCE
The General Power of Competence (GPC) as set out in the Localism Act 2011 S1 (1) gives eligible Parish Councils the power to do anything that individuals generally may do as long as they don't break other laws. To be eligible to adopt the GPC parish councils must have at least two thirds elected councillors and a qualified clerk. Hale PC confirmed that they meet the eligibility criteria and unanimously **RESOLVED** to adopt the General Power of Competence.

23.68 EXTERNAL MEETINGS
Cllrs Gillmon and Vickery attended a "Barn Meet" at Breamore on 24th May; this is organised by the New Forest Neighbourhood Policing Team and is aimed at farmers and landowners . Topics included-
The theft of agricultural items and metal, which is currently very high.
Current restructuring is focussing on more local policing.
It was noted that the 101 reporting system is inefficient.

23.69 FULL FIBRE BROADBAND John Mangan has recently updated via email all parishioners who expressed an interest in signing up for full fibre broadband. The commercial plan to install full fibre, led by Openreach, has now been deferred until 2025. Cllr Richards added that Wessex Internet have been awarded a contract to deliver full fibre broadband to most of the New Forest but Hale and Woodgreen will be part of the Wiltshire bid.

23.70 TO REVIEW AND APPROVE THE INSURANCE RENEWAL
The premium to renew the insurance for another year with Hiscox Insurance Company Ltd, through Gallagher, is £434.31. This was unanimously approved and will begin on 1st August 2023.

23.71 USE OF HATCHET GREEN
The Avon Valley Community Matters group, a registered charity , have requested to hold a 'Picnics together' event for young people and their families on Hatchet Green from 11.30am to 2pm on 9th August 2023. This was approved subject to the usual conditions of use of Hatchet Green.

23.72 TO DISCUSS AND APPROVE THE FOLLOWING FUNDNG APPLICATIONS
Village Hall Management Committee – Cllr Gemmell recused himself from the discussion
Funding of £2,000.00 has been requested to insulate between the rafters, then cover the rafters with further insulated material to stop damp transmission through the rafters and finally batten, plasterboard, tape the joints and paint the ceiling. This will reduce energy bills and enhance the comfort and sustainability of the use of the hall for the future. The cost will be £23,500. It was **RESOLVED** to approve the £2,000 grant request.
Avon Valley Community Matters – Avon Valley Community Matters requested funding towards a picnic to be held on Hatchet Green as part of a summer programme of fun activities in the Families

Together programme. An event leader and volunteers, a picnic and outdoor games and activities will be provided. It was **RESOLVED** to grant a sum a £100 towards the picnic.
St. Mary's Church, Hale – Funding has been requested towards the repairs to the hole the roof. Estimates to repair the roof are in the region of £50,000. It was **RESOLVED** to grant a sum of £3,000 in recognition of the consultancy works which are needed at this stage to proceed the project to the next stage.

23.73 ACCOUNTS.
Councillors **RESOLVED** to approve the accounts for the months of April and May.
The Treasurers account balance is currently £3, 987.31 and the Business account balance is £26,395.58

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

PAYEE	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT	VAT	PAYMENT METHOD
A. Johnson	Salary			Standing Order
Cutting Edge	Cemetery cut – May and June	£180.00 each month		Bank Transfer
Viking Direct	Rock salt for cemetery	£32.24	£5.37	Bank Transfer
Gallagher	Insurance renewal	£434.31		Bank Transfer
Penon Water Services	Water bill- Cemetery	£19.41		Direct Debit

23.58 CORRESPONDENCE - To consider correspondence received before 26/05/2022 and any urgent correspondence received after the agenda was finalised not dealt with elsewhere in the agenda.
For information (circulated)

22/05/23 NFDC - New cabinet and responsibilities
25/05/23 NPA - Latest news from the National Park Authority
01/06/23 Police and Crime Commissioner - Newsletter for May
01/06/23 NFDC - Electoral register request for councillors
05/06/23 NPA - Share your memorable moment in nature.
06/06/23 NPA - New rules come into force in the New Forest
07/06/23 NFDC - Council agrees enforcement powers to tackle unsafe rental homes.
07/06/23 HALC – Ballot for NPA Parish Council Representatives
16/06/23 HCC – Consultation on budget.
17/06/23 HCC – Passenger Transport Forums
19/06/23 NPA - Latest news from the National Park Authority

Parishioner Correspondence

18/05/23 Parishioner email regarding container at Dodgson Close
04/07/23 Parishioner email regarding Harrys Meadow
Cllr Gemmell has written to Steve Avery for an update on the situation.
04/07/23 Parishioner email regarding Harrys Meadow
Cllr Gemmell has written to Steve Avery for an update on the situation.
05/07/23 Parishioner email regarding hedges long Moot lane.
The clerk will contact the landowner.

23.59 ANY OTHER BUSINESS AND MATTERS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA None

23.60 DATE OF NEXT MEETING - Tuesday 5th September 2023 in Hale Village Hall (Downstairs)

The meeting ended at 9.05pm.

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