Minutes of the Hale Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 4th November 2025 at 7pm in Hale Village Hall (Downstairs)

Councillors Present: Cllrs Gemmel l (Chair), Kyle and Lavis.

In attendance: The clerk, Tim Orchard (First Responder), Jacqui and Brian Hartas (Guardians of the Hale Defibrillator) and one member of the public.

25.92 TO RECEIVE ANY APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: **-** Councillors Donnell, Gillmon and Vickery.

25.93 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.

25.94 MINUTES
25.94.1 It was unanimously **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 2nd September 2025.
25.94.2 Matters arising from the minutes.
Harry's Meadow – David Illsley (Interim Head of Planning & Place NPA) will attend the Hale PC meeting on Jan 6th to answer questions on Harry's Meadow. A representative of Harry's Meadow has also been invited.
Trees – Some tree work is still outstanding (dead wooding an area around Hatchet Green) and will be completed on November 5th.

25.95 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION
Jacqui and Brian Hartas and Tim Orchard participated in discussion in 25.96
Rubbish and Recycling – The new scheme of wheelie bins has begun. There have been some issues with collections, particularly for those properties down tracks and it is advised to contact NFDC to resolve these. For residents living within the cattle grids all food waste bins should be left inside the gate so that livestock cannot access it. Any issues should be addressed to NFDC at 0238028 5393 or waste.changes@nfdc.gov.uk.

25. 96 DEFIBRILLATORS AND FIRST RESPONDERS - The defibrillator at Hale Village Hall has a replacement battery and is functional again, however it will require upgrading in the next year or two. Jacqui and Brian Hartas are the current guardians of the defibrillator; this involves checking it regularly and updating "The Circuit" with the information. There is no current ownership of the defibrillator and this needs to be addressed going forward. A new scheme of First Responders has been set up in Hale and Woodgreen; there are 5 volunteers, each giving 20 hours a month daytime cover. The First Responders require equipment, notably "Grab bags", for which they are currently fundraising. They will have access to some equipment and consumables from the South Central Ambulance Service. Discussion will continue on this matter over the coming months, currently Hale Parish Council will:
- Discuss with Woodgreen Parish Council to have a coordinated plan going forward.
- Investigate possible defibrillator hire options where ownership remains with the hire company.
-Support the First Responders going forward.
Hale PC would like to thank Jacqui ad Brian for their continued work as guardians and to Tim Orchard and the other First responders for volunteering.

25.97 HALE AND WOODGREEN MAGAZINE – The magazine has been making a loss each year and requires funding to ensure its future. Currently only 20 % of parishioners donate towards the magazine which is delivered to every house in Woodgreen and Hale. Secured funding is required for

the following year before advertisers can be confirmed. Hale PC unanimously agreed and **RESOLVED** to pledge £250.00 towards the Hale and Woodgreen Magazine.

25.98 NEW FOREST DISTRICT COUNCILLOR – Councillor Janet Richards was unable to attend.

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

APPLICATION NUMBER: 25/00921FULL
ADDRESS: Millfield, HATCHET CLOSE, HALE, SP6 2NF
PROPOSAL: Extension to outbuilding; covered area to connect dwellling to outbuilding

Due to the date for submission of comments this decision was made prior to the meeting by email.
2. We recommend REFUSAL, for the reasons listed below, but would accept the decision reached by the National Park Authority's Officers under their delegated powers.
Hale Parish Council would seek clarification from the NPA that the proposed alterations are within the 30% increase allowed as there have been multiple developments in the past few years. HPC are concerned that the proposed alterations to create a corridor between the garage and the house may lead to the joining of the two separate buildings.

Case Number 25/01049FULL
Proposal Roof alteration to form pitched roof over existing flat roof and installation of roof lights to form habitable accommodation at first floor.
Site Heather Cottage, Forest Road, Hale, Fordingbridge, SP6 2NR

Councillors discussed the application and agreed that the plans would increase the floor space by over 30% and therefore would recommend Option 4 – Refusal. This was unanimously agreed.

25.100 EXTERNAL MEETINGS - To receive reports from external meetings attended.
NW Quadrant 20th October - Cllr Lavis attended. The NPA would like to re-establish the Western Escarpment Conservation Group which was established in 2011 but has not been operational since Covid. Due to the new parking fees being introduced by Forestry England it was agreed that it would be beneficial to form a working party to monitor how this affects each parish. A representative is required from each parish (this does not have to be a councillor).
Forestry England reported – Deer patrols for the season are coming to an end, 1500 deer have been culled in the Forest. Signage for the new car parking charges will be kept to a minimum. Local people will be encouraged to join Forestry England which will cost £8.00 per month.
National Park Authority reported – The current quota for new houses in the National Park of 270 is not being met, with only 40 new houses per year. There is currently a National Park Local Plan Review which is open to all for comment. This will run until 19th December.

25.101 HALE VILLAGE SCHOOL CAR PARK LICENCE – A licence granted to HCC for the School staff and parents to use the Parish Council Car park is in place, this is reviewed every 3 years in line with RPI. The increase would lead to an annual sum of £1008, it was unanimously agreed and **RESOLVED** to accept a lower rate of £950 for 2025/26, increasing to £1000 for the following 2 years.

25.102 SPEED INDICATOR DEVICES - New sleeves have been installed in Tethering Drove and Ladies Mile. These hold removable posts which the Speed Indicator Devices can be placed on.
Solar panels – the solar panels ordered for the posts along Forest Road are too large and there is ongoing dialogue with the company to return or exchange them.

