HALE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Hale Parish Council Meeting held at 7.30 pm on Tuesday 4 July 2017 in Hale Village Hall, Hatchet Green, Hale

Present:
Cllr Mangan – Chairman, Cllrs Hartas, Harrington, and Templeton

In attendance:
Ms S Plumb – Clerk
County/District Cllr Heron
Mr S Whitmarsh – Tree Warden
Mr J White – National Trust

1 **To receive apologies for absence –** from Cllrs Lucas and Aitken-Sykes. In the absence of both Cllr Hartas proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Harrington and therefore **RESOLVED:** that Cllr Mangan be Chairman for this meeting.

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

3 **To consider and approve the Minutes of the meeting held on 6 June 2017 -** The Minutes of the meeting were read, approved by all and signed by the Chairman.

4 **To receive any matters raised by members of the public –** Jacob White, Community Ranger, National Trust. The tree felling programme for Hale Purlieu (delayed last winter because of testing carried out by National Grid), will re-start from 1 September 2017. The National Trust will be thinning turkey oak, pine and birch, in areas where the open habitat is threatened, as identified on two maps. Open habitat is in decline and the Trust has a duty to retain and protect it. Broadleaf and landscape trees will be retained. Trees to be felled will be marked. The timber will be stacked away from Hale Purlieu. Any damage done to local tracks will be repaired. The Trust will write to those living in Mays Firs in relation to work in that area. Mr White is happy to answer any questions the public may have.

Mr White is awaiting a formal reply to the request by Beetles Class, Hale Primary School, to name the stream on Hale Purlieu "Beetles Bottom", but hopes to do something informally. He is happy to visit the school to meet the children prior to the end of term. HPC would be delighted if the stream could be named after the class.

Mr J White left the meeting – 7.40pm

Cllr Templeton reported a parishioner has spoken to him regarding the pond next to Blackbrook Cottage, concerned that foals are distressed and stuck in the mud. Pending the outcome of the Land Registry application it is not clear if HPC owns the pond, at most it will only own half, the remainder being in the ownership of Blackbrook Cottage. Many years ago some parishioners lined the bottom of the pond with concrete which means it no longer drains and dries in the summer.

After discussion it was decided HPC will seek advice as to how best to deal with the pond. Cllr Aitken-Sykes and the Clerk are shortly due to meet Mr B Dowsett (Verderer) and Mr S Marsh (Forestry Commission) about the verges and will ask them. Following his arrival (see below) Cllr Heron advised speaking to the NFNPA also. HPC will also speak to the owner of Blackrock Cottage.

5 To receive a report from the Tree Warden – Mr Whitmarsh reported:

- the two tree applications in Queen Street have been approved
- a parishioner reported a low hanging branch at the entrance to the cemetery. Mr Whitmarsh attended and removed it.
- The school reported some dangerous trees near to White Rock. Mr Whitmarsh attended and confirmed that due to children playing on them after school the dead holly trees had become unsafe. The Lengthsman was contacted and cut them to stumps. Dead trees add to the environment thus it was unfortunate this had to be done. HPC thanked Mr Whitmarsh and the Lengthsman for their prompt action.

Mr Whitmarsh left the meeting 7.58pm

6 To consider long term repairs to the car park and approve a temporary solution – Long term repairs - prior to the meeting Mrs P Downard confirmed she is still pressing for estimates for the works planned. Earlcote Ltd has provided a method statement identifying the type of work that could be carried out which is in accordance with that already discussed, ie a cellular plastic system filled with gravel. Mrs Downard is seeking approval from Natural England. It is hoped the work can be carried out May 2018 half term or summer 2018.
Temporary repairs - Cllr Aitken-Sykes obtained a second quote for the temporary repair. The quotes are:

- G Farwell Ltd – to fill with new gravel and level £1,577.00
- Leary Constructions Ltd – to fill with new gravel and level - £1,665
- Leary Constructions Ltd – to use existing materials and level - £865.

All figures are plus VAT. The temporary repair is to ensure the car park is suitable for use over winter 17/18. Members are concerned at the high level of expenditure required for a short term solution. After careful consideration Cllr Templeton proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Mangan and therefore **RESOLVED:** that Members, (hopefully with assistance from other volunteers), will backfill the potholes with existing material. A compactor will be hired. All agreed.

7 To receive an update on the Parish Plan Questionnaire – Prior to the meeting Cllr Lucas reported approximately 91 completed Questionnaires have been received from 87 households out of 199. While the replies are collated the working party is happy to receive further completed questionnaires, particularly from those living at the outlying parts of the village, which are currently under represented. The results are likely to be available in September/October and will be emailed to those who requested it. There will also be public displays at the monthly Food Market and before a Parish Council meeting.

