HALE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Hale Parish Council Meeting held at 7.30 pm on Tuesday 2 October 2018 in Hale Village Hall, Hale

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

In attendance:
Miss K Cleary – Clerk
Mr S Whitmarsh – Tree Warden
County Cllr Edward Heron
Mr Steven Avery - NFNPA

20 members of the public

1. **To receive apologies for absence –** received from Cllr Lucas

2. **To receive any Declarations of Interest –** None.

3. **To consider and approve the Minutes of the meeting held on 1 Aug 2018 and 4 Sept 18 –** The Clerk confirmed that she had received written confirmation from Cllr Harrington prior to his resignation from the council that he was satisfied with the revised August minutes circulated. Minutes were approved unanimously and signed by the Chairman.

4. **Matters arising from the minutes**
   The Clerk noted that following a meeting between Cllr Templeton and a Parishioner a request had been made to the Council and accepted that declarations in relation to Affordable Housing/ Housing Consultative Group be read in full at the beginning of the meeting rather than referred to as 'the 3 April 2018 declaration'. This was not relevant for the current meeting as HCG was not to be discussed but would be adopted in future

   The Clerk noted that the tree work at Mays Cottage had been referred to NFDC who advised that the work did not require permission.

5. **To receive any matters (not otherwise on the agenda) raised by members of the public –** None

6. **Members of the public wishing to address the council on agenda matters**
   Four members of the public wished to address the council in relation to item 7 on the agenda – National Grid Visual Impact Project.

7. **To review information received and determine next steps in relation to the National Grid Visual Impact Project including correspondence received from members of the public**
   7.1. A Parishioner expressed concern that the system adopted by the Clerk, where feedback and questions received were collected and sent in one go meant that there may be delay of up to two months before responses were received and distributed and requested if consideration could be given to a more timely approach. The Parishioner also asked for clarification on the date of the next Stakeholder Reference Group meeting and noted that National Grid were slow to provide responses to enquiries.

   The clerk confirmed that sending feedback across in 'batches' had been identified as the best way of minimising the drain of Council time and resources on this particular issue. As the volume of correspondence received since August had reduced, she would look to send feedback to National Grid fortnightly, or even weekly. Any information

received back from National Grid would be forwarded immediately to correspondents without waiting for the next Parish Council meeting.

The clerk confirmed that no responses had yet been received to the comments first batch of comments sent to National Grid on 7 September. Similarly, no date had been received for the Stakeholder Reference Group meeting. Clerk to continue to chase.

7.2. A Parishioner requested that Cllr Hartas give a short update to the meeting on the progress made to express concerns raised by commoners.

Cllr Hartas confirmed that she had arranged a meeting which had been attended by local commoners and horse riders. Following this meeting, specific concerns raised had been collated into a letter and sent to National Grid for comment on 7th September. No response had been received at the date of the meeting, any information received would be circulated immediately to meeting attendees for consideration.

7.3. A Parishioner raised concerns about comments allegedly made by Cllr Hartas at the New Forest Consultative Panel meeting in September. The Parishioner felt that, if correct, would undermine the previously stated neutral position of the Parish Council on the VIP issue.

Cllr Lucas was not at the Parish Council meeting and therefore unable to respond. Clerk to seek clarification from Cllr Lucas on her return from holiday.

7.4. A Parishioner referred to a letter sent by Bruton Knowles (National Grid land agents) to a number of residents offering them individual 'one-on-one' meetings dated 26 Sept. The letter stated that the Parish Council had offered to attend the meetings as 'independent third parties'. The parishioner felt that any Parish Council attendee should not be 'independent' but should be supporting residents. A Parishioner identified that the letter did not seem to address potential safeguarding issues about meetings held in residents' homes.

All Councillors present and the Clerk confirmed that they had not had sight of this letter before it was sent to residents. Parish Councillors had offered to attend meetings with residents with the intention of being a useful support to the residents, but the wording in the letter sent appeared to misrepresent those intentions.

Other concerns raised by Councillors included (1) whether meetings would be audio recorded or written summaries sent as a follow up (2) that residents could request the meeting to be held elsewhere e.g small meeting room at the Village Hall (3) residents could invite any attendee of their choice, including professional advisers. (4) the scope of the meeting was not clear from the letter.

Clerk to seek urgent clarification from National Grid and to raise potential safeguarding issues which National Grid should be aware of. County Cllr Heron also confirmed that he would write separately to National Grid about the terms used within the letter.

Steven Avery, Head of Planning at New Forest National Park Authority took questions from parishioners and Councillors on the planning process that would apply in the event that National Grid submitted a planning application. *Draft* points of note:- *(these have been sent to Mr Avery for confirmation)*:-

- IROPI is an exceptional measure used when there are overriding public interests. It can be used where there are environmental impacts on a project that cannot be mitigated or overcome. Only case law guides when it can be used. Dibden Bay was one example.

- The Secretary of State may in exceptional circumstances 'call in' an application; ie the decision may be made by the Secretary of State rather than the local authority. The Secretary of State would also be involved if planning was initially refused and National Grid lodged an appeal.

- Whilst the list of people to be notified has not yet been finalised, other Parish Councils e.g Downton, Godshill etc will be formally notified of any application as they would be impacted to some degree by traffic etc. every consulted party's opinion carries weight. The views of Hale Parish Council will be extremely important.

