

Hockering Parish Council

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MINUTES of the **Parish Council Meeting** held on Tuesday 10th Sep 2024 at the Village Hall, Hockering.

Cllrs Present at the Meeting: J Blackwell, P Cocker, L Parker and R Neave

Also Present: Parish Clerk, and 3 members of the public. District Councillor Gordon Bambridge arrived at 8.15pm

1. **Welcome and apologies for absence** – Apologies were received from Cllr B Higgins.
2. **To receive any declarations of interest** – there were no declarations of interest.
3. **To approve the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting and the Annual Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 9th July 2024** – having previously been circulated to all councillors, Cllr Neave proposed, and Cllr Cocker seconded that they be approved and signed. All agreed.
4. **To receive County/District Councillor reports** – Cllr Bambridge arrived at 8.15pm and gave his report later in the meeting.
5. **To receive updates from:**
 - a) **Hockering Life** – There will be no further updates on the Village magazine until a volunteer editor is found.
 - b) **Village Hall** – It was noted that the new tables and chairs have arrived, and the old furniture removed. Mr Leslie and Cllr Blackwell had met on site with a representative from the Community Payback Scheme and they had agreed to send a working party to paint the interior walls and paintwork of the Hall. A schedule of work will be received in due course.
 - c) **Village Church** – Cllr Neave reported that the Rector, Tori, had now left to join the Ministry in Hingham and a Vicar-in-training will be living at the Rectory. The Coffee Mornings are popular and will continue to take place to help raise much-needed funds to run the Church.
 - d) **Primary School** – Cllr Parker reported that the children have returned to school after the summer break and that there are now 33 pupils on roll. The big tree at the back of the school has been removed and the tree on the playground will need to be cut down in due course. She will speak to the school to ensure the grounds contractor trims the outside hedge which is overgrown. The school has appointed a new Reception Class teacher and Teaching Assistants are shared with neighbouring schools in the same Academy Trust. A member of the Friends of Hockering School was present at the meeting and reported that the clearing of the area for the new Nature Garden is proceeding well with the help of volunteers. She said that the funding to the School had been cut and they are struggling to provide even basic equipment. The Friends will try to raise funds by holding community events and the Chairman said that the Parish Council would help where they can.
 - e) **Grasscutting** – Cllr Higgins has been cutting the grass in the village regularly and has been

able to dispose of the clippings at a local farm. The possibility of holding another Village Clear-up Day was discussed but it was decided to wait until next year to confirm a date.

6. **Open Forum for Public Participation – maximum of 3 minutes per person** – A resident raised concerns about the poor state of the verges and hedges in St Michael's Close and it was agreed that the Landlords, Hastoe Housing, would be contacted to ask that the area be tidied.
7. **To consider updates on the following Working Parties:**
 - a) **Neighbourhood Plan** – The Chairman said that he hopes to progress this matter later in the year.
 - b) **Play Area and Youth Club** – Cllr Cocker reported that the Football Club is meeting with Jim Freeman from Galliford Try, the A47 contractors, and as part of their co-operation with villages affected by the road improvement scheme, they are helping to improve the parking facilities at the Club.
8. **To discuss updates on the following:**
 - a) **Speeding and Parking in the Village** – The SAM2 machine which is used in rotation with other local parish councils, will be back in Hockering later this month. It was suggested that it would be helpful to have this speed-activated sign sited on the road past the school on the way out of the village to deter drivers from speeding before they reach the A47. The SAM2 machine rota means that the sign is in use in Hockering every 3-4 months.
 - b) **Overgrown hedges and verges** – Cllr Blackwell offered to contact landowners whose hedges are encroaching over pedestrian footways to ask for them to be cut back. It was suggested that encouraging residents to take a pride in their village environment should be put on Facebook.
 - c) **Renovation of brick bus shelter** – The Chairman met with the representative from the Community Payback Scheme and they are happy to repaint the interior of the bus shelter when they are renovating the Village Hall. It was noted that the guttering and fascia boards need repairing and costings will be sought on replacing the noticeboard, possibly with a freestanding board on the verge adjacent to the bus shelter.
 - d) **Possible use of Parish Partnership Funding** – This matter will be discussed at the next meeting.
9. **To consider future Village Events** – The Friends of Hockering School thanked the Parish Council for all their help at their recent Summer Fete and reported that this very successful day had raised £2,100 for funds to help the School. They hoped to hold other community projects and would contact the Parish Council for their support following their next committee meeting.

District Councillor Gordon Bambridge arrived.

He thanked the FoHS team and volunteers for a very enjoyable and successful event.

10. **Correspondence for circulation** - All correspondence had been circulated and dealt with as required.
11. **Report from District Councillor Bambridge** -
Cllr Bambridge's reported on the fact that Breckland Council is to be re-warded soon, with the final decision being made by the Boundary Commission on behalf of Central Government. Details can be found on the Breckland Council website. A decision will be made soon on the matter of carparking charges in Breckland towns. Details can be found on the website: www.breckland.gov.uk/car-parks/policychange. Comments can be posted on the consultation which is now taking place can also be found on this website.
12. **Planning Matters** –

a) No applications have been received

b) Decisions made:-

Application No. 3PL/2024/0163/VAR. Location: Albatross Road, Hockering. This proposal to remove the delivery of highway improvements, including road widening and pedestrian refuge, due to changes to the A47 road network and new Hockering bypass has been REFUSED.

Application No. 3PL/2024/0410/HOU. Location: Trelawny, 20 Heath Road. Proposal to remove existing utility room and conservatory. Proposed 2-storey side and rear timber-clad extension and installation of solar panels to south west elevation. Application APPROVED.

Application No. 3PL/2021/1269/D. Location: Land adjacent to No. 20 Heath Road. Reserved matters application for 12 dwellings following outline permission 3PL/2016/1262/O. The application has been REFUSED.

13. Finance & Governance Matters

- a) **To approve the following payments and note Bank Balance** – Cllr Cocker proposed and Cllr Parker seconded that these payments be approved. All were in favour.

PAYMENTS FOR APPROVAL THIS MONTH: <i>THE CO-OPERATIVE BANK COMMUNITY ACCOUNT</i>				
BALANCE AS AT 09.07.24			£19,672.58	
PAY TYPE	PAYEE	DESCRIPTION	ACTUAL AMOUNT	VAT
BACS	M Ridgwell	Jul & Aug Salary & Exps	578.70	
BACS	HMRC	PAYE to Period 7	137.20	
BACS	Norfolk PTS	Training for JB	48.00	
DD	Campaign for Rural England	Subscription	60.00	
		Less	£823.90	
Receipts				
BALANCE C/FWD 10.09.24			£18.848.68	

- b) Councillors received a position statement for the first half year of the financial year and noted the bank balance.
- c) Councillors agreed to fund the Clerk to attend the Norfolk Parish Training and Support Autumn Seminar.

14. **To receive any new items for the next agenda** – To progress and receive updates on matters raised above.

To note the next meeting of the Parish Council – This will be held on Tuesday 8th October 2024 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 9.10pm

Signed