HALE PARISH COUNCIL
DRAFT Minutes of Hale Parish Council Meeting
held at 7.30 pm on Tuesday 2 April 2019 in Hale Village Hall, Hale

Present:
Cllr Aitken-Sykes – Chairman, Cllrs Hartas, Gemmell, Mangan, Templeton

In attendance:
Miss K Cleary – Clerk
Mr S Whitmarsh – Tree Warden
14 members of the public

1. **To receive apologies for absence –** Cllr Gaby Lucas.

2. **To receive any Declarations of Interest, written requests for dispensations and to grant any dispensations as appropriate**
   2.1. As a Director of Hale CLT who is prepared to sell (for £1)/donate some of his own land to Hale CLT, Cllr Templeton declared a pecuniary interest in item 10 of the agenda; Affordable Housing

   2.2. As a Director of Hale CLT, Cllr Aitken-Sykes declared a personal interest in item 10 of the agenda; Affordable Housing.

   2.3. As a resident who owns and lives on the land immediately adjacent to the only site currently being considered by Hale CLT (Folly Hill) Cllr Gemmell declared a personal interest in any part of item 10 of the agenda (affordable housing) relating to the Folly Hill site.

   2.4. Clerk confirmed that Cllrs Gemmell, Templeton and Aitken-Sykes had previously submitted written requests for dispensations to stay in the room for discussions where they had declared interests and all had valid dispensations in force.

3. **To consider and approve the Minutes of the meeting held on 5 March 2019 –** Minutes having been circulated in advance were approved unanimously and signed by the Chairman.

   Matters arising from the minutes
   3.1. Clerk advised that following the closed session of the Council held 4th March 2019 (to discuss monitoring officer concerns in respect of a resident complaint dated 6 January), letters had been prepared and HALC legal advice had been obtained. These letters had been sent to the individuals concerned.

   3.2. Clerk advised that she had been mistaken in her statement made at the March meeting about Cllr Aitken-Sykes' declared interest and application for a dispensation. Clerk clarified that the previous Clerk had interpreted the circumstances of Cllr Aitken-Sykes' interest in Affordable Housing to be one of declarable bias, whereby no dispensation was required to stay in the room. The current clerk, on reviewing interests in March 2019 felt that Cllr Aitken-Sykes' interest should instead be interpreted as a personal interest (which required a written request for a dispensation). The Clerk mistakenly believed that Cllr Aitken-Sykes had already submitted a request for a dispensation, and so she did not ask Cllr Aitken-Sykes for such a written request. This was incorrect. Clerk has now received a written request from Cllr Aitken-Sykes to stay in the room for the same reasons considered appropriate for Cllr Templeton. This request has been recorded on files. The Clerk apologised to the Council for her error.

   3.3. Clerk advised that clarification requested by Cllr Gemmell from Tim Davies at NFDC surrounding the comments minuted in February was outstanding. Clerk requested that Cllr Gemmell provide further information to clarify his request so that this might be passed directly to Tim Davies for comment.

   3.4. Following the PHPM assertion made in the public section of the March meeting re the refusal of consent to allow the soil expert to attend the Alaska site walk: Clerk confirmed that HPC had not received any notification from PHPM of their request to attend the Alaska walk with a soil expert. Cllr Lucas had confirmed to the Clerk that she had not discussed the matter with Ben Smith. Clerk has requested clarification from National Grid via Camargue.

4. **Members of the public are invited to address the council on agenda matters and to raise any matters not otherwise on the agenda.**

   4.1. Three resident members of the Protect Hale Purlieu Movement (PHPM) separately noted their delight at the pause of the project announced by National Grid letter of 29 March 2019.

4.2. A resident member of the PHPM requested that their organisation's formal response to the National Grid letter be posted on HPC website. The Council agreed the request.

4.3. A resident member of the PHPM noted that the Clerk had not posted the National Grid letter received about tunnelling on the website. Clerk apologised for the oversight and noted it would be posted immediately following the meeting.

