HALE PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of Hale Annual Parish Assembly held at 7.30 pm on Tuesday 25 April 2017 in Hale Village Hall, Hatchet Green, Hale

Draft Minutes subject to approval at the 2018 Annual Parish Assembly

Present:
Cllr Lucas – Chairman, Cllrs Aitken-Sykes, Harrington, Hartas, Mangan and Templeton

In attendance:
County/District Councillor Heron
Ms S Plumb – Clerk/Responsible Finance Officer
42 members of the public
5 Speakers – see below

1 To receive apologies for absence – Apologies for absence received from T Vickery, C and R Fairgrieve and E Greenall.

2 To consider and approve the Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly held on 19 April 2016 - The Minutes of the meeting were approved and signed by the Chairman.

3 To receive the Chairman's Annual Report for 2016/17 – thanks to Tim Orchard to his work on the Council. New Councillors this year, Gaby Lucas (Chair) and John Mangan. Thanks to Councillors for their work. Increase in volunteer help. Thanks to S Whitmarsh, S Witt, P Downard, M Noke, Hale & Redlynch Transition Group and the Parish Plan working party. Thanks also to those who help at the Farmers Market, Social and Hall Committees and the School. Ongoing HPC work includes care of the verges, maintenance of the cemetery, trees, the Green – including registration of title to the latter. Thanks to the Clerk. Looking outward thanks to those involved in various external groups in the Forest and other councils. Moving forward: HPC is reviewing the Parish Plan with a working party led by S Hickman; with the help of a car park working party led by P Downard it is hoping to improve the underlying structure of the car park and it is currently supporting Bill Templeton in his consideration of a possible Community Housing Trust. In 17/18 HPC will be looking to improve the village in the way parishioners want. All views and volunteers welcome.

4 To report on finances for 2016/17 (unaudited accounts) – a copy of the unaudited accounts was available. The RFO reported that HPC is in good financial shape, it has continued to maintain the cemetery, the Green and trees. Precept increased slightly by £1.66 per year to £35.01 per Band D household. The budget will be reviewed in the light of the responses to the Parish Plan Questionnaire and the needs of the village. Ways to obtain additional funding will be explored to carry out the projects planned.

5 Representative reports from local organisations:

i. Cllr Lucas – for the Chair of the Parish Plan working party – 6 volunteers have prepared a questionnaire to be completed by all residents of Hale. Approximately 55 – 60 responses to date. Will be following up to get as many responses as possible. Need your ideas. The new Parish Plan will be guided by you. Thanks to working party.

ii. Ben Geary – Vice Chair of Hale Primary School PTA – aim to support the school, work needed to playground, the pond and new laptops are required. Fund raising this weekend running a BBQ at Cuckoo Fair, will also be Summer and Christmas Fairs. Keen to work with other groups and new volunteers.
iii. Jacqui Hartas – Chair of Hale Village Hall Committee – achievements in 16/17 include refurbishment of the toilets, new audio system, set up table tennis and film clubs, secured planning permission for new extension – thanks to P Downard for help. 17/18 looking for funding and to build extension, when space permits a DVD and book club will be introduced, possible insulation of roof and considering change to Charitable Incorporated Organisation. 2 vacancies on the Committee. In a good financial position with adequate reserves for future work. Thanks to residents for supporting the Hall and to all who help.
iv. Stephen Roper – for the Chair of Hale Social Committee – the aim is to promote unity and friendship amongst villagers by encouraging people to attend a diverse range of functions. In 16/17 village party to celebrate the Queen's 90th birthday, coach trip to Brownsea Island, Safari Supper and Burns Night dinner. The sale of tickets for the last 2 events funded the first 2. 17/18 plans include a coach trip to Mottisfont Abbey and a Burns Night supper. Also taking over Hog the Limelight, thanks to those who have organised it in the past. Suggestions for other events welcome.
v. P Downard – Hale & Redlynch Transition Group – the group is the umbrella organisation for the food market. Aim is to become more sustainable and less dependent on fossil fuels. Climate change is still an important issue. Food market been active since 2010. Very successful and thanks to all who help. £2,300 raised by refreshments in last 2 years given to various charities. Profits from the main market are given by way of grants to local bodies. New volunteers welcome. A member of the public proposed a vote of thanks to Paula and Richard Downard for all they do in organising the food market. This was supported by all present.
vi. Jacob White – Community Ranger – National Trust – 16/17 has seen tree felling and thinning. Work stopped while National Grid undertook surveys and dug bore holes. The tree work will continue in September. National Grid has been testing the soil and water levels along the possible route for the electricity cables under Hale Purlieu. Still carrying out wildlife surveys. NT is awaiting the feasibility report from NG before forming a view on the plans. Confirmed the work will go through the normal planning process with all having an opportunity to comment. NT is working with other organisations to carry out bird surveys on the Purlieu, looking at the vegetation too. Local newsletter available to all.
vii. Bill Templeton – Community Housing Trust – concerned that high house prices have forced younger residents of Hale to move elsewhere. Community is aging. This is recognised nationally. New Forest District Council has £1m available to help communities provide affordable homes. Met with NFDC officers to consider various possible sites in Hale for affordable housing. Will donate part of own garden. Keen to set up a Community Housing Trust for Hale. Envisage no more than 2 houses on a plot. Cllr Heron added that the Trust is responsible for the homes and for the basis on which they are run. It is a very flexible way of providing housing. Mr Templeton has a grant from NFDC to cover the fees of looking at the initial stages. Forms available for people to join. Concern expressed by a parishioner that the responses to the Parish Plan questionnaire may result in duplication of possible candidates for the houses. Need to identify

the need for such housing carefully. Only 1 objection received following 50 letters sent out.

viii. John Mangan – Public Governor for New Forest – Salisbury NHS Foundation Trust – consider becoming a local member of Salisbury NHS trust. Local hospital for residents of Hale. Governors have statutory duties in relation to appointment and remuneration of Non Executive Directors, accountability of the Board. Governors represent the interests of the public but need public involvement and feedback to do that. Consider membership to maintain a strong voice for New Forest Communities.

ix. Sharon Barnett – Hale Neighbouhood Watch – was present and submitted a written report summarised by the Chairman. More cuts in Hants policing but PCSO Amy Waddington will still work in Hale. A presentation on scams is taking place on 28 April. The Crime Commissioner's future plans can be found on his website. Tim Orchard is Hale Community First Responder. Request for volunteers for a group to support the elderly.

x. National Grid – submitted a written update on the Visual Impact Project on Hale Purlieu. Jake White had summarised current position.

6 To take public comments and questions – no comments or questions were raised.

There being no further business to discuss the Meeting closed 8.40pm

After the meeting the Chairman welcomed the Guest Speaker, Peter Roberts – Local Historian and Author. "Saving the New Forest 1867 – 2017. Why we have 65,000 acres rather than 100".

This was followed by a short presentation of thanks given by Cllr Heron and Georgina Babey to Tim Orchard for his service on the Parish Council.

The Chairman thanked the speakers and everyone for attending.

Signed: Date:
Chairman

Clerk: Sue Plumb, 5 Blue Valley Mews, Fordingbridge, Hants, SP6 1FB
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