Minutes of the Hale Parish Council Annual Meeting held on Tuesday 7th July 2026 at 7pm in Hale Village Hall (Downstairs)

Councillors Present: Councillors Gemmell (Chair), Kyle, Lavis and Vickery.

In attendance: The clerk and one member of the public.

26.63 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: **-** Councillors Donnell, Gillmon, NFDC Cllr Janet Richards and Faith Seaward (Forest Edge Learning Federation).

26.64 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST - To receive declarations of interest in respect of matters contained in this agenda (in accordance with the Localism Act 2011). None declared.

26.65 MINUTES

26.65.1 It was unanimously **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 5th May 2026.

26.65.2 Note matters arising from the minutes not elsewhere on the agenda.

Harry's Meadow – A site meeting will take place on 13th July; attendees will be Jesse Sheriiff (Harry's Meadow), David Illsley and Lucie Cooper from the NPA; Ian Gemmell and Amanda Johnson (Clerk).

Exercise of Notice of Public Rights - The dates stated for the period for the exercise of public rights in the May minutes were changed to 15th June until 27th July.

Defibrillator – Further to the statement made in the minutes in May the Hale Village Hall may contribute to the defibrillator rental in 2027 subject to their financial position.

26.66 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

A member of the public spoke regarding –

Full compost bin at cemetery – *HPC will look at a solution to empty this*.

Speeding along Tethering Drove – *Hale PC will initiate investigations into the possibility of changing the speed limit; this is a long and expensive process with the costs met by the parish council.*

26. 67 PLANNING:

Case Number	26/00349FULL
Proposal	Raised terrace; 1no. outbuilding; relocation of 1no. outbuilding; removal of 1no. outbuilding
Site	Carragoffa, Hatchet Close, Hale, Fordingbridge SP6 2NF

Hale Parish Council views on the above application are:

We recommend No 1. PERMISSION but would accept the decision reached by the National Park Authority's Officers under their delegated powers. Councillors discussed the application and agreed to approve the application. The proposed outbuilding has no impact on neighbours, replaces an existing outbuilding and is incidental to the house.

Case Number	26/00551LBC
Proposal	Underpinning and superstructural repairs to the front porch externally and internally (Application for Listed Building Consent)
Site	The Old Rectory, Queen Street, Hale, SP6 2RD

Hale Parish Council views on the above application are:

We recommend No 3. PERMISSION. Councillors agreed that this is essential structural work.

26.68 HALE SCHOOL:

1. To discuss a request for funding from Hale School for promotion.

The Forest Edge Learning Federation requested a grant towards a major widespread leafleting campaign to advertise the three schools (Hale, Hyde and Breamore) and the new pre-school provision (at Hale and Breamore).Councillors agreed that the return on a leaflet campaign is often minimal and felt that a more targeted campaign would be more effective. They would welcome the opportunity to discuss another marketing option with the school.

2. To discuss the proposed new fencing at Hale School

The installation of a new fence will now be deferred until next year and the council will discuss this with the school at a future date.

26.69 NFDC COUNCILLOR REPORT – Cllr Richards was unable to attend.

26.70 EXTERNAL MEETINGS - To receive reports from external meetings attended.
Hale Village Hall committee Meeting. - A picnic and barn dance will be held on 26th July to celebrate the completion of many years of refurbishment . The AGM will take place on 27th August.

26.71 BUS SHLETER AT WOODFALLS CROSS It was unanimously agreed to engage High Spec to clean the bus shelter at Woodfalls Cross at a cost of £72.00 and to be cleaned regularly when required.
It was suggested that it would be beneficial to improve the green area (owned and managed by HCC) at Woodfalls Cross to improve its rural aesthetic. The clerk will begin to make enquiries.

26.72 INSURANCE POLICY It was **RESOLVED** to renew the insurance policy with Hiscox Insurance through A.J. Gallagher Insurance Brokers at a cost of £502.28 for 2026/27.

