

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF HOCKHAM PARISH COUNCIL ON MONDAY 13TH OCTOBER 2025 IN HOCKHAM VILLAGE HALL AT 7.30PM

Attending, Cllrs, Lambert, Loft, Thomas, Leech and Lloyd, plus 11 members of the public.

- 1) **Apologies for absence.** Cllrs Bennett and Wiltshire
- 2) **Requests for dispensation;** none
- 3) **Declaration of interests;** Cllr Lambert as Landlord and owner of the Eagle and trustee of the Woodsford Charity, Cllr Loft as an allotment holder and Cllr Leech as a farmer at Little Hockham
- 4) **Minutes of the last meeting;** These had been circulated and were taken as read. Unanimously approved.
- 5) **Progress Report.**
 - a) Info board; In progress
 - b) NCC Highways. The drainage survey would be conducted. The highways engineer hoped to be present. Vicarage Rd access was being considered. The verge at Little Hockham Lane was being cut. Some work had been done on the trod but not enough. Road closure signage had been sourced for the council.
- 6) **Public Participation.** The meeting was adjourned for a while to take questions. Topics included indiscriminate village parking near junctions and plate glass in the bottle bank
- 7) **The clerk read the district report,** which included information on local authority reorganisation, devolution, the local plan and enforcement at Brookside Farm.
- 8) **Highways and Road Safety;** The damaged crossroads warning sign on the A1075 had been reported.
- 9) **Planning:** The parish council had responded along with other local councils on the enforcement notice at Brookside Farm. A new consultation was likely. There was a lively discussion on the land beyond Breakwell Close and the outline permission sought for 12 houses. It was felt that this was outside the settlement boundary and the local plan 5% ceiling of properties outside had already been breached. There were significant highways issues due to the closeness to the school. The parish council noted that their suggestions for moving the access road had been completely ignored by the potential developer, which was very disappointing.

The draft local plan had been discussed following the potential for 80 properties to the west of the school. Several conditions had been imposed including provision of a shop and utility capacity investigations. A public meeting would be convened during the consultation period, likely in November.
- 10) **Finance;** Payments were approved for the clerk's salary of £193. A big thank you to the village sign people was given and their invoice had been promptly settled. N Power had now invoiced all payments since February, and the amounts were low. The clerk congratulated the councillors for changing to LED lamps and saving the village large sums of money. There was £32,840.81 in the bank. It was noted that the Woodsford Charity had invested most of close to £400,000 awaiting movement on land purchase for a new sports and community build.

It was agreed to vote on keeping the precept at a similar rate as this financial year for 26/27.

- 11) **Allotments:** The clerk advised that all allotment rents at Harling Rd had been paid. More land was likely required when available.
- 12) **Footpaths and Rights of Way;** No issues
- 13) **Playing Field,** Councillor Lloyd said the fireworks and bonfire would be on Sat 8th November. Help would be needed. There was £16053.in the bank plus a float of £600 awaiting fireworks
- 14) **Forest Edge Court.** Konnect bus were being taken over by another concern and discussion on a new stop could not be taken up until January,
- 15) **3-year Plan.** The laptop was being sourced and the container being looked into.
- 16) **Poppy Appeal;** £250 was pledged for the appeal under s107 monies. Wreaths had been given by the British Legion and would be placed on 9th November at Shropham Church and 11am on 11/11 at Hockham Church.
- 17) **Councillor Update:** Congratulations were sent to a group of darts players at the Eagle who had raised £2334.71 for the Macmillan Charity.
- 18) **Correspondence:** The clerk advised that in order to comply with Assertion 10-Digital and Data Compliance, that email addresses would need to be .gov ones.
- 19) **The next full council meeting** would be Monday 24th November 2026 at 7.30pm. A Local Plan meeting would be convened before this, date to be arranged.