

MINUTES OF A HOCKHAM PARISH COUNCIL MEETING ON MONDAY MARCH 16TH 2026 AT 7.30PM IN HOCKHAM VILLAGE HALL.

Attending: Councillors Bennett, Lambert, Wiltshire, Thomas, Leech, Lloyd and Loft, the clerk C Garrod and ten members of the public.

- 1) **Apologies for absence:** None
- 2) **Declarations of interest:** Cllr Lambert as landlord and owner of the Eagle pub and trustee of the Woodsford Charity, Cllr Wiltshire as trustee of the Woodsfrod Charity, Cllrs Bennett and Loft as allotment holders and Cllr Leech as a farmer from Little Hockham.
- 3) **Requests for dispensation.** None.
- 4) **The minutes of 9th Feb 2026,** were approved
- 5) **Progress Report**
 - a) Info Board: Cllr Bennett would speak with Mr Stebbing for assistance.
 - b) Drainage. A report had been circulated from NCC Highways regards some of the village drainage and a resident would be contacted to ensure a ditch was cleared. The clerk was asked to ask NCC Highways for information for School Square.
 - c) Waste Bin issue. The Serco team had been contacted. This would be monitored as the issue had not completely disappeared.
 - d) Pightle Footpath. The farmer responsible would affect repairs when the area was dry enough.
 - e) Litter Pick. This had been very successful. Some work had been done on the Friday as well as the Saturday. All were thanked.
- 6) **Public Participation.** The meeting was paused briefly for a public adjournment.
- 7) **County & District Councillor Reports.** Not available.
- 8) **Highways and Highway Safety.** Cllr Thomas reported that white lines at village road junctions had been refreshed. Work was completed on a Little Hockham Lane pothole. The Shropham Road potholes had been scheduled for repair. The grips had been improved. Work by the A1075 junction (Great Hockham Road) to try and alleviate flooding had been actioned and has also been programmed to put some material in the road edge.
- 9) **Planning.** The local plan consultee comments had been released. The planning committee would continue as is till the AGM in May. The clerk would contact Sapienta Trust again. PL/2025/1331/OMAJ was discussed. The parish council were not enamoured by the attitude of the applicant to potential pollution issues or the fact that others should fund the issues it might bring. A response to the plan changes would be made. It was still considered unsafe for schoolchildren.
- 10) **Finance.** The play equipment had been paid. Bank balance £18181.69. Payment was approved for the clerk's salary & PAYE of, £193 Pearce & Kemp £45.60, Water and rent for meetings of £225 and £168 and items for the litter pick at £49.38. Income of £100 for the community car scheme was expected. There would be £3500 of VAT to reclaim. Expected Community Heartbeat invoices could be paid by the clerk before year end. £100 donation to In Touch as s137 money was approved for April 26.

- 11) **Allotments.** A lively debate was had about the excessive water used on the Harling Road allotments. It was agreed to change the tap to one that needed to be continually pressed to obtain water. The clerk would monitor usage. Fees would be put on the April agenda. The free allotment had been let.
- 12) **Footpaths and Rights of Way.** Cllr Loft said that a fallen tree on Bambridge Lane had been sorted and some extra fly tipping had been removed.
- 13) **Playing Field.** Cllr Lloyd thanked the members of the committee for sorting the play equipment and supervising its installation. It was a great success. Additional dog fencing had been completed as had some fencing needed near the new container. The account had over £15358.42 in, with £600 petty cash. Hornfair iss on 24th May, Summer Show would be on 30th August and Fireworks on 7th November. Volunteers were needed for all events.
- 14) **Forest Edge Court.** The highways damage had been reported. The councillors expected the white lines at the Puddledock junction to be completed, in the near future.
- 15) **Assertion 10.** The clerk was now using a .gov email address.
- 16) **Defibrillator box decoration.** It was decided that due diligence had to be applied, so the answer was no.
- 17) **POL020 Safeguarding.** This was approved and signed.
- 18) **Hornfair Road Closure.** It was agreed to pay for the road closure on Sunday 24th May. Cost was £46.35.
- 19) **Councillor Updates:** A sign was requested via highways to say no access to the A1075 on Vicarage Road West. The clerk would investigate. Cllr Wilshire would get the results for the speed camera. Advertising was needed for the mobile library as the use was low.
- 20) **Correspondence.** The clerk highlighted some potential land asset availability from Breckland Council. He would investigate further.
- 21) **Next meeting** Monday 27th April 26.