- The statutory planning timetable for a project of this scale is 16 weeks. The time that NFNPA will give for consultation is no less than 30 days from the date of the application (law) but in practice will probably be longer; probably 6-8 weeks as the formal consideration process will take the full 16 weeks as input will be required from experts such as Natural England, the Environment Agency and Highways.

- Anyone can make comment and representation on a planning application through the planning process and anyone can hire consultants to act on their behalf.

- It is highly unlikely that the Environmental Impact Assessment would be issued in advance of the main planning application.

- NFNPA will support the Parish Council to review and interpret the information in any application, primarily by means of briefing note as is done on all applications received.

- Paul Walker and Sarah Kelly represent NFNPA on the Stakeholder Reference Group.

The meeting was briefly adjourned to allow County Councillor Heron, Steven Avery and the majority of members of the public to leave the meeting

8. To consider the following tree works application

Case Ref: CONS/18/0912
Proposed Works: Fell 1 x Oak tree, Fell 1 x Lawsons Fir tree, Prune 1 x Mulberry tree
Site Address: Hatchet Copse Farm, Hatchet Green, Hale, Fordingbridge, SP6 2NB

Steve Whitmarsh, Tree Warden reported that he had visited the site and was satisfied that the work was proportionate and required. No objection to be raised

9. To consider Hale Cemetery memorial requests received

- **The late Eileen and Francis Harding**
- **The late Jan Wielusinski**

Details of both requests received were reviewed. It was proposed by Cllr Templeton and seconded by Cllr Aitken-Sykes and therefore **RESOLVED**: that both memorial requests be approved. All agreed

10. To receive the Clerk's report

10.1. The Chairman has asked to move the December PC meeting to Tues 4th December. Clerk has spoken to Chair of Hale & Woodgreen Horticultural Society about a date swap they will discuss the matter formally at the next meeting (tonight).

10.2. Cllr Harrington resigned in writing with immediate effect on 16th September 2011. The Clerk advised that both she and the Chairman have already sent written thanks to Mr Harrington for his service to the Parish and commitment to the role. Cllr Aitken-Sykes, as

chair, echoed these thanks on behalf of Hale Parish to Cllr Harrington for his energy and time over the previous five years.

NFDC who oversee the process were notified and details of the vacancy. NFDC advise that Parishioners have triggered a full by-election. The use of postal Poll Cards is an optional choice for the council. NFDC have advised that costs will be between £1500 and £2000. It was proposed by Cllr Hartas and seconded by Cllr Aitken-Sykes and therefore **RESOLVED**: that physical poll cards be used. All agreed. Clerk to notify NFDC

10.3. National Trust held a 'walk & talk' on Hale Purlieu which was attended by 12 people and went well. The Clerk has chased NT for their statement on policy for the Purlieu and also for dates for a meeting to follow up April presentation. No response received at date of meeting.

10.4. The clerk met with Susan Witt to discuss cemetery plans. Clerk to arrange contractor quotes for 2019 to include path spraying as this was not included in this year's contract. Need to consider new edging to paths. Susan Witt to contact planting volunteers to try and finish middle bed replanting by mid-November; Council to consider whether further help (volunteer or otherwise is needed). Cllr Templeton has offered to laminate cemetery regulations to obviate need for new notice board.

11. To consider the schedule of Parish Council Meetings for 2019

The list of potential meeting dates was agreed as circulated. Purdah brings publicity restrictions but does not affect 'normal' course of Parish business – all meetings can go ahead. Clerk to schedule Annual Parish Assembly in April as an additional meeting to those listed.

12. Correspondence

12.1. The Council has received a request under the freedom of information act from a Parishioner in relation to the Visual Impact Project. Clerk was still awaiting formal advice but it appeared that the request was too broad to be dealt with within the legislative cost constraints and therefore the Council would have no option but to refuse the request as currently drafted.

12.2. The donation given by the council to Hale Neighbourhood Watch in 2013 has been fully used. Council to consider a new donation in full financial review at November meeting, once unexpected by-election costs and costs of meeting the Freedom of Information request were known.

Correspondence ref VIP project and Cllr Harrington resignation had already been discussed.

13. To consider tasks for the lengthsman's upcoming visit (15th Oct 2018).

Cllrs to consider potential lengthsman tasks and forward to Clerk for submission.

14. To consider any matter referred by the Planning Committee - none

15. To consider and approve the following payments:

02.10.18	Cutting Edge (cemetery maintenance Sept 18)	£ 390.00
02.10.18	HMRC (PAYE due on Clerks salary)	£ 330.00
02.10.18	Lengthsman July 18 Materials	£ 20.82
02.10.18	Clerk SiLCA course fee	£ 99.00
24.10.18	Clerks Salary	£ 330.17

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

16. To approve the accounts for Sept 2018 and to record the bank balances – approved. Full financial review to be included on November agenda.

17. Any other business

17.1. Cllr Hartas confirmed that any Car Park work agreed for 2019 would only be eligible to apply for lottery funding if total project costs were less than £10,000. Cllr Aitken-Sykes to discuss with Earlcote as potential Contractor partners and report to November meeting.

17.2. Cllr Templeton noted that the fence at Oakfield Farm was in a dangerous state adjoining the lane. Clerk to make contact with Mr Sykes to see if repairs are planned.

18. To note the date of the next meeting is **Tuesday 6th November 2018 at 7.30pm** at **Hale Village Hall**

There being no further business to discuss, the Meeting closed at 10.02pm

Signed: Date: 6 November 2018

Chairman

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