26.73 CLERKS REPORT
Village Hall hire- A regular hirer form has been submitted to the hall and the clerk has completed the additional conditions required for licensed hire of the hall to enable the parish council to serve alcohol.
Register of Business Interests- From 29 June 2026, local authorities should not publish an elected or co-opted member's home address in local authority registers of interest, unless the Member has requested otherwise .NFDC will therefore be updating all the Town and Parish Councillor register of interest forms, by redacting this information and will upload the new redacted forms to our website.
Pylon refurbishment - The refurbishment of the Nursling to Mannington overhead cables has begun and will be completed by November. There will be no disruptions to the electricity supply during this time. The most recent information can be found at nationalgrid.com/manningtontonursling.
The refurbishment also involves the temporary closure of part of Hale Footpaths 5,6, 7 & Bridleway 8, Closures will be in place from 18th June until 2nd September.
National Grid Electricity Transmission's Community Grant Programme supports community organisations and charities in areas where work is impacting people through their operations and site activities. The programme provides grants of up to £10,000 to fund projects run by charities and community groups that meet local community needs. To find out more please contact the clerk.

26.74 NEW LAPTOP It was unanimously agreed to the purchase of a new laptop, set up and transfer of data and disposal of old laptop up to the value of £1200.00. The clerk will source and purchase a laptop.

26.75 NEW WEBSITE The new website is under construction and will be available to be launched shortly.

26.76 FINANCE

26.76.1 It was RESOLVED to accept the accounts and bank reconciliations for the first quarter of 26/27 and note the following balances as at 30th June - Community account £722.93, the Commercial Instant Access account £6,537.29 and the 32 Day Notice Account £ 20,719.44.

26.76.2 MONTHLY PAYMENTS - It was **RESOLVED to** approve the following payments.

PAYEE	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT	VAT	PAYMENT METHOD
Fordingbridge TC	Lengthsman expenses	£27.98	£4.66	Bank Transfer
Pennon Water Services	Cemetery water	£32.82		Direct Debit
Amanda Johnson	Salary – June and July	N/A		Standing Order
HMRC	PAYE – April- June	£87.87		Bank Transfer
Cutting Edge	Cemetery Maintenance – May and June	£190.00 each month		Bank Transfer
Amanda Johnson	Office supplies	£17.00		Bank Transfer
Lloyds Bank	Monthly bank fees	£4.25 each month		Bank transfer

26.77 CORRESPONDENCE - **The following correspondence was noted. Any actions in italics.**
19/05/26 NFDC – Reopening of CIL Local infrastructure funding.
20/05/26 NFDC – Cllr Dave Penny elected as NFDC Council Chairman.
22/05/26 NPA – Summer Newsletter
22/05/26 HCC – HCC announces Leader and Cabinet Team.
26/05/26 National Grid – Letter and newsletter regarding pylon refurbishment.
26/05/26 New Forest Association – May Newsletter
27/05/26 NFDC – Cllr Jill Cleary, Update on Local Reorganisation.
04/06/26 Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner – Newsletter
08/06/26 HCC – Update from Nick Adams-King
09/06/26 Update from new HCC Councillor David Millar
11/06/26 New Forest Together – Meeting 25th June.
24/06/26 NPA – Celebrate the New Forest
23/06/26 NFALC – Minutes of AGM held on 4th June.
24/06/26 New Forest Association- June Newsletter.
24/06/26 Forestry England Press Release – Rare insects return o the New Forest.
29/06/26 Forestry England Press Release – New exhibitor tells the untold story of the Lumberjills.
30/06/26 Hampshire Countryside Service – Access Team July Newsletter.

Parishioner correspondence–
22/05/26 Theft of footpath signs to direct Harry's Meadow campers.
25/06/26 Planned works to Millersford Brook at Hale Purlieu. – The clerk has spoken to Forestry England who will be engaging in public consultation before any work commences.

26.78 ANY OTHER BUSINESS AND MATTERS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA
Lengthsman – The Lengthsman will be working in the village on 10TH July and jobs will include clearing the footpaths
Bench request – The parish council has had a request to install a memorial bench on Hatchet Green. This was unanimously agreed and Cllr Vickery will liaise with the family regarding the details.

26.79 DATE OF NEXT MEETING – Tuesday 1st September 2026 Hale Village Hall (Downstairs)

The meeting ended at 8.40pm.

Signed by .....
Date .....