Minutes of the Hale Parish Council Annual Meeting held on Tuesday 7th May 2024 at 7pm in Hale Village Hall (Downstairs)

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

In attendance: The clerk, Cllr Janet Richards (NFDC) and 9 members of the public.

24.46 TO ELECT A CHAIR FOR 2024/25 Cllr Kyle proposed, Cllr Donnell seconded and it was unanimously **RESOLVED** to elect Cllr Gemmell as Chair for 2024/25. Cllr Gemmell signed a declaration to formally accept the role of Chair.

24.47 TO ELECT A VICE-CHAIR FOR 2024/25 Cllr Gillmon proposed, Cllr Vickery seconded and it was unanimously **RESOLVED** to elect Cllr Lavis as Vice-Chair for 2024/25.

23.48 TO RECEIVE ANY APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: **-** Cllr Lavis

23.49 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST - To receive declarations of interest in respect of matters contained in this agenda (in accordance with the Localism Act 2011).
Cllr Donnell and Gillmon declared an interest in item 24.52 24/00236FULL. Cllr Donnell will not partake in the discussion or decision on this item but will stay in the room. It was agreed that Cllr Gillmon was not required to recuse herself from the item.

24.50 MINUTES
24.50.1 It was unanimously **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 5th March 2024.
24.50.2 Note matters arising from the minutes not elsewhere on the agenda.
Alderholt Planning Application APP/D1265/W/23/3336518 – Aderholt Parish Council has been granted Rule 6 Status and will be playing a full part in the Planning Inquiry (begins 25th June) in support of Dorset Councils refusal of planning permission for a large development. Cllr Lavis will attend the appeal and represent Hale Parish Council to add its own views on this development.
Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) – Hale PC has received £600 from NFDC to fund the street furniture required for the speed indicator devices. Parish councils were able to bid for funds from the CIL that NFDC has accumulated from development.

24.51 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - Members of the public are invited to address the council on agenda matters or raise any matters not otherwise on the agenda.
Parishioners present spoke of their concern regarding the amended planning application for Harry's Meadow campsite which has been submitted. Parishioners are concerned with some aspects of the processing of the application by the New Forest Planning Authority.

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

Application number:	24/00102FULL (Amendment)
Proposal:	Use of land as a seasonal campsite for 50 pitches for no more than 60 days in a calendar year
Location:	Harry's Meadow, Hale Park, Hale, SP6 2RE

Hale Parish Council recommended refusal to the original application (to which some amendments have been made). A document has been produced and submitted by Holbury Consultancy Service in response to the parish council's recommendation; this was discussed alongside the amendments to the application. HPC agreed that many aspects of the application have still not been addressed

including the effect on the lime tree avenue which is in a poor state, a sufficient ecological assessment being carried out and the access to the site (single track road (Hale Lane) which is in a very dangerous state). It was unanimously agreed and **RESOLVED** to recommend refusal and a second response from HPC will be submitted.

Application number: 24/00370VAR
Proposal: Application to vary condition 2 of planning permission 23/01103FULL for roof alterations to include hip-to-gable conversion of the main roof (both ends) and the forward projecting roof; see application.
Location: Freefolk, Hale Purlieu, SP6 2NN

Hale Parish Council recommended permission for this application which was granted in November 2023. Proposed alterations have now been submitted, HPC agreed that the alterations enhance the design and have no concerns with the application. It was unanimously agreed and **RESOLVED** to recommend Option 3 – Permission.

Application number: 24/00236FULL
Proposal: Replacement dwelling; garage; outbuilding (gym & bat house); wildlife pond; landscaping; (demolition of existing two storey dwelling and outbuildings)
Location: Woodriding, Hale Purlieu, SP6 2QZ

Hale Parish Council discussed the application and felt the Design and Access statement, Ecology Report and other documents submitted to be very comprehensive and detailed. Councillors agreed that a replacement building is a large consideration but the good design, build and sustainability features of the proposed building mitigate this. Much advice and surveying has taken place regarding the nature conservation of the site and mitigation measures are part of the design, including a wildlife pond, bat house and meadow. Although this site is adjacent to an SSSI there will be significant screening in the form of new planting. Councillors suggested plating a specific " New Forest mix" which includes a range of appropriate species. It was unanimously agreed and **RESOLVED** to recommend Option 3 – Permission.