4.4. A resident member of the PHPM asked if the National Grid undergrounding proposal would be on the agenda at the forthcoming Parish Assembly and offered to make a statement on behalf of PHPM if requested. The Council noted and expressed thanks for the offer. Clerk confirmed that the VIP project was not currently on the agenda as the project had been 'paused' by National Grid without any restart date.

4.5. A resident member of the PHPM requested further clarification from the Council of the knowledge of the Council Chairman of the PHPM request to attend the Alaska site meeting with a soil expert. Clerk reiterated that Cllr Lucas had expressly stated that she had not discussed the matter with Ben Smith and that further clarification had been requested from National Grid. The Clerk noted that PHPM had not directly informed the Council of their request.

4.6. A parishioner member of PHPM noted that no response had been received from the Clerk in relation to a previous request for the source of her advice to the Council of taking a position on VIP project prior to receipt of any planning application. Clerk apologised for the oversight and undertook to forward the relevant information to the parishioner asap.

4.7. Steve Whitmarsh reported that the Parish litter pick took place on Saturday 30th March. Five residents of the village attended, along with three others from Downton and Salisbury. All did a marvellous job, as evidenced by the amount left for onward collection. The Council thanked Mr Whitmarsh for his work coordinating the pick. Cllrs Templeton and Lucas attended, Cllrs Aitken-Sykes, Gemmell, Hartas and Mangan expressed their regret at not being able to attend due to previous commitments.

5. To consider a request received from Hale School PTA in respect of the PTA summer fete 2019.

5.1. It was proposed by Cllr Templeton and seconded by Cllr Gemmell and therefore RESOLVED to allow Hale School PTA to use Hatchett Green for the summer fete on 23rd June subject to the proper use of the Green as set out in the current Site Management plan. Clerk to respond to PTA.

6. To consider matters relating to the Cemetery including:

- **To consider 2 quotations received for cemetery maintenance 2019**
- **To consider next steps for path update/ volunteer day**

6.1. The Council considered the two proposals for Cemetery maintenance received from Cutting Edge (existing provider) and The Handyman and Garden Co. Ltd. It was proposed by Cllr Gemmell and seconded by Cllr Templeton and therefore RESOLVED to renew the contract with Cutting Edge subject to their agreement to cut the hedges with a flat top and hard enough so as not to obstruct access to plots. Clerk to liaise with Cutting Edge.

6.2. Cllr Mangan to plan for the volunteer work to renew the paths to be completed in June and develop a proposed schedule to be published a few weeks in advance. Cllr Mangan to liaise with Susan Witt regarding edging for the planted centre circle.

7. Tree Warden report

7.1. Steve Whitmarsh as tree warden reported that the Tree Preservation Order on the Oak Tree in the vicinity of the Parish Hall had been confirmed. Cllr Hartas advised as Chairman of the Village Hall committee that the Committee had decided not to pursue their proposed works to the tree. The Council noted the position. Clerk to add TPO to the Parish register of trees.

8. To consider and determine next steps on Hatchett Green restoration; car park repairs – including

- **Preparations for Earlcote works 9 April 2019**

8.1. Cllr Aitken-Sykes confirmed that Earlcote were booked to start work Tuesday 9th April. Clerk and Cllr Aitken Sykes to meet Earlcote on site in advance of works start to confirm final details and discuss potential additional drainage as agreed by the Council in March. Cllr Hartas advised as Chairman of

the Village Hall committee that all Hall Hirers had been informed that car park access would not be available for the duration of the works.

9. To consider and determine next steps in relation to the National Grid Visual Impact Project:

9.1 In response to a question asked by resident member of PHPM, Cllr Hartas confirmed that the Verderers had declined her request for a meeting as they felt it would be inappropriate to meet before any formal planning application had been received.

9.2 Notification had been received from National Grid that they had decided to pause the VIP project. No restart date has been communicated. The position was noted. Clerk to post letter on HPC website.

9.3 The Council noted that National Trust had been felling trees [between Turf Hill enclosure and Mays Firs]. Clerk to write to National Trust on behalf of HPC to express concern at the state the area had been left in with cut tree stumps etc.

