HALE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Hale Parish Council Meeting held at 7.30 pm on Tuesday 4 September 2018 in Hale Village Hall, Hale

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

In attendance:
Miss K Cleary – Clerk
Mr S Whitmarsh – Tree Warden
25 members of the public

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

2. **To receive any Declarations of Interest –** all Councillors confirmed the 3 April 2018 declaration in relation to item 6 on the agenda – Housing Consultative Group. As members of the Village Hall Committee, Cllrs Hartas and Mangan also declared an interest in item 10 on the agenda (village hall extension)

3. **To consider and approve the Minutes of the meeting held on 5 June 2018 –** Cllr Harrington and a member of the public noted that the draft minutes published did not contain details of Cllr Aitken-Sykes's discussion with a Parishioner on the CLT. The Clerk clarified that minutes of the Parish Council meetings were her responsibility and are required to be a succinct record of decisions taken, rather than a verbatim account of the meeting. As the discussion was not pertinent to any decision taken it was not recorded in the minutes. Clerk agreed to amend the minutes to record those statements made by Robert Aiken-Sykes in his capacity as a director of the CLT and in response to a specific question of clarification raised by Cllr Harrington.
   Matters arising from the minutes
   3.1. The Clerk confirmed that she had located the legal documents relating to the transfer of Hale Purlieu to National Trust in 1947. These had been forwarded to the Parishioner that requested them and also to the Protect Hale Purlieu Movement. The clerk held a copy if any other Parishioner wanted to view.

4. **To receive any matters (not otherwise on the agenda) raised by members of the public –** Four members of the public wished to raise matters. The Chairman agreed these items could be considered at the following points in the meeting:
   4.1. A parishioner wished to discuss the integrity of the Parish Council (To be considered as Item 6)
   4.2. A parishioner wanted to discuss membership requirements of Hale CLT (To be considered as part of Item 6)
   4.3. A member of the public wished to discuss public cycling events (To be considered as Item 8)
   4.4. The Tree Warden wished to report a tree issue (To be considered as Item 10)

5. **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.

6. **To consider item not on the agenda - Parishioner concerns regarding the integrity of the Parish Council/ membership of CLT**
   A Parishioner expressed concern that two Councillors were also directors of the Hale CLT and questioned whether this situation gave the individuals an unfair advantage in putting forward Affordable Housing proposals. He had expressed his concerns in writing to the Parish Council and a meeting was being arranged to discuss further with the Clerk and the Chair.

Cllr Lucas restated that the situation had been specifically considered by NFDC monitoring committed earlier in the year, and that the monitoring committee had advised that there was no conflict as long as any director of the CLT did not participate in Councillor discussion on the topic nor take any part in any Council vote.

A second parishioner asked a CLT director to clarify the membership requirements of the CLT. A director of Hale CLT clarified that the membership requirements were based on National CLT guidance. It was agreed that this was not Parish Council business and there would be a direct meeting of CLT directors with concerned parishioners to discuss CLT membership requirements further.

7. To receive feedback from the Housing Consultative Group and to determine next steps for Affordable Housing project.

7.1. Dr Iain Gemell reported that the HCG Group met on 28th August. There were 9 attendees, Cllr Lucas attended on behalf of the Parish Council. The main focus of the meeting was the village survey, in particular the format, the timing of any survey and the means of obtaining feedback (i.e door to door or postal). An updated survey document was being produced for the next meeting on 25th September.

7.2. Cllr Mangan noted that he observed real progress had been made. The issues of intrusiveness and confidentiality appeared less pressing than before. One consideration for HCG might be to go door-to-door but giving the option to leave the survey for the participants to complete themselves if they preferred.

7.3. Cllr Lucas suggested that an explanatory letter might be included with the survey to try and combat 'survey fatigue'. She noted that the Parish Council website could be better and include more detailed documentation. Clerk to follow up.

8. To consider item not on the agenda - Public Cycling events

A member of Godshill Parish Council expressed concern at the impact that recent public cycling events had had on the local area and requested that local Parish Councils join forces to try and force better consideration of local impact and better communication from event organisers.

It was agreed that this was a good idea and Clerk/ Chair should contact local Parish Councils through the North West Quadrant group to consider what practical steps could be taken.

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

9.1. Two parishioners spoke to voice their continued opposition to the project on grounds already minuted and to raise specific questions/ issues for the Parish Council to raise with other stakeholders:

a. Risk of soil pH contamination from acidic sand cement used: levels of comfort around proposed protections, full details of proposed mitigation methods and long term monitoring
b. Effect of underground heat from cables; had all stakeholders seen and considered the Scottish report submitted by Protect Hale Purlieu Movement to Sarah Kelly at NFNPA
c. What grounds were being considered to justify exemption
d. What level of consideration had been given to the impact of the latest route on Hale Parish residents
e. To release results of all hydrology reports completed on the project to date
f. To release results of all tree survey work completed on the project to date
g. To supply examples of Alaska restoration in wet heathland environments
h. To provide full details of proposed closures of Lady's Mile

9.2. A parishioner requested that details of correspondence received be circulated as they had at the last meeting. Clerk confirmed that since the last Parish Council meeting, 15 letters of objection and 2 letters of support had been received. All councillors had received an updated pack of all letters received for consideration. Letters of objection had also been anonymised, categorised and sent to National Grid for comment. This anonymised version of the letters received would, subject to GDPR clearance, be published on HPC website.

9.3. A parishioner urged the council not to let proper consideration of technical details get lost amongst politics and momentum of a large project such as this. Given the specialised nature of the habitat, he urged patience in waiting for data specific to this project and for the Council to press for enough time to properly review the data when it was released. There was a window of opportunity for EIA scoping questions to be submitted.

