HALE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Hale Parish Council Annual Meeting held at 7.30 pm on Tuesday 3 July 2018 in Hale Village Hall, Hatchet Green, Hale

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

In attendance:
Miss K Cleary – Clerk
Mr S Whitmarsh – Tree Warden
36 members of the public
1 member of the press

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

2. **To receive any Declarations of Interest –** all Councillors confirmed the 3 April 2018 declaration in relation to item 5 on the agenda – Housing Consultative Group.

3. **To consider and approve the Minutes of the meeting held on 5 June 2018 -** The minutes having been previously published were approved by all and signed by the Chairman.

4. **To receive any matters (not otherwise on the agenda) raised by members of the public**
   4.1. A parishioner requested that the Parish Council support the attempts to get the water leak on Hale Purlieu sorted out as this had been going on for some months. Cllr Templeton confirmed that he had spoken to Mrs Simone Merrick who had received a call from the Water company who had accepted that the water actually was their leak and they had undertaken to deal with it. Clerk to follow up with letter to water company to encourage repairs.

5. **To receive feedback from the Housing Consultative Group meeting including approving draft terms of reference and determining next steps.**
   Cllr Lucas reported that three councillors had attended a recent meeting of the Housing Consultative Group. Guidance had been received from New Forest District Council that given the sensitive nature of the data involved, further detailed questioning to establish 'need' would not be permissible. On reassessing the HARAH survey, the Parish Council accepted that the survey demonstrates a need for affordable housing in the village. The terms of reference of the HCG would be redrafted.

   A parishioner member of the HCG noted that volunteer members of the HCG had already undertaken significant work on the original terms of reference. Cllr Lucas responded that the Parish Council was appreciative of the work done and deeply regretted the slightly 'false start' that had occurred.

   A parishioner asked Cllr Templeton to respond on behalf of the CLT to the six-month timetable proposed by the HCG at the last PC meeting. Cllr Templeton confirmed that the timetable had been discussed and that the CLT wanted to press ahead with the project.

   A parishioner questioned whether the CLT vehicle was appropriate given that meetings were not open to non-members of the CLT and the minutes were not circulated. Another parishioner questioned whether democracy was being eroded by two Parish Councillors of six to be directors of the CLT.

   County Councillor Heron reported that CLTs were the current government-preferred vehicle to provide new affordable housing. There are good examples of successful

affordable housing schemes in Martin and Breamore. If there was support in Hale for affordable housing and suitable sites found then County Councillor Heron was confident that concerns about preserving the housing as affordable could be overcome either by s.106 protection or by covenants imposed in Land Acquisition Agreements.

Cllr Lucas restated that the Parish Council would only support a planning application that guaranteed the status as affordable housing in perpetuity. The Parish Council were comfortable that the discussions being had by the CLT were open and that no party was being deliberately obtuse or obstructive.

Cllr Templeton, as a member of the CLT, confirmed that the CLT had been formed as a Community Benefit Society. The CLT was not for any personal gain but merely trying to get something off the ground to meet what they perceived as a real need. House prices had gone up such that he had observed youngsters moving out of the village because they couldn't afford to stay. Membership of the CLT was not restricted. Consideration would also be given to publishing minutes as another way of keeping those who do not wish to join the CLT informed.

County Cllr Heron offered to arrange further information sessions on the structure and operation of CLTs. There was muted appetite for this from parishioners.

6. To receive an update on the Visual Impact Project on Hale Purlieu and to determine the next steps

Cllr Lucas reported that five members of the Parish Council and the Clerk attended a meeting on 19th June with National Grid and senior representatives from other members of the Stakeholder Advisory Group. At HPC's request, a representative from the Protect Hale Purlieu Movement ("PHPM") was also invited to attend. HPC's notes from that meeting have been posted on the HPC website. Any parishioner can submit questions to the Parish Clerk, who will direct the enquiries to the appropriate party to respond.

HPC's position is unchanged; HPC is focussed on finding and distributing as many definitive facts as possible to inform Parishioners. HPC does not support or oppose this project and will not take a position until any full planning application is submitted. If a planning application is received, it would be available for public review in full on the NFNPA website and HPC has been advised that there would be a 20-week period to collect feedback and for HPC to formulate its response. At this point, Parish Council would seek to confirm the opinion of village and is confident that 20 weeks would be sufficient time to do so.

Cllr Lucas noted with regret that she had received a number of verbal complaints over the past month from parishioners who had been approached by PHPM and felt that they were being pushed into signing the petition. A written complaint from a Parishioner had been received. A letter had also been received from a Parishioner expressing concern that HPC represent views of all residents, not just PHPM.

