HALE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Hale Parish Council Meeting held at 7.00 pm on Tuesday 6 February 2018 in Hale Village Hall, Hatchet Green, Hale

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

In attendance:
Ms S Plumb – Clerk
County/District Councillor Heron
Mr S Whitmarsh – Tree Warden
Ms S Witt – cemetery volunteer
1 member of the public

1. **To receive apologies for absence –** none

2. **To receive declarations of interest –** none

3. **To consider and approve the Minutes of Hale Parish Council meeting held on 9 January 2018 –** the minutes were read and approved by all.

4. **To receive any matters raised by members of the public –**
    a) **23 January 2018 – a parishioner – water on Hatchet Green –** a parishioner has commented on the large volume of rain water retained on Hatchet Green. Members noted that it has been a particularly wet period and that much of the Forest is wetter than normal. The Clerk is in touch with Natural England and will discuss it with them, subject to that it was agreed to monitor the situation.
    b) Mr Whitmarsh as a parishioner thanked everyone involved in the work on the Parish Plan, adding the exhibition was excellent. He expressed displeasure that some parishioners used the exhibition for their own means.

5. **To agree the maintenance contract for the cemetery for 2018 –** Cutting Edge has provided the following quote for the groundwork at the cemetery in 2018:
    - 1 x grass cut March, 2 x grass cut April to September - £85 per cut
    - 1 x hedge cut - £220
    - 1 x grass cut and tidy November - £115
    - 1 x pre Christmas tidy - £90

    Members are impressed with the work carried out by Cutting Edge in 2017. Cllr Lucas proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Templeton and therefore **RESOLVED:** to retain Cutting Edge to carry out the groundwork at the cemetery in 2018 as per the quote, save that volunteer help may be available to do some of the tidying work. All agreed.

6. **To consider and approve the memorial to Michael Jameson Roper and Rosemary Janet Roper –** a photograph of the tablet was considered. No dimensions have been included. Cllr Mangan proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Harrington and therefore **RESOLVED:** that the memorial to Michael and Rosemary

Roper be approved as per the photo, subject to the dimensions being acceptable. All agreed.

7. **To review the start time of the Planning Committee and Full Parish Council Meetings –** Cllrs discussed possible earlier start times for the meetings but due to other commitments the earliest possible is 7pm. Times will remain as they are save that if there is no Planning Committee the Parish Council meeting will start at 7pm.

8. **To consider the design of a replacement bench to be installed by the National Trust on Hale Purlieu –** a drawing has been provided of a design on a memorial bench to replace a rotting bench belonging to the Parish Council on Hale Purlieu. The replacement bench will be installed by and be the responsibility of the National Trust. The design was considered very thoughtful and suitable to the area. Cllr Lucas proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Aitken-Sykes and therefore **RESOLVED:** that the design of the bench be approved.

9. **To consider and approve the following risk assessments:**
    - **Hatchet Green –** the unsafe bench has been removed
    - **Other Street Furniture –** the National Trust are replacing the rotten bench, see 8 above. A member of the public enquired whether the Parish Council has public liability insurance to cover the benches. The Clerk confirmed that is the case.
    - **Financial –** no comments
    - **Cemetery –** the memorial that is loose and those that are slightly subsiding are unlikely to topple over and are low risk. They will be monitored.

    Subject to the comments above Cllr Hartas proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Aitken-Sykes and therefore **RESOLVED:** that the risk assessments be approved.

County/District Cllr Heron arrived 7.30pm

10. **To receive an update on the Hatchet Green Regeneration Project and determine the next steps for the following:**
    - **Verge protection – north of the Green -** The Lengthsman has cut back the more vegetation from the new passing place. The vegetation around the bench still needs cutting. The Clerk will see if the Lengthsman can do this, otherwise Members will. Brett of RTS fencing (used by the Forestry Commission) has been on site and quoted £320 plus VAT (£64) for installing the new dragons teeth. He can do the work on 2nd March. HCC has provided a map of services in the area.
    - **School side of the Green -** Due to the recent heavy rainfall the verges are very muddy. Several parishioners commented at the Parish Plan Exhibition that they are the worst they have ever been and this has been echoed in an email from a parishioner of 23 January 2018. This is due partly to traffic but also to the ponies. There is a feeding station near Windmill Ball. Cllr Lucas will work with the school on the parking issue. The newsletter prepared a little while ago has yet to be sent out. Cllr Lucas will try to set up some talks to educate the children about the local environment.

If at any time it is considered helpful to install further dragons teeth the Western Escarpment group will be able to advise. Care needs to be taken not to simply displace the problem.

- **Permanent Car Park repairs -** Paula Downard will be seeking quotes for the work to add drainage and repair the car park. David Keniston has provided a basic specification for the work required to the track. Paula has offered to look at that and maybe add some detail.
- **Cemetery improvements –** James Stewart has removed the tree stump from the ground; he will take it away shortly. Susan Witt provided a suggested planting list which was thought to be an excellent start to the new planting. Further plants may be needed in due course, including daffodil bulbs in the autumn. Snowdrops should be planted now. Susan Witt offered to donate the tree to go in the centre of the bed and to coordinate the work needed to buy and plant the plants. Cllr Templeton proposed and Cllr Lucas seconded and it was therefore **RESOLVED:** that the planting plan provided by Susan Witt be approved, plus some snowdrop bulbs. All agreed. Cllrs thanked Susan for her hard work. The Clerk advised that the Horticultural Society have offered to help with the planting and to donate £100 towards plants.
- **Funding –** The Council has received a donation of £500 towards the upkeep and maintenance of the cemetery.
  Cllr Hartas has been looking into funding opportunities for the regeneration project generally. It was agreed Cllrs Hartas, Mangan and the Clerk will meet separately to work on funding and report back. In order to apply for most grants 3 quotes for the work will be needed.