24.53 LOCAL ROADS .
Recent remedial works have taken place in the parish including surface dressing of Hale Purlieu and Tethering Drove and the current replacement of the cattle grid in Hale Road which has led to the closure of the road. Hale PC discussed frustration that despite much effort little communication is received from HCC regarding works to be carried out.
Hale Lane - Hale PC is still regularly informing HCC of the current condition of Hale Lane.
Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs) – The posts which hold the SIDs have recently been moved by HCC Highways as they were originally installed in places contrary to those agreed. HPC plans to install sleeves to hold removable posts along Tethering Drove and Hale Purlieu but are awaiting confirmation from the National Trust surveyor.

24.54 ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY (APA) 2024 The APA was held on April 30th with a new format and was attended by approx 25 parishioners. HPC will continue to look at new ways to engage parishioners and widen the attendance at the APA.

24.55 EXTERNAL MEETINGS - To receive reports from external meetings attended.
Hale Village Hall Management Meeting 9th May – Cllr Kyle attended. Grants have been received to fund works to insulate the ceiling and these works will be carried out in July.

New Forest Wetlands talk – Cllr Vickery attended a talk on freshwater wetland habitats within the New Forest ; an information video was shown at the APA.
NFDC Community Forum - A forum was held on 27th March on Community Resilience; Cllr Donnell and the clerk attended. Cllr Donnell has lead the first Hale PC working group on this topic and has presented the idea to Woodgreen Parish Council with the aim of sharing ideas and resources. A draft of an Emergency and Resilience plan will be put forward in the next few months.

24.56 STANDARDS AND PERSONNEL COMMITTEE – It was **RESOLVED** that The Standards and Personnel Committee will be represented by Cllrs Gemmell, Lavis and Vickery for 2024/25.

24.57 PARISH COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES
It was **RESOLVED** to approve the following representatives for 2024/25 –
Hale Village Hall – Cllr Kyle
North West Quadrant – Cllr Gemmell and Cllr Lavis
Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan – Cllr Vickery
Neighbourhood Tasking Group – Cllr Vickery
Western Escarpment Steering Group – All Councillors (not currently
Downton Link - A councillor will aim to attend the AGM.
New Forest Association of Local Councils – A councillor will aim to attend the AGM.

24.58 PARISH COUNCIL RESPONSIBILITES
It was **RESOLVED** to approve the following responsibilities for 2024/25.
Footpaths – Cllr Gemmell
Trees – Cllr Gemmell
Finance – Cllr Kyle
Highways – Cllr Gemmell
Commoning – Cllr Vickery
Planning – Cllr Lavis
Cemetery – Clerk will cover the cemetery.
Community and Resilience Planning – Cllr Donnell

24.59 TO RECONFIRM ELIGIBILITY TO CONTINUE THE GENERAL POWER OF COMPETENCE
Hale Parish Council confirms that it still meets the criteria (At least 2/3 elected members and a qualified clerk) to hold the General Power of Competence.

24.60 PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY -
BOAT 102/15/1 (Track running from Village Hall to Hale Purlieu) Permission has now been received to carry out remedial works to the BOAT. HPC are not in a position to go ahead with these work at present but will continue to look for sources of funding.
BOAT 102/13/1 (Folly Drove) Some fallen trees are currently blocking this route which will be reported to Hampshire Rights of Way team.

24.61 TO APPROVE THE ASSET REGISTER FOR 2024/25
It was **RESOLVED** to approve the updated Asset Register.

24.62 TO REVIEW AND APPROVE THE END OY YEAR ACCOUNTS FOR 2023/24.
Councillors **RESOLVED** to approve the accounts of 2023/24. The income for the year 2023/24 was £18,616.76 and expenditure was £18,322.72.

24.63 TO RECEIVE THE INTERNAL AUDIT REPORT FOR 2023/24.
Councillors **RESOLVED** to approve the internal audit report and accept the recommendations.