9.4 Cllr Hartas noted that National Grid had yet to complete restoration of the trial drilling pits. Clerk to write on behalf of HPC to request immediate action.

10. Correspondence (not dealt with elsewhere)

a) 6 Mar – UK Cycling ref New Forest Sportive Route 13/14 April – noted this did not go through Hale
b) 7 Mar – New Forest Association statement on conifer deforestation – noted
c) 15 Mar – Forestry Commission ref centenary exhibition - noted
d) 19 Mar – HALC ref CEO appointment – noted
e) 19 Mar - F Seaward ref Hale School travel plan – the Council warmly welcomed the school's approach. Clerk to ask Cllr Lucas, as a previous governor of the school, to request a meeting to discuss HPC concerns including speeding along Hale Rd, parking on the verges and the manner of use of the Village Hall car park
f) 19 Mar – NFDC Notification re tree service provider changes – noted. Clerk to liaise with Cllr Hartas ref tree survey visit to save costs.
g) 21 Mar – Spud ref 2019 Wasted film competition – noted

11. Clerk's report including:

- Plans for Annual Parish Assembly Tuesday 23rd April 2019
- Interaction with other local PCs ref crime/ neighbourhood watch
- Review of draft data protection policy

11.1. Clerk reported that Sarah Delves had agreed to be guest speaker at the Annual Parish Assembly; giving an insight into her work on the 'Secret Spitfires' film. Response from Hampshire Police outstanding; clerk to chase.

11.2. Clerk to invite other local parish councils to coordinate Neighbourhood Watch and other information to try and alleviate increase in rural crime (particularly theft) noted

11.3. Draft data protection policy not yet in final form; to be reviewed at the May meeting

12. To consider and determine next steps for Affordable Housing project including

- **Receiving a report from the Housing Consulting Group meeting 26 Mar**

(Cllrs Templeton and Aitken-Sykes moved to the public area for the duration of this item which was Chaired by Cllr Mangan)

12.1. Chris Fairgrieve gave a report on behalf of HHCG as the Chair Ian Winson was unavailable. The HHCG met on 26 Mar and discussed a draft of a document outlining 'red lines' that would be applied by HPC to any vehicle seeking to deliver affordable housing in the parish. An updated version would be reviewed by the Committee of HHCG and then submitted for Council review. The housing section of the Parish Plan was not discussed due to a lack of time; this would be readdressed at the next meeting of HHCG.

12.2. Bill Templeton, as a Director of Hale CLT gave a report on a meeting of HPC with the CLT directors on 25 March. The CLT had at the request of the council submitted further information to enable the council to consider whether the CLT was an appropriate vehicle to deliver affordable housing in the parish, including the technical advice received over the use of a CLT structure to allow a perpetual asset lock. It was agreed that the CLT would continue to focus on increasing membership and engagement with local residents. The CLT would be holding another open meeting to collect further parishioner feedback on the size of proposed properties and other aspects of the concept plans.

13. To consider and approve the following payments:

		£
02.04.19	Bournemouth Water Business (Cemetery)	12.87
02.04.19	Cemetery planting	22.00
02.04.19	Cutting Edge – Mar Cut – out of contract	85.00
24.04.19	Clerks Salary	330.17

It was proposed by Cllr Gemmell and seconded by Cllr Mangan and therefore **RESOLVED:** that the payments be approved. All agreed.

14. To approve the accounts for March 2019 and to record the bank balances – approved

15. Any other business - none

16. To note the date of the next meeting is **tbc.**

THE ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY WILL BE HELD ON TUESDAY 23RD APRIL AT HALE VILLAGE HALL

There being no further business to discuss, the Meeting closed at 9.27pm

Signed: Date: [ ] May 2019
Chairman

Clerk: Miss Kathy Cleary, 5 Blue Valley Mews, Fordingbridge, SP6 1AE
(07753) 928088, (01425) 652495, hpcclerk@gmail.com