11. To receive feedback from the Parish Plan Exhibition on 21 January 2018 including:

- **Tree felling on the Purlieu –** Members and parishioners had expressed concern at the loss of the mature oaks on Hale Purlieu near Mays Firs. At the exhibition parishioners felt that the felling of the evergreen trees meant the risk to the oaks was foreseeable and confidence in the National Trust programme has diminished. Mr Whitmarsh and the Clerk have been in contact with Jacob White of the National Trust. The Trust is sad to have lost the mature trees. The rain and extreme wind loosened the soil. The trees will be cleared and a survey has been conducted to reduce the risk of further fall. The Trust hopes to replace by planting scrub and broad leaf saplings. Members would welcome this.
- **Traffic issues –** 2 areas of concern were mentioned, the far end of Forest Road and from Woodfalls Cross to the cattle grid. Cllr Heron explained that the Parish Council can apply to NFDC for a speed indicator device to be installed to monitor the traffic and to obtain evidence of the speeds used on the roads. If it exceeds a set level the police will then look at the problem and the County Council may also look at signage to help. Sleeping policemen cannot be installed where the road is unlit.
- **Volunteering –** the Parish Council is delighted by the number of people who are happy to volunteer in different ways. Cllr Mangan will co-ordinate this.
- **Production of a Parish Plan –** having published an interim Parish Plan it was agreed to work towards producing a full Plan at the end of the year and in the meantime to carry out some of the work proposed.

12. To consider and approve a response to the NFNPA Local Plan Review – Cllr Lucas has read the NFNPA Local Plan review in detail and reported back. Cllrs commented that they broadly supported the plan and in particular the proposals that no new property should exceed 100 square meters in size and any extension to an

existing property should be by no more than 30%. The aim of the Local Plan is to be enabling and flexible so that what is needed can be considered. The Clerk will prepare a response to the consultation. Cllr Heron clarified that affordable housing is defined as any housing that comes into community ownership, it need not be of a particular type. Where there is affordable housing in the Forest it tends to be occupied by people born in the Forest. If such a plan is to proceed in Hale the key will be to identify suitable sites.

13. **To consider the following tree works application:** (this item was discussed after item 8)

Case Ref: CONS/18/0085
Proposed works: Pollard 1 x ash tree, prune 1 x birch tree, fell 1 x apple tree, prune 1 x group of oak trees.
The Tree Warden advised that the pruning was a follow up to previous work and that the apple was being felled for good reason. Cllr Harrington proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Hartas and therefore **RESOLVED:** to accept the decision made by the NFNPA officers. All agreed.
Mr Whitmarsh also reported on an application at The Homet – CONS/18/0107 Fell 2 x Silver Birch trees Fell 3 x Thorn trees Prune 5 x Oak trees Prune 1 x Yew tree Prune 1 x Holly tree. He had tried to visit unsuccessfully on 3 occasions. He could see the trees concerned and recommends accepting the NFNPA officer's decision. Cllr Lucas thanked the Tree Warden for his work.

14. **To receive the Clerk's report:**

Cemetery:
Manlove memorial – The Clerk contacted Williams Monumental regarding the levelling of the grave and the condition of the turf. It has been agreed this work will be carried out. Pearce-Batten memorial – the new inscription was added to the old memorial which has been cleaned.
Annual Parish Assembly
Invites have been sent out to local organisations who would like to attend and speak for a short time. The main theme was discussed and it was agreed to focus on the local business community in Hale, promoting what exists and seeking a speaker(s) on setting up a local business, the challenges faced and how to benefit the community.

15. **Correspondence –** none

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

17. **To receive a report from Councillors on meetings attended:**
    - **Cllr Aitken-Sykes – Western Escarpment meeting –** did not attend due to illness

18. **To consider and approve the following payments:**

06.02.18	Hall Hire 2017	£216.00
24.01.18	Clerk's salary	£436.02

Cllr Lucas proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Harrington and therefore **RESOLVED:** that the payments be approved.

19. **To approve the accounts for 2018 and to approve the balances –** Cllr Mangan proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Templeton and therefore **RESOLVED:** that the accounts be approved. All agreed.

20. **Any other business –**
    - The bus shelter needs a clean – a job for the Lengthsman

- The new noticeboard at Woodfalls Cross could go in the bus shelter
- At the next meeting the Parish Council needs to consider being on the list of user groups and exercising its right to have a trustee on the Village Hall CIO
- The owner of the land near the cattle grid has reconfigured the dragons teeth. Thanks to him and to Mr Brown at Hants Highways for this.
- The National Trust is looking for a volunteer to coordinate a litter pick on 3 March as part of the Great British Spring Clean. Cllr Lucas and Susan Witt are happy to do this. The area cleaned should include Forest Road.
- The APA will have focus on local businesses. Cllr Harrington will prepare a list of local businesses for all to add to.

21. To note the date of the next meeting is Tuesday 6 March 2018 at 7.30 pm in Hale Village Hall

There being no further business to discuss the Meeting closed at 9.15 pm

Signed: Date: 6 March 2018
Chairman

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