HALE PARISH COUNCIL
DRAFT Minutes of Hale Parish Council Meeting
held at 7.00 pm on Tuesday 5 February 2019 in Hale Village Hall, Hale

Present:
Cllr Lucas – Chairman, Cllrs Hartas, Gemmell, Mangan, Templeton

In attendance:
Miss K Cleary – Clerk
Mr S Whitmarsh – Tree Warden

15 members of the public

1. **To receive apologies for absence –** Cllr Aitken-Sykes.

2. **To receive any Declarations of Interest, written requests for dispensations and to grant any dispensations as appropriate**
   2.1. As Chairman of the Hale Village Hall Committee, Cllr Hartas declared an interest in the item 5 of the agenda; Tree Application ref CONS/19/0055

   2.2. As a Director of Hale CLT who is prepared to sell/donate some of his own land to Hale CLT, Cllr Templeton declared a pecuniary interest in item 10 of the agenda; Affordable Housing

   2.3. Clerk confirmed that there were no written requests for dispensations to be considered. Cllr Templeton had a valid dispensation in force to allow him to stay in the room for discussion of item 10; Affordable Housing.

3. **To consider and approve the Minutes of the meeting held on 8 January 2019 –** Minutes having been circulated in advance were approved unanimously and signed by the Chairman.

   Matters arising from the minutes
   3.1. Cllr Lucas advised that the complaint received from a Parishioner dated 6th January had been simultaneously sent to NFDC monitoring officer, who considered the complaint and rejected it on all counts. The monitoring officer's response to the council raises serious and confidential issues which will be discussed by the Council in a closed meeting (full notice of this meeting will be given in the usual way but the meeting will be closed to the public).

   3.2. Clerk confirmed that the bus shelter is on the HPC asset register. Cllr Mangan confirmed that Mark Nobes had successfully fitted the new noticeboard in the bus shelter, with fixings costing approx. £10. Once this was fully operational, the old ones could be removed from the private property wall. Clerk to liaise with Hale & Woodgreen Horticultural Society, who may own one of the existing boards. Cllr Lucas asked Cllr Mangan to pass on the thanks of HPC to Mark Nobes. It was proposed by Cllr Gemmell and seconded by Cllr Lucas and therefore **RESOLVED** to refund Mark Nobes for material bought, subject to provision of an appropriate receipt. All agreed.

   3.3. Clerk confirmed that rights of way priority cutting list had been submitted. The tree fallen across the footpath behind Sorrell was to be separately reported, Cllrs believed that it may actually have fallen from land belonging to Mr Anthony Passmore. Clerk to follow up.

   3.4. Clerk confirmed no response had been received from NFDC re request for planning guidance on 'granny annexes'. Clerk to chase.

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. A parishioner member of the HCG requested confirmation of the date of the Annual Parish Assembly. Clerk confirmed this was booked for 23 April 2019.

   4.2. A parishioner member of PHPM requested that:
   a. the council properly debate and respond to the PHPM submission about the legality of National Grid plans and use of IROPI made at the January Parish Council meeting.
   b. the Council chase from National Grid and share with all Parishioners minutes of the Stakeholder Advisory Group meeting held on 13th December.
   c. the Council demand a response from National Grid to their request to consider tunnelling;
   d. feedback from the National Grid meeting with Commoners be shared with all Parishioners.
   e. the Council confirm plans to assess any formal planning application, including the Environmental Impact paperwork that would be submitted.
   f. an explanation be provided as to why the information requested by a Freedom of Information act request of 4th January had not been yet been provided. (Clerk apologised

for the unexpected delay of a few days and advised that the requested information been released by email as requested).

Cllr Lucas proposed that Items 5 (Tree Applications) and 6 (Tree wardens report) be considered together. All agreed

5. To consider the following tree works applications

Case Ref:	CONS/19/0059
Proposed Works:	Fell 4 x Leylandii Cypress trees (retrospective application)
Site Address:	Spring Cottage, Queen Street, Hale, Fordingbridge, SP6 2RD
Case Ref:	CONS/19/0005
Proposed Works:	Fell 1 x Oak tree, 1 x Ash Tree
Site Address:	Hale Village Hall, Hatchet Green, Hale, Fordingbridge, SP6 2NE

5.1. Tree Warden reported that he had inspected both sites. It was extremely disappointing that the first application was retrospective. In respect of the Village Hall application the Tree Warden recommended that roots of both trees be retained until the bank has stabilised with regrowth. Tree warden recommended that HPC accept the decision of the National Park Authority in both cases. It was proposed by Cllr Lucas and seconded by Cllr Templeton and therefore **RESOLVED**: that the Tree Warden's comments be submitted on behalf of HPC but that HPC accept the decisions of the National Park Authority. All agreed.