8 To receive an update on the application to the Land Registry to register title to the Village Green and surrounding land – the Assistant Land Registrar has

been unable to complete his consideration of the application in the timescale anticipated and had hoped to reply substantively by the end of June.

9 **To consider and approve the insurance renewal at £360.61 –** Came & Co has dealt with the 2 queries raised. Cllr Hartas proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Harrington and therefore **RESOLVED:** that the insurance renewal be approved at the premium proposed. All agreed.

10 **To review verge management within the Parish –** prior to the meeting Cllr Lucas provided a scheme to deal with the verge management. In summary the current position is:
Cllr Aitken-Sykes and the Clerk are to meet with Mr B Dowsett and Mr S Marsh in July to review what can be done to improve the verges generally.
Cllr Lucas is to meet with Mrs Clarke (Headteacher, Hale Primary School) in September to review parking arrangements and try to discourage parents from parking on the verges.

11 **To consider ways to encourage dog owners/walkers to clean up after their dogs –** the Clerk has produced further signage to be added to the dragons teeth and bin around the Green. Cllr Hartas will arrange for the signs to be put up.

12 **To consider a response to the New Forest National Park Authority Recreation Management Strategy Consultation –** Members had received and considered a document prepared by Peter Totty. A response to the consultation was prepared and submitted online during the meeting.

County/District Cllr Heron arrived – 8.30pm

13 **To consider the proposal that Hale Village Hall convert from a Charitable Trust to a Charitable Incorporated Organisation –** Cllr Hartas advised that the Charity Commission confirmed the Hall may convert without the need for village approval. The advantages are greater access to funding, better liability arrangements and the Trust, while very good at the time, is now outdated. Cllr Harrington proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Templeton and therefore **RESOLVED:** that HPC has no objection to the change in status. All agreed.

14 **To consider and approve the following risk assessments:**
- The cemetery
- Hatchet Green and surrounding area
- Other street furniture
- Financial

The drafts were considered and minor amendments made. Cllr Mangan proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Harrington and therefore **RESOLVED:** that the risk assessments be approved subject to the agreed amendments. All agreed.

15 **To receive the Clerk's report –**
Cemetery - Cutting Edge has carried out 2 cuts of the cemetery grass. The central flower bed has not been weeded. The job has been added to the Lengthsman's worksheet.
CiLCA -The Clerk has passed Unit 5. There is the Finance Unit (Unit 3) to complete. Work has started on this.
External audit - The papers are with BDO for the external audit.

Residents of Hale Purlieu - Following the June Parish Council meeting the residents of Hale Purlieu contacted Cllr Heron and are arranging a meeting with him and a representative of the police. Cllr Heron confirmed the meeting is likely to go ahead on 12 July.

16 Correspondence

- 11 June 2017 – Beetles Class, Hale Primary School – "Beetles Bottom" stream – see 4 above
- 17 June 2017 – Peter Totty – re Recreation Management Strategy Consultation – see 12 above
- 21 June 2017 – a parishioner – parking on the verges near the school – see 10 above
- 27 June 2017 – NFNPA – re Design Plan consultation – discussed with Cllr Heron, this is an Environmental Impact Assessment. HPC does not have the expertise to submit a meaningful reply.

17 To consider any matter referred by the Planning Committee – none

18 To receive a report from Councillors on meetings attended –
Cllr Aitken-Sykes – Western Escarpment Conservation Area meeting – no report

19 To consider and approve the following payments:

04.07.17	Cutting Edge	£160.00
04.07.17	HMRC (PAYE)	£ 1.60
04.07.17	J Butt & Co (internal audit fee)	£332.00
04.07.17	Fordingbridge Town Council (copying/printing)	£ 12.31
04.07.17	S Plumb (back pay, change of tax code)	£ 43.40
24.07.17	Clerk Salary	£394.60
02.08.17	Cutting Edge	£160.00
02.08.17	Bournemouth Water Ltd	£ 11.50
24.08.17	Clerk Salary	£394.60

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

20 To approve the accounts for June 2017 and record the bank balances – approved.

21 Any other business – Cllr Heron advised Members of a Hants County Council consultation on balancing the budget and looking to identify priority areas for spending given there is to be a further £140m in savings to be found. Members will respond to this individually as the closure date is 21 August.

22 To note the date of the next meeting is 5 September 2017 at 7.30pm at Hale Village Hall

There being no further business to discuss the Meeting closed at 9.10pm

Signed: Date: 5 September 2017
Chairman

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