Minutes of the Hale Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 5th March 2024 at 7pm in Hale Village Hall.

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

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

24.32 TO RECEIVE ANY APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: **-** Cllr Gillmon, Cllr Janet Richards (NFDC).

24.33 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS - None received.

24.34 MINUTES

24.34.1 It was unanimously **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 12th February 2024.

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

23/0138FULL The planning application 23/0138FULL, Land Adjacent to Oaklea, Forest Road was approved at a planning committee on 20/02/24

Archiving – Minute books from 1992- 2018 have been placed into the Hampshire Archives in Winchester.

24.35 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION. .

One member of the public enquired regarding remedial works to Hale Lane, which is currently in a very poor state. Hale PC has been liaising both with HCC Highways and HCC Councillors. Recent remedial works only repaired an area at the junction of Queen Street, the reason for this is unknown. HPC will continue to liaise regarding repairs to the remainder of the lane.

24.36 PLANNING APPLICATIONS:

Application number:	24/00102FULL
Proposal:	Use of land as a seasonal campsite for 57 grass pitches and 12 bell tents for no more than 42 days in a calendar year
Location:	Harry's Meadow, Hale Park, Hale, SP6 2RE

Cllr Lavis had produced a report which addressed the application in relation to the relevant policies, this was discussed. In addition all councillors felt the application contained errors and inconsistencies particularly in the Design and Access statement. All councillors felt the ecology survey, comprising a desktop survey carried out in January, was not adequate for such a sensitive location. The letters of support included are inconsistent; many were historical and therefore do not relate to this application. Councillors agreed that the application is inadequate with insufficient information for a major planning application. All councillors agreed unanimously and **RESOLVED** to recommend Option 4 **REFUSAL** for the reasons outlined below.

SP5: Nature conservation sites of international importance and SP6: The Natural Environment

The site lies within the highly protected New Forest National Park and within 400m of SPA & SINC. The application does not satisfy the requirements of SP5 as the applicant has not demonstrated imperative reasons of overriding public interest for the development, noting that there are numerous alternatives regulated sites available. The NPA have stated on numerous occasions in various reports and verbally that there are more than sufficient campsite pitches in the New Forest. Planning policies SP5 & SP6 give priority to biodiversity over the need for additional unproven requirement for additional campsites. The lacks of surveys make the application void. There is a requirement for the NPA to produce Habitats Regulations Assessment without this the applicant cannot produce a meaningful mitigation strategy to review.

Policy SP15: Tranquility

The location of a campsite in a tranquil area rated level D cannot meet the requirements of SP15. A campsite by its existence is at odds with regards to noise; increase traffic, increased recreational activity, visual intrusion and environmental impacts on the flora & fauna on the National park and its special qualities.

Policy SP7: Landscape character

Harry's meadow is located in a particularly quiet, scenically beautiful protected location in the National Park with a diverse population of flora and fauna. The location of a campsite is at odds with the distinct intrinsic character of the National Park. The applicant has not considered these particular qualities and has not provided for a professional landscape and visual assessment as part of its submission in order to preserve and enhance the character of the New Forest as required by SP7 and the Local Plan clauses identified above. The proposal does not comply with SP7 as its does not conserve and enhance the character of the New Forest's landscapes and is unable to demonstrate the specific requirements of SP7. The Local Plan states: The whole of the New Forest National Park is designated as a nationally protected landscape and therefore all application will need to take account of this level of protection in any development proposal. The application has not demonstrated this.

Policy SP16: The historic and built environment

The application is contrary to SP16 and will harm the appearance of a conservation area including views, vistas and trees. The application is contrary to SP16 and will harm a registered park, appearance and key views within, into and out. The clients heritage impact assessment is incorrect in the following assertions: 1.There is no visual impact. 2. Due to its relatively short-term nature no harm can be attributed 3.The gravel track to access the site can withstand heavy trafficking 4. The traffic loadings will have no detrimental effect on the Lime tree roots. 5. The potential danger of falling tree limbs or whole tree has not been identified or addressed.

Policy SP17: Local distinctiveness

SP17 states: The first National Park purpose, together with national planning policy, recognises the importance of conserving and enhancing an area's local character. The proposed introduction of a campsite is not in keeping with conserving and enhancing the areas character, which will be compromised by an increase in traffic, noise and visual intrusion.

Policy DP47: Holiday parks and campsites

The application does not meet the requirements of DP47 as it does not provide overall environmental benefits. The application is at odds with the Local Plan as no further campsites are required, and there is a requirement for a reduction in pitches in sensitive areas.

The application requires additional visitor facilities which is contrary to the wishes of the Local Plan, which does not want visitor facilities expanded into other areas of the New Forest

The application will require additional vehicle movements on Roger Penny Way, which is at odds with objective 9 of the Local Plan to reduce animal accidents.

Policy DP2 General Development Principles

The proposed campsite is located on a protected grade 2 listed park. The requirements of DP2 are to enhance local character and distinctiveness, along with respecting the natural, built and historic environment, landscape character and biodiversity; not to have an adverse impact on visual intrusion or result in adverse traffic or pollution. The introduction of a campsite at this location would be in contravention of all these criteria.

