Minutes of the Hale Parish Council Annual Meeting held on Thursday 18th May 2023 at 7pm in Hale Village Hall (Downstairs)

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

In attendance: The clerk, Steve Avery, Executive Director (Strategy and Planning), New Forest National Park Authority and 5 members of the public.

23.38 TO ELECT A CHAIR FOR 2023/24 Cllr Lavis proposed, Cllr Kyle seconded and it was unanimously **RESOLVED** to elect Cllr Gemmell as Chair for 2023/24.

23.39 TO ELECT A VICE-CHAIR FOR 2023/24 Cllr Gemmell proposed, Cllr Kyle seconded and it was unanimously **RESOLVED** to elect Cllr Lavis as Vice-Chair for 2023/24.

23.40 DECLARATIONS OF OFFICE All councillors signed a Declaration of Office form in the presence of the Proper Officer/Clerk to formally accept their role as councillor for Hale Parish Council.

23.41 TO RECEIVE ANY APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: **-** Julia Harding, Chris and Rossie Fairgrieve.

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

23.43 MINUTES

23.43.1 It was unanimously **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 7th March 2023.

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

Speed Indicator devices – Two Speed Indicator Devices have been installed in the village but there are unfortunately issues with their operation which Cllr Gemmell is discussing with the supplier.

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

Members of the public spoke of their concern regarding Harry's Meadow campsite which will operate from May 26th until June 4th in Hale Park. Local residents have sought legal advice and have outlined their concerns in a letter to Steve Avery. Parishioners are concerned that the granting of Exemption Certificates by Natural England to organisations such as Wild Camp (associated with Harry's Meadow) effectively allows "pop up " campsites to continue to operate in the National Park. It is believed the granting of Exemption Certificates is being done without due diligence by Natural England which then leads to a significant detrimental impact on the communities affected.

23.45 HARRYS MEADOW CAMPSITE – Steve Avery, Executive Director (Strategy and Planning), New Forest National Park Authority updated councillors and members of the public on the current situation with the campsite Harry's Meadow which has operated in the ground of Hale Park since 2020. The campsite had previously operated under the General Permitted Development Right Part 4 which allows "pop up" campsites to operate for up to 28 days per year (56 days in 2020 and 2021). The New Forest Park Authority instigated an Article 4 Direction to remove these Part 4 Permitted Rights from being applicable in the New Forest National Park with the intention to reduce the number of pop up campsites in the New Forest. However Part 5 Permitted Development rights allows organisations to camp (e.g. Scout Groups) if they are successful in applying for an Exemption Certificate from Natural England. The operators of Harry's Meadow have an exemption certificate under an organisation set up called "Wild Camp" and will run the campsite from 26th May until 4th June. The campsite will not run again this year. In a designated area (e.g. SSSI) Permitted

Developments Rights must still meet the Habitats Regulations and this has been submitted by the operators and approved.
Steve Avery stated that the legislation associated with camping in England relates to Government Acts from 1936 and 1960 which are not relevant to today's society and in need of an overhaul.

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

APPLICATION NUMBER: 23/00284
ADDRESS: WYVERN, HATCHET CLOSE, HALE, FORDINGBRIDGE, SP6 2NF
PROPOSAL: Cladding to front gable of dwellinghouse

Planning permission is being sought retrospectively as the works have been carried out. Councillors discussed that although the material used to clad the gable end is not recommended in the Design Guide, the property is not within the Conservation Area and the aesthetic of the property is improved by the cladding and the gable end has been made more secure. Councillor 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

APPLICATION NUMBER: 22/00931
FULL ADDRESS: LAND ADJACENT TO THE NOOK, TETHERING DROVE, HALE, SP6 2NH
PROPOSAL: Stable; demolition of existing stables.

Councillors discussed the application and found the design and construction of the building to be unsuitable for the purpose of a stable. Councillors unanimously agreed and **RESOLVED** to recommend Option 4 – REFUSAL.

23.47 EXTERNAL MEETINGS - To receive reports from external meetings attended.
Hale Village Hall Management Meeting 9th May – Cllr Gemmell was not present for the whole meeting and the clerk will circulate the minutes to all councillors when received.
NW Quadrant meeting 13th March – Cllr Gemmell attended.
Paul Walton from the NPA outlined the Climate Emergency target which is to be net zero by 2050. National Parks currently release 28% more CO2 than the national average which is estimated to be consumption based. Heathlands are being restored which sequester carbon. Communities are being encouraged to "take the pledge" to reduce food miles and shop locally.
£250K is available under the Farming in Protected Landscapes Scheme which has four distinct threads on which farmers can access funding – climate, nature, people and place.
Charlotte Belcher from Forestry England updated on the work being carried out , the removal of Conifer plantations and the restoration of heathland as outlined in the "Forest Design Plan". 900 broad leaved trees of various species have been planted to replace the conifers.
Steve Avery – NFNPA Director of Planning outlined the current government consultation on camping which aims is to move legislation for pop up camping to Part 2 of the Town and Country Planning Order and align it to existing legislation of the Public Health Act 1936. This would mean that temporary campsites would be able to be operated for 60 days annually and a maximum of 6 weeks consecutively. It is not yet clear whether the Article 4 Direction in place can be amended (by parliament) to apply to Part 2 of the Town and Country Planning Order.