Josh Lavis replied on behalf of PHPM that PHPM members going door to door in the village have received an incredibly good response. At no time has anyone expressed concern to PHPM members that they have felt pushed into supporting PHPM. PHPM were committed to conducting their campaign properly and professionally.

PHPM currently has support of over 40% of the local voting population and PHPM believes that they will shortly achieve more than 50% support. Mr Lavis asked whether the position of HPC would change once it was clear that >50% of people supported PHPM.

Cllr Hartas commented that when she speaks to parishioners about this issue – she plays 'devil's advocate'. She feels that those she has spoken to have made up their minds based on with which bias the facts are presented to them.

Cllr Lucas re-confirmed that the HPC would not support or oppose any proposal until a full planning application was received. County Cllr Heron also confirmed that he would not either support or oppose the proposal ahead of a formal planning application.

A parishioner member of PHPM wished it to be formally recorded that in his own door-to-door campaigning along Forest Rd, he experienced a sign-up rate to PHPM in excess of 90%. There was a heated exchange between Cllr Harrington and a parishioner member of PHPM about whether PHPM members had been pressurising people to sign the petition.

A parishioner member of the Council for the Protection of Rural England commented that she had reviewed the glossy brochure produced by PHPM and in her opinion it contained speculative and one-sided information. In particular the assertion that National Grid was attempting to conceal the decision to change the proposed route was not true; meeting minutes evidence that consultation was discussed in Feb 2018. She noted that in some aspects of the project, Bramshaw and Godshill would be more impacted than Hale.

Josh Lavis on behalf of the PHPM replied that the document they had produced was 6-8 weeks old and based on information available to PHPM at the time. He acknowledged that some of this information was now out of date.

A parishioner asked the Parish Councillors if they had walked the proposed route. All councillors confirmed to the meeting that they had done so on more than one occasion.

A parishioner commented that the meeting notes showed that trees along Lady's Mile would be felled. Cllr Hartas responded that the actual response from the meeting had been that all efforts would be made not to fell trees.

A parishioner asked which end of Lady's mile was being discussed in relation to the potential removal of trees. Parish Clerk to check and revert.

A letter had been received from a parishioner who opposed the project on the grounds that A number of other previously recorded concerns were raised again by parishioners including life expectancy of cables, the capital cost of the project and compatibility with SSSI and other protections on the sites.

The majority of members of the public left the meeting. It was agreed to consider agenda item 11 next.

7. To consider the renewal of the Local Council insurance received from Came & Company

Clerk reported that renewal documentation had been received ahead of renewal date of 31st July. Premium for the year to July 19 £375.03. The insurance was the subject of a contractual long-term agreement, expiring July 2019. Sums insured had been increased by 4% to reflect inflation. It was possible to renew without the increase in sums insured at a cost of £360. The street furniture list may be out of date given replacement of HPC owned seat on Hale Purlieu by National Trust. Clerk to review and advise brokers of any changes. Cllr Aitken-Sykes proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Lucas and therefore **RESOLVED**: that the insurance be renewed in line with long term agreement, at increased sums insured. All agreed.

8. To review the use of Hatchet Green by Hale Primary School for the Federation sports day on 29 June and the annual school fete on 1 July

Cllr Lucas reported that, as a SSSI, Hatchett Green was the subject of a site management statement coordinated through Natural England. The primary school has long standing permission from Natural England to allow cars onto the green for unloading only as part of the school fete. This year a request was received from the

School for permission to hold a joint sports day on the Green. This request was submitted to Natural England who asked a number of questions but authorised the event.

The Clerk reported that she had received a request from a parishioner to erect a bouncy castle on Hatchett Green opposite the hall as part of a private children's birthday party on 4th August. It was agreed that this use would not be consistent with the Site Management statement and permission would not be given.

9. **To consider a request from the Village Hall committee to place a skip in the Village Hall car park during August -** Cllr Hartas noted that the pre-school had to clear their things out of the Hall by Aug 3rd and there may be a need for a skip in the car park for a couple of days. It was noted that the school holidays would have started and so the pressure on the car park was reduced. Cllr Aitken-Sykes proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Harrington and therefore **RESOLVED**: that the pre-school be permitted to place a skip on the car park for a few days to facilitate clearance of pre-school contents. All agreed.