7. To receive an update and determine next steps on the Parish Plan

7.1. Cllr Lucas reported that the Parish Plan was being prepared for full Council review at the March meeting. Cllr Hartas had submitted sections on Hale Village Hall and Hale Social committee. The Housing section remained the primary section outstanding.

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

- **Review of overseeing arrangements for Earlcote works April 19**
- **Funding application status**

8.1. Cllr Hartas advised that works had been provisionally booked with Earlcote for April 2019. Cllr Lucas to ask Cllr Aitken-Sykes to oversee the works as Paula Downard was not available. Clerk to make contact with Earlcote to share services maps and finalise relevant paperwork.

8.2. Clerk advised that funds had been received from Cllr Edward Herons discretionary fund. Outcome of National Lottery Application was still outstanding. Clerk to collect other promised monies (Village Hall Committee £1000, Transition Group £400) before commencement of works.

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

- **Receiving a report of National Grid meeting with Verderers and Commoners 22 Jan 2019**

9.1 A resident of Woodfalls and regular walker on the Purlieu had written to the council to express their support for the VIP project and urged the Council to consider the long term benefits for future generations as well as the short term disruption.

9.2 A parishioner member of PHPM had written to the Council expressing disappointment at the lack of debate in the January Parish Council meeting about the statement made at that meeting by the PHPM about the legality or otherwise of the National Grid proposals.

9.3 In response to the Parishioner question about assessment of the documentation supporting any planning application submitted; Cllrs confirmed that HPC would utilise the resources of NFDC to assess the application, as was normal planning practice.

9.4 Cllr Hartas reported that she had attended a National Grid meeting with commoners on 22nd Jan. The whole route will be fenced for the duration of the project. Previous commoner feedback had identified five crossing points although the latest plans produced by National Grid continue to show only four crossings and one of those (by Mays Firs) is vehicle and people crossing only. Clerk to write to National Grid to seek formal clarification about numbers and locations of crossings.

9.5 Cllr Hartas and Lucas noted that draft minutes of the December Stakeholder Reference Meeting were in circulation for approval. Clerk to continue to chase for final minutes of this meeting and December Stakeholder Advisory Group meeting.

9.6 Cllr Lucas advised that National Grid had offered HPC and one representative from PHPM to attend a site meeting with Alaska (proposed restoration specialists). Date and time to be finalised.

9.7 National Grid response to HPC request to consider tunnelling had been received. Clerk to post on HPC website. Clerk to write on behalf of HPC to formally request costing comparison of tunnelling and burial methods in addition to request for sight of Stakeholder Advisory Group minutes referred to in National Grid letter.

9.8 The Council discussed the apparent anomaly in minutes of the Verderers meeting 19th December (which suggested that the tunnelling method had been fully discounted). Cllr Hartas to invite Verderers to have regular update meetings with HPC as project progresses. Sue Blanchard, National Trust representative also to be invited.

9.9 There was a general discussion about whether HPC could and should adopt any formal position ahead of any formal planning application. Clerk advised that HPC was free to adopt a formal position at any time – either to support or oppose the project - but if it did so, then any response made to a formal planning application could be legally overturned as predetermined. No motion to consider a formal position was moved.

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

- **Receiving a report from HPC meeting with NFDC (Tim Davies) on affordable housing 16 Jan 2019**
- **Receiving a report from the Housing Consulting Group meeting 29 Jan**

(Cllr Templeton moved to the public area for the duration of this item)

10.1. A parishioner had sent HPC a copy of a letter that had been sent to CLT, expressing dissatisfaction with concept schemes presented and general levels of engagement and communication. It was noted that no action was requested of HPC.

10.2. Cllrs Lucas and Gemmell reported that HPC, together with representatives from other local Parish Councils met with NFDC to opening a regular dialogue on affordable housing and understand how NFDC could help at all stages - from design and planning to ongoing management partnership options. Key technical points would be circulated and posted on the HPC website once agreed with NFDC.

10.3. Ian Winson, Chairman of the Housing Consultative Group, reported that the group met on 29th January. 16 members attended including 2 new members. Draft minutes had been sent to HPC, to be finalised at the next meeting on 4th March. Areas discussed included

a. Acceptable and reasonable declarations of interest for group committee members
b. Potential site questionnaire; identifying those questions which were best addressed by HPC as part of any formal planning process
c. The lack of ongoing communication from Hale CLT – currently low member support for Hale CLT
d. Suitability of Hale CLT in its current form to manage any affordable housing in Hale and potential alternative structures – conclusions on alternatives still outstanding.