25.103 CLERKS REPORT:

Lengthsman and repairs - A new stock of dragons teeth to be used as replacements at Hatchet Green has been ordered and received from New Forest fencing at a cost of £238.80. At the next visit in January the Lengthsman will repair 2 benches at Hatchet Green. The wood for repairs (hardwood) has been ordered at a cost of £408.24.

Pylons – Work will begin on completing the refurbishment of the pylons (replacing the cables on the second side) in March 2026. Fisher German LLP have applied on behalf of National Grid to Defra for permission to carry out works on common land.

Roads - Hale Lane has recently had some repairs but any potholes should still be reported at https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/highways/report-a-problem/potholes.

Cemetery – Many thanks to Georgina Babey and Susan Witt who spent a morning tidying the cemetery garden and plan to plant bulbs for spring colour. Cutting Edge cleared the areas left over the summer for wildflower and cut the hedges. The Lengthsman did some clearing of the path during his last visit to keep it weed free.

Training –The clerk will attend a Digital and Data Compliance course on Tuesday 2nd December.

Trees - A resident reported some of the trees around Hatchet Green have branches pressing on the electric cables . This was reported to SSE who will remove the branches.

25.104 MEETING DATES FOR 2026 The dates for the meetings in 2026 will be January 6th, March 3rd, May 5TH, July 7th, Sept 1st and November 3rd. The Annual Parish assembly will be held on April 21st.

25.105 FINANCE

25.105.1

It was RESOLVED to accept the accounts for 25/26 and note the following balances - Community account £3,393.86, Commercial Instant Access account £6,520.17 and the 32 Day Notice Account £20,467.76.

25.105.2 BUDGET AND PRECEPT

A proposed budget was discussed and it was agreed to increase the precept by 10% from £14,100 to £15,510.00. HPC have successfully kept the precept at a steady level, over the last four years the 10% increase equates to a rise of less than 3% per year - including 2024 when the CPI rose by 11%. This has been inevitable following the increase in employer's NI contribution this financial year and calls for the Parish Council to have a role in defibrillator provision. It was unanimously **RESOLVED** to accept the budget and the increase in precept.

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

PAYEE	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT	VAT	PAYMENT METHOD
Amanda Johnson	Salary – October and November	N/A		Standing Order
New Forest Fencing	Dragons teeth	£238.80	£39.80	Bank Transfer
Sydenhams (reimbursed to A.Johnson)	Sapele wood for bench repairs	£408.24	£68.04	Bank Transfer (originally paid by credit card)
Cutting Edge	Cemetery Maintenance – September and October	£190.00 for each month		Bank Transfer
HMRC	NI costs June - Sept	£118.71		Bank Transfer
Lloyds Bank	Monthly bank fees	£4.25 each month		Bank transfer
ICO	Data Protection Certificate	£47.00		Direct Debit

25.106 CORRESPONDENCE - **The following correspondence was noted. Any actions in italics.**
03/09/25 NFDC Cllr Jill Cleary – Update on the future of your council.
03/09/25 NFDC Waste and Recycling, Open letter from Geoffrey Blunden
03/09/25 HCC – Report from Nick Adams-King
15/09/25 NFDC Households in pannage areas asked to change food collections areas.
17/09/25 Forestry England Press release – 70 species of wildlife returns to New Forests restored heathlands
17/09/25 HALC Newsletter September 2025
17/09/25 NPA Art, Ecology and Imagination: New Forest Artist Residencies Return
17/09/25 NFDC Cllr Jill Cleary LGR update
18/09/25 NPA – Latest news from the NPA
22/09/25 NPA – Pass the Pedall Sept 27th
22/09/25 Fisher German LLP – Letter of notification of Common Land Application.
23/09/25 NPA National Park Authority welcome new members
26/09/25 NPA New forest Walking Festival returns to mark 20 years of the National Park.
26/09/25 New Forest Association – September Newsletter
30/09/25 Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner – September Newsletter
01/10/25 NFALC Minutes of the meeting held on 22nd September
02/10/25 Forestry England – Parking charges will help fund vital work to care for the New Forest.
02/10/25 NPA calls for FE car parking income to be reinvested into the New Forest.
03/10/25 Freshwater Habitats Trust –New Forest Waternews: September Review.
02/10/25 NFDC Helping New Forest get online with Click and Connect.
07/10/25 HCC Community Led Transport Engagement Session October 23rd.
10/10/25 NFDC Funding available to support community groups in the New Forest.
17/10/25 NPA – New Chair for New forest National Park Authority
17/10/25 NPA – Step into Autumn with New Forest Walking Festival
17/10/25 NPA – Have your say in New Forest National Park Authority resident's survey
21/10/26 NFDC – Road safety funding opportunity
22/10/25 Freshwater Habitats Trust – New Forest Waternews
27/10/25 New Forest Association – October Newsletter
Parishioner emails
28/09/25 Concern over proposed car parking charges by Forestry England.
19/10/25 Concern over proposed car parking charges by Forestry England.
24/10/25 Concern over increased parking in Tethering Drove.
26/10/25 Concern over current situation regarding the defibrillator at the village hall.

25.107 ANY OTHER BUSINESS AND MATTERS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA
Website and IT – New rules come into force next year regarding GDPR, emails etc. The clerk will attend training in December and will look at how best to take this forward.
Harry's Meadow will be on the agenda at the next meeting.

25.108 DATE OF NEXT MEETING – Tuesday 6th January 2026 at 7pm in Hale Village Hall (Downstairs)

The meeting ended at 9.45pm.

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