HALE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Hale Parish Council Meeting held at 7.45 pm on Tuesday 10 October 2017 in Hale Village Hall, Hatchet Green, Hale

Present:
Cllr Aitken-Sykes, Chairman for first part of the meeting, Cllr Lucas – Chairman subsequently, Cllrs Hartas, Harrington, Mangan and Templeton

In attendance:
Ms S Plumb – Clerk
Mr S Whitmarsh – Tree Warden
3 members of the Parish Plan Working Party, Mr S Hickman, Mrs G Babey, Miss S Witt
3 members of the public

1 **To receive Apologies for Absence** – none. Apologies from Cllr Lucas for a late arrival.

2 **To receive Declarations of Interest** – Cllr Templeton declared an interest in item 7

3 **To consider and approve the Minutes of Hale Parish Council Meeting held on 5 September 2017 –** the Minutes were approved by all and signed by the Chairman

4 **To receive any matters raised by members of the public –** Cllr Hartas reported another incident involving a cow and a member of the public with a dog, in the Tethering Drove area. The dog was on a lead and the incident was in no way the fault of the member of the public. The Verderers office has received reports that dogs, particularly some walked by commercial dog walkers may be allowed to pester the cattle and say this is a possible cause of the cattle becoming confrontational when a dog is in the vicinity. Members have not evidenced any dogs pestering cattle but are aware that more cattle are being left on the Forest and for a longer period for reasons related to subsidies. This increased presence will in itself increase the risk of incidents. The Clerk will advise parishioners of the further incident.

5 **To receive a report from the Tree Warden –** the Tree Warden has carried out his annual assessment of the trees for which the Parish Council takes responsibility. There are no known dangers presented by the trees, 6 are being monitored. Recommendation to cut back the hedge to the north of the Green. This is planned as part of the verge restoration work.

Cllr Lucas arrived – 8pm – and took over the Chair.

6 **To receive an update on responses to the Parish Plan Questionnaire and to approve the costs of reporting the results of the Questionnaire –** Mr S Hickman (Chair, Parish Plan Working Party) confirmed the responses to the Parish Plan survey have been collated. It is proposed to distribute a leaflet setting out the headlines via the Parish Magazine. The detail will be made available on the Parish Council website and at an exhibition in the Village Hall on a date to be fixed. Cllr Lucas proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Hartas and therefore **RESOVLED:** that £25 be approved for the production of the leaflet. The working party were thanked for their ongoing work on this project.
Mr S Hickman and Mrs G Babey left the meeting – 8.20pm

7 **To receive an update on the Housing Needs Survey being sent out by NFDC including consideration of a letter of 2.10.17 from a parishioner concerning**

the Parish Council's involvement in the investigations into the need for a possible CLT in Hale – the parishioner, his wife and one other were present at the meeting and set out their concerns:

- the proposed Housing Needs Survey will not be circulated in Woodgreen
- the debate at the September meeting was not fully recorded in the Minutes which do not give a balanced view
- Cllr Templeton is not acting as a mere parishioner and has an advantage over parishioners. He should step down as a councillor until such time as any CLT is set up and planning permission has been granted
- Public money will be spent in building the homes and everyone should have the opportunity to set out their concerns. No one is aware of the number sites proposed or where they will be.

Cllr Lucas will respond formally to the letter. She confirmed it is the duty of the Parish Council to serve the community. The decision to investigate whether there is a need for affordable housing in Hale is an important part of that work. The Parish Council is not committed to anything beyond that initial investigation which is being carried out totally independently, at no expense to the Parish Council, by those with the experience and expertise at NFDC. The responses will be analysed by NFDC which will present the results when they are available. At present the type of any housing that may be needed is unknown and any possible sites are unknown. Cllr Templeton does have a conflict of interest in this matter and that conflict is being handled within the rules and monitored by the Clerk.

8 To receive an update on the Hatchet Green Regeneration project and determine the next steps for the following:

- **verge protection – north of the Green and near the School**
  Cllr Lucas has met with Mrs Clarke – head teacher Hale Primary School to devise a way to engage the children in helping to protect and restore the verges near the school via an education programme supported by other agencies in the Forest. Staggered start times were considered but are impractical as a large number of children in the school are siblings.
- **Temporary car park repairs**
  Cllrs Aitken-Sykes and Mangan will produce a plan for the temporary repairs to the car park. The Clerk will advertise the date – 9am – 1pm on 28 October and encourage volunteers to come along and help. There is a reserve of £500 in the budget.
- **Permanent car park repairs**
  The Clerk and Cllr Aitken-Sykes will meet with Mrs Downard and Mr Hollinghurst to discuss this further.
- **Cemetery improvements**
  The Clerk has met with Miss Witt and Mr Mussell. Miss Witt kindly agreed to draw up a plan for the planting of the flower bed after the dead tree has been removed by the Lengthsman.

9 To receive an update on the application to the Land Registry to register title to Hatchet Green and surrounding area –Cllr Templeton reported that the Land Registry has rejected the Parish Council's application to register a Possessory Title to the Green and surrounding land. This will be discussed further with the owners of Hale Park.

10 To consider a response to NFDC's draft Housing Strategy 2018 – 2023 – this document sets out NFDC's current housing policy. The investigative steps currently agreed by Hale Parish Council are very much in line with that policy. Hale Parish Council has no comments to make.

11 **To receive a report from County/District Councillor Heron –** Cllr Heron was not present and no report had been received.

The members of the public left the meeting – 9.20pm

12 **To consider an application from New Forest Disability for a grant under S137 Local Government Act 1972 –** Members consider that New Forest Disability offers a valuable assistance to residents of Hale and encourage the wider promotion of its services. Cllr Mangan proposed and it was seconded by Cllr Lucas and therefore **RESOLVED**: to award a grant of £100 to New Forest Disability under S137 Local Government Act 1972. All agreed.

13 **To receive the Clerk's report**

Cemetery: Maintenance - Cutting Edge has carried out a further 2 cuts of the cemetery grass £160.

Burial The burial of Iris Majury took place on 29 September 2017, plot A 105.

Lengthsman: The Lengthsman will next work in Hale on 23 October. Work, fixing a new post to the tap in the cemetery and clearing the dead tree in flower bed. Will need some additional days to do the verge work.

Dragons teeth near the Forest Road cattle grid: Liaising with the owner of the land who installed the dragons teeth near the cattle grid on Forest Road. He is happy to make the necessary changes to accommodate riders and carriages. HPC taking advice from the appropriate agencies as to who may be able to help him.

14 **Correspondence – none**

15 **To consider any matter referred by the Planning Committee - none**

16 **To receive a report from Councillors on meetings attended - none**

17 **To consider and approve the following payments;**

10.10.17	Cutting Edge	£160.00
10.10.17	HMRC	£ 1.60
10.10.17	BDO LLP	£156.00
24.10.17	Clerk salary	£501.06

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

18 **To approve the accounts for September 2017 and to record the bank balances –** approved.

19 **Any other business -** none

20 To note the date of the next meeting is **Tuesday 7 November 2017 at 7.30pm at Hale Village Hall**

There being no further business to discuss the Meeting closed at 9.30pm

Signed Chairman: Date: 7 November 2017

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