It should also be noted that the location of the campsite is off Hale Lane, a single-track lane with numerous blind corners and extremely poorly maintained. The increase in traffic movements caused by the proposed campsite will greatly increase the risk of accidents to all users, which is highlighted in the applicants Management Plan cl 1.3 advising campers to approach the site from the safer easterly direction. This is advisory and the operators of the site have no control over how the site is accessed or egressed.

Policy SP48: The land based economy

The proposed camping site is on protected agricultural land and over the last few years has been used to graze cattle. This year 2024, it has been used during January and part of February to graze a

small number of New Forest ponies and latterly in February sheep. It is good to see that the agricultural land is being used in accordance with cl 8.32 of the Local Plan as backup grazing for commoner's ponies.
The proposed campsite however cannot be considered to meet the requirements of cl 8.33. Camping diversification does not enhance or maintain the characteristic landscapes and habitats of this agricultural landscape. The small amount of employment it generates for a limited period of time is far outweighed by the environmental harm it causes to the overall character and cultural identity of the National Park in this protected and tranquil part of the New Forest.
Planning Guidance Note 'Applications for temporary camping uses' January 2024
The application does not comply with DP47 and the Jan 2024 Updated Guidance Notes and could possibly require a NFDC license should any increase to the 42 day period be made.
No trade off of pitches v time is inferred in the guidance and should therefore not be considered.
The operator wishes to operate for no more than 42 days, thereby keeping below the threshold for a NFDC license. Whilst not required in this instance no justification is made for the 42 day period in the application

24.37 PLANNING STATEMENT A request has been received from Alderholt Parish Council for a statement to support their representation (if they agree to make one) at a Public Enquiry to be held relating to planning application P/OUT/2023/01166 (up to 1700 dwellings). Hale PC **RESOLVED** to submit a statement of support if and when required.

24.38 EXTERNAL MEETINGS -
Cllr Lavis attended the Institution and Induction of the Reverend Luke Wickings on Wednesday 28th February as a representative of Hale Parish Council.

24.39 ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY – The Annual Parish Assembly to be held on April 30th. Representatives of local organisations have been invited. Refreshments will be served.

24.40 SPEED INDICATOR DEVICES – Cllr Gemmell proposed to purchase further fixings to allow the SIDs to be placed on the recently installed posts along Forest Road. The cost of the new fixings is £626.24 (VAT 104.37). This was unanimously agreed and it was **RESOLVED** to purchase the new equipment.

24.41 ACCOUNTS.
Councillors **RESOLVED** to approve the accounts for the months of February.
The Treasurers account balance is currently £1,583.23 and the Business account balance is £23,596.88.

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

PAYEE	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT	VAT	PAYMENT METHOD
A.Johnson	February and March salary			Standing Order
Hampshire Archives (HCC)	Donation for new archive deposit.	£50.00		Bank Transfer
Avon Tree Care	Remedial work to tree in cemetery	£400.00		Bank Transfer
A.Johnson	Homeworking allowance – Oct to March	£117.00		Bank Transfer
A.Johnson (reimbursed to)	Office supplies (October to March)	£62.21		Bank Transfer

Stocksigns Ltd	SID Accessories	626.24	104.37	Bank Transfer

24.43 CORRESPONDENCE –
The following correspondence was noted. **Any actions are in bold.**
14/02/24 Freshwater Habitats Trust – Newsletter
15/02/24 NFDC – Application for free portrait of the king.
15/02/24 Steve Avery (National Park Authority, Executive Director (Strategy and Planning). Clarification of National Park Parish Council NW Quadrant Representative Election process.
19/02/23 Rural EV Charging – EV chargers on council land.
19/02/23 National Park Authority – Confirmation of Article 4 Direction for temporary campsites.
20/02/24 Village Hall Committee – Information on Martyns Law and consultation
22/02/24 National Park Authority – New Forest Awakening Festival
23/02/23 New Forest Community Forum March 27th **Cllr Donnell and the Clerk to attend**
23/02/23 Fordingbridge Town Council – Planning training invitation. **Further information required**.
23/02/23 HALC – Hampshire County Policy Survey
27/02/23 NFDC – Council Tax rates for 2024/25.

Parishioner correspondence:
15/02/24 Keith Honeychurch, Rights of Way Officer – To a parishioner from PROW Officer. (HPC copied in.) **It was agreed that the parish council has no authority to act on this matter.**

25.44 ANY OTHER BUSINESS
Cemetery – A Valuation form has been received from HMRC for the cemetery, this will be completed by the clerk.
Lengthsman – The Lengthsman will be carrying out jobs in the parish on March 20th.
Training – The New Forest Association of Local Councils is organising a Seminar on the issues of illegal encampments on Council Land on April 26th in Ringwood; the clerk will attend.
BOAT – An application was submitted to Natural England last year for permission to carry out remedial work to the BOAT (Byway open to all traffic) which runs down from the village hall to Hale Purlieu. The clerk has been unable to receive updates from Natural England however a new Natural England Officer has now assigned to the project.

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

The meeting ended at 8.10 pm.

Signed by .....

Date .....