10.4. There was a general discussion on the above items. Non-CLT Councillors to meet with Housing Consulting Group committee members to clarify aims for discussion at the March Council meeting. Cllr Lucas/ Clerk to coordinate.

11. To receive an update and determine next steps on the cemetery improvements

11.1. Susan Witt reported to the council that the tree had been planted in the central bed. There had been a poor response from volunteers to assist with planting of the snowdrops. New edging around the central bed was needed and gravel levels replenished on the path.

11.2. Clerk advised that £434.79 remained to be spent from funds specifically donated for cemetery planting and improvement. Lengthsman had raked dead weeds from path and cleaned gates as part of January work.

11.3. Cllr Mangan to source quotations for appropriate edging and gravel top up for consideration at March HPC meeting. This could be laid using a volunteer/ working party day as happened for the Village Hall Car Park.

12. Correspondence (not dealt with elsewhere)

12.1. 4 Jan – Parishioner – Freedom of Information request ref National Grid VIP project; this had been answered.

12.2. 4 Jan – NFDC – ref By-Election costs. Total By-election costs £1,699.55. Invoice had not yet been received but Clerk requested authorisation to pay on receipt of invoice. It was proposed

by Cllr Templeton and seconded by Cllr Lucas and therefore **RESOLVED** to pay by-election costs of £1,699.55 to NFDC, subject to provision of an appropriate invoice. All agreed.

12.3. 9 Jan - UK Cycling Events - Advance notification of cycle event Apr 2019 – noted. Clerk to post details on website/ distribute via Information Update

12.4. 16 Jan – A member of the Public seeking stories of New Forest Folklore book for his new book – noted. If parishioners wish to contribute, contact can be made through the Clerk.

12.5. 27 Jan – New Forest Bike Project – noted. As a public service offering, Clerk to post details on website/ distribute via Information Update

12.6. 29 Jan – Eastleigh Borough Council – ref Parishes in Bloom- noted. No appetite

13. Clerk's report including:

- **Consideration of adoption of draft Vexatious Complainant policy**
- **Consideration of amendment to Hale Parish Council Standing Order 13(d) to include as a prefix "In circumstances where there is no valid dispensation already in existence, dispensation.."**

13.1. Clerk presented revised draft of Vexatious Complainant policy and explained that all feedback received had been incorporated. There was a general discussion about whether the policy was necessary. It was proposed by Cllr Mangan and seconded by Cllr Hartas and therefore RESOLVED: that the Vexatious Complainant policy be formally adopted in current form. All agreed.

13.2. Clerk explained background of Parishioner concern around operation of HPC Standing Order 13(d) and presented proposed revision for Council consideration. It was felt that the Standing Order was clear enough in current form and that the proposed amendment was unnecessary.

14. To consider and approve the following payments:

		£
05.02.19	Hale Village Hall (2018 HPC Village Hall Hire)	228.00
05.02.19	Councillor Expenses (Godshill hall hire paid directly)	17.00
24.02.19	Clerks Salary	330.17

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

15. To approve the accounts for Jan 2018 and to record the bank balances – approved.

Treasurers Account	£13,627.56
Savings Account	£ 6,316.44

16. Any other business

16.1. Clerk requested clarification of Cllr responsibility for regular external meeting correspondence; Cllrs Gemmell & Hartas to attend New Forest Quadrant meetings, Cllr Aitken-Sykes to attend North West Escarpment meetings. Others to be decided on an ad hoc basis.

16.2. Cllr Luas asked for suggestions for speakers at the Annual Parish Assembly; all ideas to the Clerk ASAP please

16.3. Cllr Gemmell asked for earlier circulation of Parishioner correspondence; Clerk confirmed that it had already been agreed with Personnel committee that in addition to correspondence bundle sent ahead of meeting, Clerk would forward correspondence as received.

16.4. Cllr Templeton asked why Councillors who were CLT directors had been excluded from the meeting with NFDC. Clerk explained that the decision to exclude Cllrs Templeton and Aitken-Sykes from the NFDC meeting was to avoid any potential claims of privileged access to individuals.

17. To note the date of the next meeting is **Tuesday 5th March 2019 at 7.00pm** at **Hale Village Hall**

There being no further business to discuss, the Meeting closed at 9.45pm

Signed: Date: 5 March 2019
Chairman

Clerk: Miss Kathy Cleary, 5 Saddlers Close, Fordingbridge, SP6 1AE
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