Minutes of the Hale Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 3rd November 2026 at 7pm in Hale Village Hall (Downstairs)

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

In attendance: The clerk, 3 members of the public; Cllr David Millar (HCC)

26.96 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: **-** Cllr Gemmell, Cllr Gillmon, Cllr Janet Richards (NFDC)

26.97 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.

26.98 MINUTES
26.98.1 It was unanimously **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 1st September 2026.
26.98.2 Note matters arising from the minutes not elsewhere on the agenda.
Councillor emails and website - The new email addresses have been difficult to set up; councillors will share details on how to do this to ensure the new email addresses are functioning. The new website is active and the old website has a link to the new one.
Ditches and riparian duties – An article will be placed in the Hale and Woodgreen magazine outlining the responsibility of residents regarding ditch clearance.

26.99 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION
Jacqui Hartas spoke regarding the purchase of spare pads for the defib machine. It was discussed that the cost be covered by the Village Hall and this be presented to the Hall Management Committee at their next meeting. The clerk will order the pads.
Two residents spoke regarding item 26.101 26/01074VAR.

26.100 HCC COUNCILLOR REPORT – Cllr Millar reported.
Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) – On 29 October, the Government confirmed that it remains committed to LGR, but has not yet decided on the future structure of Unitary councils across Hampshire since withdrawing its earlier decision. An outcome is expected by early 2027. The revised timetable provides for elections to existing district and borough councils in May 2027, elections to new shadow unitary councils in May 2028, and the new authorities taking over on 1 April 2029. Hampshire County Council has called for clear evidence that any new structure will be financially sustainable.
The Government has confirmed that the first Hampshire and Solent mayoral election will not be brought forward and remains scheduled for May 2028. This follows the Budget announcement that mayoral strategic authorities will receive a 20% share of local business rates from April 2027 with estimates that this could be up to £180 million annually.
HCC Financial Strategy – HCC has published its latest Medium-Term Financial Strategy, forecasting a £198.9 million budget shortfall for 2027/28 and is currently holding a public consultation on how to balance the budget, this runs until 13th Dec and is available at https://www.hants.gov.uk/aboutthecouncil/haveyoursay/consultations/budgetconsultation.
Household recycling – Proposed recycling proposals require District and Borough councils to prepare, from May 2028, for paper and cardboard to be collected separately from other recyclable materials, including glass, plastics and metals. The changes would support the opening of a new £50 million Materials Recovery Facility at Eastleigh in 2028, allowing residents to recycle a wider range of materials, including additional types of plastic packaging. NFDC are responsible for collecting waste.

26. 101 PLANNING:

Case Number	26/01070FULL
Proposal	Agricultural barn with a concrete base foundation
Site	Land Adjacent to, Aubann House, Hatchet Green, Hale, SP6 2NE

Councillors unanimously agreed to refuse the application **4 - We recommend refusal for the reasons listed below.** Councillors agreed that there are many concerns associated with this application which include the scale of the venture and the effect on the immediate neighbours, other residents of Hale and the SSSI which this site borders. These include an increase in the traffic particularly large lorries, increased smell and noise, issues of waste and vermin and run off of nitrates into the River Avon.

Case Number	26/00627FULL
Proposal	Single storey extension; works to roof; demolition of lean to
Site	9, Mays Fir, Hale, Fordingbridge SP6 2NS

Councillors unanimously agreed to approve this application **3 - We recommend permission for the reasons listed below.** This application has received no objections from neighbours and is not overlooked.

Case Number	26/01074VAR
Proposal	Application to vary condition 1 of planning permission 24/00102FULL for use of land as a seasonal campsite for 50 pitches for no more than 60 days in a calendar year
Site	Harrys Meadow Campsite, Hale Lane, Hale SP6 2RE

Councillors unanimously agreed to refuse the application **4 - We recommend refusal for the reasons listed below**. Councillors agreed that certain conditions should be enforced by the NPA including: the prohibition of fire pits; an agreement to maintain the current continuous camping periods of May, July and August; adherence to the current licence and enforcement of the Bio- diversity plan.

26.102 EXTERNAL MEETINGS :
NW Quadrant 19th October. Cllr Lavis attended. The meeting focussed on the recent wildfires, led by Jo McClay NFDC, and the effect on the local communities. All local parish councils were in strong agreement that there is a need to take action and ensure practices are in place to protect the communities in the future. Ann Sevier (Chair of the NW Quadrant) will organise a meeting in Fordingbridge bringing together all the relevant agencies and authorities.
Harry's Meadow 22nd Sept. Cllr Vickery and the clerk met with members of the NPA and Jesse Sheriff from Harry's Meadow. All agreed that it had been a better year and local residents agreed there were few issues. Fire pits were banned due to the exceptionally dry condition. It was agreed that a phone number would be published next year for residents to contact the operators to discuss any issues. Jesse Sheriff stated that going forward the next planning application (required from May 2027) will be based on the current numbers and operations of Harry's Meadow.
Millersford Restoration Project Walk 30th Sept – Cllr Gemmell, Vickery and the clerk attended. The proposed restoration work will require a planning application and is likely to commence in 2028. It will initially be a dramatic change to the landscape which will take some time to recover. Further walks led by Forestry England will take place on 4th, 12th November and 6th December. All parishioners are welcome to attend, contact the clerk for more details.