10. **To consider tasks for Lengthsman visit on 23 July -** A list of lengthsman tasks needs to be submitted in advance of the scheduled visit on 23rd July. Cllr Hartas to review the condition of the seats and let the Clerk know which might need attention.

11. **To receive an update on the Hatchet Green Regeneration project and determine the next steps for the permanent car park repairs -** Paula Downard reported that HCC had installed a new kerb which looked good but that urgent consideration needed to be given to any additional works before the site encountered considerable rainfall. James Stewart, a parishioner with an excavator has offered to install some additional drainage at a reasonable cost. It was agreed that any work needed to be carried out as soon as possible, to take advantage of the good weather and the school holidays. Options discussed included
    - Installing a French drain along the line of the kerb which would feed into the existing side drain channels. Limited investigation suggested that the side drain on the left hand side may be too shallow to allow this and no pipe could be found on the right hand side. It was noted that both side 'drains' appeared to be working well in practice. Cllr Aitken-Sykes to review documentation from previous works and report.
    - Installing a new central drain

    Paula Downard to approach James for a quote to install a new central drain. No response had been received from the funding request made to County Cllr Heron. Clerk to chase. Cllr Hartas noted that £2,400 had already been pledged by other bodies.
    Cllr Hartas proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Templeton and therefore **RESOLVED**: that Paula Downard be authorised to commit the Parish Council to works costing up to £2,400 to allow James Stewart to book out his time in August. All agreed.
    It was agreed that an additional HPC meeting in/ around beginning of August would be required to formally approve a work plan. Clerk to circulate potential dates.

12. **To receive the Clerk's report -** The Clerk reported that she had not yet received a response from County Cllr Heron to the funding request for the car park works. She will approach again.

13. **Correspondence -**
    - 16.05.18 – New Forest District Council – new SLA for tree services –minor changes only for GDPR reasons, revised SLA to be signed and returned.
    - 25.06.18 – a parishioner – re Visual Impact Project – see Item 6
    - 27.06.18 – a parishioner – re Protect Hale Purlieu Movement – see Item 6.
    - 27.06.18 – a parishioner – re Visual Impact Project – see Item 6.

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

15. To consider and approve the following payments:

03.07.18	Cutting Edge (cemetery maintenance June 18)	£ 170.00
03.07.18	Bournemouth Water (Cemetery Water Bill)	£ 13.52
24.07.18	Clerk Salary	£ 330.17

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

16. To approve the accounts for June 2018 and to record the bank balances - approved

17. To consider whether in light of activity on the Visual Impact Project and Housing Consultative Group, there should be a Parish Council meeting in August – already discussed at 11.0 above; Clerk to circulate potential dates to councillors.

18. Any other business

18.1. Cllr Hartas reported that a meeting of the Village Hall Committee had considered the issue of charging village groups for the use of the hall. It may be preferable for HCG to book hall through HPC. Cllr Lucas to discuss with HCG

18.2. Cllr Hartas reported that the Social Committee had agreed to donate £100 towards plants for the cemetery. The Council expressed thanks to those concerned.

18.3. Cllr Hartas concerned that the National Grid minutes of the stakeholder meeting were unclear on elements of commoner compensation and in some aspects differed from HPC notes. Cllr Hartas to draft a follow up letter to be sent to the Verderers for clarification.

18.4. Clerk reported that after NFDC has published the New Forest District Local Plan 2016-2036 Part 1 Planning Strategy for formal consultation. The consultation period expires midnight Sunday 12th August 2018. Clerk to send details in an Information Update and post details on HPC website.

18.5. Clerk reported that National Grid had advised of a Community Liasion Group meeting to be held on 9th July. Cllr Templeton to attend on behalf of HPC.

18.6. Cllr Lucas recorded thanks to Woodgreen Horticultural Society for their £100 donation towards plants for the cemetery.

19. To note the date of the next meeting is **Wed 1st August 2018 at 7.45pm** at **Woodgreen Village Hall**

20. Closed session – Cllr Hartas proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Templeton and therefore **RESOLVED**: that under the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960, the public and representatives of the press and broadcast media be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of these items as publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest due to the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.
To consider payments to volunteers – consideration not necessary given the car park proposal received from James Stewart.
To consider payments to the Clerk – Cllr Aitken-Sykes proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Harrington and therefore **RESOLVED:** that a final payment of £587.74 be made to Sue Plumb, outgoing clerk to recompense her for extra hours worked Oct – June and handover to new clerk.

There being no further business to discuss, the Meeting closed at 9.55pm

Signed: Date: 1 August 2018

Chairman

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