24.64 TO CERTIFY HALE PARISH COUNCIL AS EXEMPT FROM A LIMITED ASSURANCE REVIEW DURING THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2023/24 (AS HALE PARISH COUNCILS GROSS INCOME FOR THE YEAR OR GROSS ANNUAL EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR DID NOT EXCEED £25,000.)
Councillors **RESOLVED** to certify Hale PC as exempt from a limited assurance review for 2023/24 and the certificate of exemption was signed by the Clerk/ RFO and the Chair.

24.65 TO APPROVE FROM 2 OF THE ANNUAL GOVERNANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY RETURN (AGAR) 2023/24.
Councillors **RESOLVED** to approve Form 2 of the AGAR 2023/24 which was signed by the Clerk/ RFO and the Chair.

24.66 TO REVIEW AND APPROVE DATES FOR THE PERIOD FOR THE EXCERCISE OF PUBLIC RIGHT
Councillors **RESOLVED** to approve the period for the exercise of public rights which will run from Monday 4th June until Friday 15th July. The notice will be placed on the website and notice boards.

24.67 FINANCE
The Treasurers account balance is currently £7, 372.62 and the Business account balance is £21,389.96.
24.67.1 MONTHLY PAYMENTS - It was **RESOLVED to** approve the following payments.

PAYEE	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT	VAT	PAYMENT METHOD
2023/24				
Cutting Edge	Cemetery Maintenance - March	£92.50		Bank Transfer
Fordingbridge Town Council	Planning Training	£40.00	£6.67	Bank Transfer
HALC	Training Course	117.60		Bank Transfer
2024/25				
Amanda Johnson	Salary – April and May	N/A		Standing Order
Cutting Edge (Easterbrook)	Cemetery Maintenance - April	£185.00		Bank Transfer
HALC	Annual Subscription	£305.00		Bank transfer
Amanda Johnson	APA costs	£10.86		Bank Transfer

24.67.2 It was **RESOLVED** to approve the following annual expenses :-
ICO Data Protection fee
Cutting Edge - Cemetery maintenance
HALC/NALC subscription
WIX - Hosting and domain fees for website
Hale Village Hall usage fees
Home working and office expenses
SLCC subscription (shared equally with Woodgreen PC)
Penon Water bills (Cemetery)
Lengthsman expenses
Friends of the New forest Subscription
Laptop virus protection
Payroll fees

24.68 CORRESPONDENCE - To consider correspondence received before 30/04/2024 and any urgent correspondence received after the agenda was finalised not dealt with elsewhere in the agenda.
For information (circulated)

11/03/24 NPA – Latest Newsletter
13/03/24 NPA - £1.3 million scheme to restore New Forest Habitats and increase wildlife
22/03/24 NPA – Latest newsletter
28/03/24 Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner
03/04/24 NFDC – Information regarding Solent Freeport
08/04/24 NFDC – NFDC turns 50
09/04/24 NFDC – NFDC unveils Corporate Plan 2024-2028.
09/04/24 NFDC – Funding available to improve the energy efficiency of New Forest Homes.
12/04/24 NFALC – Minutes from meeting on 18/03/24
15/04/24 NPA – Call for young community research volunteers.
15/04/24 NPA – Call for next New Forest National Park Artists in Residence.
18/04/24 Ann Sevier, National Park NW Quadrant Representative – Update from meeting.
19/04/24 NPA – Latest newsletter
23/04/24 Hants and IOW Policing Team - Cyber Crime

Parishioner emails
23/04/24 Issue regarding using concessionary bus pass on the 44 Salisbury Reds bus.
The parishioner has now received a reply from Salisbury Reds.

24.69 ANY OTHER BUSINESS AND MATTERS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA

Full fibre Broadband – It is currently not certain if Hale parish has been included in a contract given to Wessex Internet to install full fibre broadband, more information is being sought. Cllr Edward Heron advised at the Annual Parish Assembly that a successor scheme is expected for villages which may have been missed out of contracts but it is not known what this will be or when it will be available. John Mangan has updated all those who previously signed up for the "voucher scheme". It is possible to register an interest with Wessex Internet– this can be done at www.wessexinternet.com.

24.70 DATE OF NEXT MEETING - Tuesday 2nd July 2023 in Hale Village Hall (Downstairs)

The meeting ended at 9.05pm.

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