9.4. Cllr Harrington noted that Steve Avery had specifically commented at the NW quadrant meeting that he had not seen details of the latest route. Mr Avery had indicated that the normal planning timescales would be doubled in this case.

9.5. It was noted that there had been conflicting reports on the planning timescales if any application were submitted and whether EIA would be released ahead of a planning application. Clerk to seek definitive written advice from NFNPA.

9.6. Cllr Hartas reported that following the release of the new route and the proposal that the whole route be fenced for the whole length of the project, she had organised a meeting of commoners and horse riders to construct a letter of joint concerns about animal movements and access. A letter had been drafted setting out observations and concerns. All councillors expressed support for the meeting and the resulting letter; Clerk to send letter on behalf of attendees to National Grid for consideration and comment.

9.7. Cllr Hartas noted that there remained considerable uncertainty over compensation arrangements and that commoners were generally concerned that the proposed compensation scheme was to be administered by National Grid, rather than an independent body. Clerk to request further details of scheme from National Grid land agents for further consideration.

The meeting was briefly adjourned to allow most members of the public to leave the meeting

10. To consider item not on the agenda - Tree Warden report

The tree warden advised that there had been considerable tree work carried out at Mays Cottage. Clerk to check with NFDC if any permissions were required.

11. To receive a report on the recent North West Quadrant meeting – Cllrs Hartas and Harrington attended the meeting and reported:-

11.1. Steve Avery had reported that any planning application made in relation to the National Grid project would be subject to a review period of 16 weeks. Clerk to request written confirmation. Following some recent resignations, the NFNPA team is stretched in areas of planning and enforcement officers.

11.2. As part of an ongoing recreational and footpath project, new access ranger Adam Vasey had identified 5 local routes of particular importance for promotion. One of these routes is in Hale.

11.3. NFNPA had worked together with a new housing association – English Rural. They have a small fund and their focus is on projects with a small number of homes. Two homes have been completed in Bransgore and there is a live project ongoing in Burley.

12. To receive an update on the Hatchet Green Regeneration project and determine next steps for the permanent car park repairs

Cllr Lucas reported that James Stewart had had to withdraw his offer of assistance for health reasons. There was a general discussion about the quotes received to date and the specification kindly drawn up by Paula Downard. Cllr Lucas proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Mangan and therefore **RESOLVED:**

a) That Cllr Aitken-Sykes be asked to act as primary contact point for the project specification alongside Paula Downard
b) That Earlcote Construction be approached to work as a preferred partner alongside the council; the services maps to be shared with Earlcote and in particular to ask Earlcote to consider any potential refinements to existing specification which may offer better value for money.
c) To target potential work to be carried out in Easter holidays 2019; Clerk to liaise with Village hall bookings and
d) That Cllr Hartas clarify the project funding position including (1) contribution from Village Hall Committee (2) potential lottery funding application and (3) submit application to County Cllr Edward Heron's discretionary fund. Clerk to assist if required.

All agreed.

13. To receive an update on the Village Hall extension

Jacqui Hartas on behalf of the Village Hall committee reported that the Village Hall had been unsuccessful at the final stage in their application for funding to Community Business Fund as the Village Hall 'was not a strong enough business case'. This was particularly frustrating given the time and effort that had been committed. The project had raised £18K in funding to date and another £4K has been applied for but final response not yet received. The committee instead proposed to proceed under Parish Council permitted development rights with an application for a single story extension to add kitchen facilities downstairs. Cllr Lucas proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Harrington and therefore **RESOLVED:** that the Parish Council apply for permitted development rights to proceed with revised single storey extension as set out revised drawings. All Councillors entitled to vote agreed.

14. To receive the clerk's report –

Most areas covered in items above. It was agreed to defer the budget and financial review to the October meeting to allow a fuller review of budget requirements. The Clerk reported on the cemetery that:-

a) A letter had been received requesting an update on the central bed planting; Clerk had arranged an update meeting with Susan Witt and to report back to the October meeting and
b) Notices on the noticeboard were to be laminated for better protection

15. Correspondence

Councillors reviewed the open grant request received from New Forest Disability. It was noted that although the service was located in New Milton, two parish residents had received assistance from the Charity in the past year. Cllr Lucas proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Mangan and therefore **RESOLVED:** to send a grant of £50. All agreed.

Correspondence ref VIP project had already been covered in project discussion.

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

17. To consider and approve the following payments:

04.09.18	Cutting Edge (cemetery maintenance July 18)	£ 390.00
04.09.18	Cemetery Wasp's nest removal	£ 40.00
04.09.18	Lengthsman visit July 18 (materials)	£ tbc
24.08.18	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.

18. To approve the accounts for August 2018 and to record the bank balances - approved

19. To consider and approve the schedule of Parish Council meetings for 2019 – Clerk presented a list of draft dates for Parish Council meetings. It was noted that this schedule did not account for Annual Parish Assembly, nor did it consider the impact of election Purdah given Parish Council elections scheduled for May 2019. Clerk to seek Purdah guidance from NFDC and report back together with revised schedule of dates in October meeting

20. Any other business

20.1. Cllr Templeton enquired as to the status of the Parish Plan. Cllr Lucas confirmed that the plan was ongoing and that a draft Village Vision would be presented for review at the October meeting.

21. To note the date of the next meeting is **Tuesday 2nd October 2018 at 7.30pm** at **Hale Village Hall**

There being no further business to discuss, the Meeting closed at 9:55pm

Signed: Date: 2 October 2018

Chairman

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