26.103 POLICE INCIDENTS: A recent serious criminal incident occurred in the parish and Hale PC has been involved in discussion with NFDC and the police regarding this matter.

Another recent incident again highlighted the difficulty Hale residents have when calling 999 as it is often answered by Wiltshire call handlers and causes delay which could be very serious. Cllr Millar will take this issue forward on behalf of residents.

26.104 EMERGENCY PLAN AND RESILIENCE: Cllr Donnell will look at the current Emergency Plan and ensure that it is current in light of the recent wildfires and emergency information published by the government.

26.105 NFDC CONSULTATION FOR 2027/28 BUDGET. The clerk will respond to the consultation on behalf of NFDC focussing on the need to support the continuation of business waste collections in the district which are used by the parish council and many small local businesses and village halls.

26.106 LOCAL ELECTIONS: Elections will be held on May 6th 2027 for parish councils and NFDC councillors. Further information on the procedure will be available from Jan 2027.

26.107 MEETING DATES FOR 2026: The meeting dates for Hale Parish Council in 2027 will be Jan 5th, 2nd March, 18th May (not the first Tuesday due to the election), 6th July, 7th Sept and 2nd Nov.
The Annual Parish Assembly will be held on Tuesday 20th April.

26.9108 FINANCE

26.108.1 It was RESOLVED to accept the accounts and bank reconciliations and note the following balances as at 26th October: Community account £2,158.11, Commercial Instant Access account £8,544.80 and the 32 Day Notice Account £20,838.72

26.108.2 BUDGET AND PRECEPT: It was unanimously agreed to accept the proposed budget for 27/28 and unanimously agreed not to increase the precept for 2027/28.

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

PAYEE	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT	VAT	PAYMENT METHOD
Amanda Johnson	Salary – Oct and Nov	N/A		Standing Order
Sydenhams (Refunded to Amanda Johnson)	Sleepers to repair Millenium seat	£282.00	47.00	Bank Transfer
Cutting Edge	Cemetery Maintenance – Sept and October	£190		Bank Transfer
Lloyds Bank	Monthly bank fees	£4.25 each month		Bank transfer
HMRC Fees – July – Sept.	PAYE Fees – July – Sept.	123.41		Bank Transfer

26.93 CORRESPONDENCE - **The following correspondence was noted. Any actions in italics.**

08/09/26 Minstead Parish Council - Sat Nav Diversion Letter – *HPC responded*
11/09/26 NPA – Latest news from the National Park
17/09/26 NFDC – Annual Community Safety Consultation – *Cllr Vickery completed.*
21/09/26 New Forest Association – Talk – Pine Martens in the New Forest
22/09/29 New Forest Association – September Newsletter
22/09/26 National Grid - Mannington to Nursling Overhead Line Refurbishment: Newsletter Edition 2
25/09/26 NPA – New Forest Walking Festival
30/09/26 Freshwater Habitats Trust – New Forest Water News Sept 2026
30/09/26 Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner – September Newsletter
02/10/26 NPA – Latest News from the National Park

05/10/25 NPA - Earlier spring in the UK: How nature is responding to rising temperature
06/10/26 NFDC – Local Elections 6th May 2027
06/10/26 NFALC Minutes of the meeting held on 22nd September.
06/10/26 HCC Cllr David Millar – Report
06/10/26 NPA New Forest awarded £200,000 government funding to improve walking, cycling and wheeling.
07/10/26 Forestry England - New research reveals that New Forest Wildlife is flourishing as restored rivers and wetlands welcome nature back
08/10/26 New Forest Association- Talk – New Forest Ponies: A breed apart
13/10/26 NFDC – Consultation on NFDC 27/28 Budget.
13/10/26 NPA - New Forest National Park Authority provides revised guidance on planning enforcement
14/10/26 NPA – Step into autumn with the New Forest Walking Festival.
22/10/26 NFDC – Protecting the Forest. Learning from this summer's wildfires.
23/10/26 New Forest Association - New Forest Drive Safe group reaches 100 businesses pledging to reduce animal accidents in first year
26/10/26 NPA – Newsletter Embrace a natural boost from nature.
29/10/26 Beaulieu Parish Council – Update on Forestry England Car parking Charges.
Parishioner correspondence–
24/10/26 Parishioner email regarding police response. *Cllr Millar will take forward.*

26.109 ANY OTHER BUSINESS AND MATTERS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA None.

26.110 DATE OF NEXT MEETING – Tuesday 5th January 2027 Hale Village Hall (Downstairs)

The meeting ended at 8.45 pm.

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