23.48 DOCUMENT REVIEW Updated versions of Standing Orders and the Code of Conduct had been previously circulated to councillors**.** Councillors unanimously agreed and it was **RESOLVED** to ratify and adopt the Standing Orders and Code of conduct.

23.49 STANDARDS AND PERSONNEL COMMITTEE – It was **RESOLVED** that The Standards and Personnel Committee will be represented by Cllrs Gemmell, Lavis and Vickery for 2023/24.

23.50 PARISH COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the following representatives for 2023/24 –
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
Downton Link - A councillor will attend the AGM.
Hale PC will not put forward a candidate for the National Park Parish Representation Elections.

23.51 PARISH COUNCIL RESPOSIBILITES

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the following responsibilities for 2023/24.
Footpaths – Cllr Gemmell
Trees – Cllr Gemmell
Finance – Cllr Kyle
Highways – Cllr Gemmell
Commoning – Cllr Vickery
Planning – Cllr Lavis
Cemetery – Clerk will cover the cemetery.

23.52 TO APPROVE THE ASSET REGISTER FOR 2023/34.

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the updated Asset Register. It was agreed that during 2023/24 the old laptop will be disposed off and then removed from the register.

23.53 TO REVIEW AND APPROVE THE END OY YEAR ACCOUNTS FOR 2022/23.

Councillors **RESOLVED** to approve the accounts of 2022/23.

2 3.54 TO RECEIVE THE INTERNAL AUDIT REPORT FOR 2022/23.

Councillors **RESOLVED** to approve the internal audit report and accept the recommendations.

23.55 TO APPROVE FROM 3 OF THE ANNUAL GOVERNANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY RETURN (AGAR) 2022/23.

Hale Parish Council is required to submit accounts for an external audit as spending was in excess of £25,000.00 during the year 2222/23. Councillors **RESOLVED** to approve Form 3 of the AGAR 2022/23 which were signed by the RFO and the Chair.

23.56 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 5th June until Friday 14th July. The notice will be placed on the website and noticeboards.

23.57 FINANCE

23.57.1 ACCOUNTS.

Councillors **RESOLVED** to approve the accounts for the months of April and May.
The Treasurers account balance is currently £7, 372.62 and the Business account balance is £21,389.96.

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

PAYEE	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT	VAT	PAYMENT METHOD
2022/23 Accounts				

K2 X Connect	Telephone box notice and replacement glass	£42.00	£7.00	Bank Transfer
New forest Disability	Grant	£60.00		Bank Transfer
Tree Management Group	Tree work at Hatchet Green	£8233.20	£1372.20	Bank Transfer
2023/24 Accounts				
A. Johnson	Salary			Standing Order
Cutting Edge	Cemetery cut - April	£180.00		Bank Transfer
HALC	Subscription	£272.00		Bank Transfer
A.Johnson	Adaptor for laptop(replacement)	£13.66		Bank Transfer
A.Johnson	APA Expenses	£51.10		Bank Transfer

23.57.3 It was **RESOLVED** to approve the following annual expenses.
ICO Data Protection fee
Penon Water bills (Cemetery)
Cemetery maintenance
Lengthsman expenses
HALC/NALC subscription
SLCC subscription
Friends of the New forest Subscription
Hosting and domain fees for website
Laptop virus protection
Hale Village Hall usage fees
Payroll fees

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)
13/03/23 Fordingbridge Greener Living –Talk on Lighting, Biodiversity and Health 22nd March
13/03/23 New Forest Disability – Thank you to HPC for grant.
15/03/23 NPA – Latest news from the National Park Authority
16/03/23 NFDC – New Forest Spring Clean
20/03/23 NFDC- Climate Change and Nature Emergency Event Presentation slides
21/03/23 HALC Newsletter
24/03/23 NPA – Latest news from the National Park Authority
27/03/23 Hale Village Hall Management Committee – minutes of meeting held on 14th March
29/03/23 NALC Newsletter
31/03/23 HALC – National Park Parish Representatives nominations.
03/04/23 Police and Crime Commissioner – Monthly Newsletter
05/04/23 NFDC – Public Space Protection Orders announced.
11/04/23 Friends of the New Forest AGM Saturday 15th April
17/04/23 NPA News Release – Have your say on how the New Forest NPA involves people in its planning work.
28/04/23 Police and Crime Commissioner – Monthly Newsletter

04/05/23 Forestry England Press Release – New nest cam
05/04/23 NPA – Latest news from the National Park Authority

Shared on website
20/03/23 Notice of Parish Council Election
04/04/23 Hampshire CC and New Forest DC updates
06/04/23 Hale Parish Council Election Results
11/04/23 Hale Parish Annual Assembly Notice

Parishioner emails/telephone calls
30/03/23 Parishioner email regarding temporary road signs for 10mph to pass horses.
11/05/23 Email from Hale Village Hall committee

23.59 ANY OTHER BUSINESS AND MATTERS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA
An Art Exhibition will be held in the village hall in August and exhibitors would like to use the green outside, this was agreed.
Planning Development – A planning application for a large development of 1700 homes has been submitted in Alderholt. Cllr Lavis will draft a response to be submitted from Hale PC.
Items on the agenda of the next meeting – insurance renewal, funding for village projects and cleaning of the bus shelter.

23.60 DATE OF NEXT MEETING - Tuesday 4th July 2023 in Hale Village Hall (Downstairs)

The meeting ended at 9.35pm.

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