

MINUTES OF A HOCKHAM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING ON MONDAY **10TH FEBRUARY 2026 AT 7.30 PM IN HOCKHAM VILLAGE HALL**

Attending: Cllrs Bennett, Lambert, Thomas, Leech, Lloyd and Loft, County Councillor F Eagle and Ward member P Cowen, plus 10 members of the public.

- 1) **Apologies for absence.** Cllr Wiltshire
- 2) **Declarations of Interest.** Cllrs Bennett and Loft as Allotment holders, Cllr Leech as a farmer from Little Hockham and Cllr Lambert as landlord of the Eagle and trustee of the Woodford Charity.
- 3) **Requests for Dispensation.** None
- 4) **The Minutes from 5th Jan 26** were unanimously approved.
- 5) **Progress Report.**
 - a) The chair was progressing the info board
 - b) After a brief discussion re the drainage situation, the clerk was asked to get a report from the highways department. Cllr Leech was thanked for his excellent work on the Harling Road ditch.
- 6) The meeting was adjourned for public participation.
- 7) The county and Breckland councillors gave informative reports on LGR budgets, the lack of 5-year housing supply and new projects. Cllr Eagle kindly donated some new signs.
- 8) **Highways and Road Safety.** Cllr Thomas reported that the grips had been re dug and potholes on the Shropham Road and Little Hockham Lane, would be reported.
- 9) **Planning Matters.** Anglian Water had lodged an objection to application PL/2025/1331/OMAJ which may have far reaching consequences as they were a statutory consultee. Application PL/2026/0123/FMIN No objection but a request to add that the building could not be sold separate to the farm. PL/2026/0161/PAEC No objection. Cllr Lambert said he would relinquish his planning responsibilities in May and requested Cllr Wiltshire to be an interim assistant. The clerk would add this as an agenda item in March. Sapienta Trust had written to a resident advising they thought school expansion would not be required due to a falling birth rate. The clerk would contact the trust about the potential 80 new homes.
- 10) **Finance.** There was £23428.07 in the bank. Payments for approval were insurance at £1305.02, community car at £69.50, clerks' salary and PAYE at £193, Pearce & Kemp at £46.70. A £50 error had occurred which had been corrected. All transactions were approved
- 11) **Allotments.** A half allotment was due for letting. Cllr Leech said that more land could be made available for allotments if required. Regards water supply, it was suggested that the chair spoke with the village hall committee about a sub metered supply.
- 12) **Footpaths and Rights of Way.** Cllr Loft had reported some fly tipping which had been removed.
- 13) **Playing Field.** Cllr Lloyd gave thanks to Cllr Leech and his team for the works done on the playing field. New play equipment would soon be installed. A granny was hoped for.

- 14) **Forest Edge Court.** The clerk had sent details of the Flexibus. The bus company had yet to be pinned down.
- 15) **Litter Pick.** It was agreed to do this on Saturday 7th March at 10am.
- 16) **POL020.** The clerk would edit the policy and issue for approval. Cllr Wiltshire would be the named safeguarding lead.
- 17) **Waste Bin Issue.** It was agreed to contact SERCO as some bins were being left part full.
- 18) **Councillor Updates.** A sign was suggested for Vicarage Rd to be a no through road.
- 19) **Correspondence.** The clerk had been in discussion with highways over Little Hockham Lane junction access. A sign was suggested. The clerk would continue discussions.
It was agreed to see if a reduction in the streetlight maintenance costs could be considered.
Flexibus details would be sent to In Touch.
The clerk would contact the farmer responsible for the Pightle, to see if repairs can be carried out, following the actions of a “white van man” who tried to take a shortcut and realised that vehicles can get stuck in muddy areas. He was lucky to get pulled out, but it has left a hole.
- 20) **Next Meeting.** Monday 16th March.