

Hockering Parish Council

Chairman: J Blackwell
Tel: 07808 927910
e-mail: jonty.b@btinternet.com

Clerk: Mrs Margaret Ridgwell,
Tel: 01603 871636
e-mail: hockeringparishcouncil@gmail.com

MINUTES of the **Annual Parish Council Meeting** held on Tuesday 23rd May 2023 at the Village Hall, Hockering.

Cllrs Present at the Meeting: Cllrs T Bassett, J Blackwell, P Cocker, B Higgins, M Mason, R Neave and L Parker

Also Present: District Cllr Gordon Bambridge, 11 members of the public and the Parish Clerk.

Following the recent elections, all 7 council members who were re-elected unopposed, signed their Declaration of Acceptance of Office forms.

- 1. Election of Chair and signing of the declaration of office acceptance form** – nominations for the position of Chairman were requested. Cllr Cocker proposed, and Cllr Bassett seconded, that Cllr Blackwell be re-elected to the post. All were in favour, and he duly signed the Declaration of Acceptance of the Office of Chairman form.
- 2. Election of Vice Chair** – nominations for the position of Vice-Chairman were requested. Cllr Parker proposed, and Cllr Blackwell seconded, that Cllr Bassett be elected. Cllr Bassett and Cllr Mason proposed that Cllr Cocker be elected. A vote followed and by a majority vote Cllr Bassett was elected to the post of Vice-Chairman.
- 3. Welcome and apologies for absence** – there were no apologies.
- 4. To receive any declarations of interest** – there were no declarations of interest.
- 5. To approve the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 18th April 2023** – having previously been circulated to all councillors, Cllr Neave proposed, and Cllr Blackwell seconded that they be approved and signed. All were in agreement.
- 6. To receive County/District Councillor reports** – District Councillor Bambridge had given his report at the Annual Parish Meeting earlier in the evening. He agreed to try to find out if there was anywhere that would accept grass cuttings from the communal areas in the village if Cllr Higgins kindly cut the grass.
- 7. Open Forum for Public Participation – maximum of 3 minutes per person** – the question was raised concerning the arrows on the road, when entering the village from Norwich, which are hard to see. A resident has informed Highways, but the Parish Council will also pursue the matter. It was noted that the fencing on the A47 approaching the church is broken and unsightly. NCC Highways to be informed.
- 8. To discuss defibrillator training** – The Chairman thanked the Village Hall Caretaker for mending the defibrillator casing and replacing the pad. The Clerk will contact NARS (Norfolk Accident and Rescue Service) to ask if they could give training in the Hall to all residents wishing to attend. It was suggested

that a Monday or Tuesday evening, or a Saturday morning would be the most favourable times to offer to NARS.

9. To consider village events – Cllr Parker said that the children from school would paint the planters in the village but it would be helpful if a call could be put out on Facebook for volunteers to take on the planting and maintenance of a planter on a street in the village. Cllr Higgins said that the Pumpkin Fair will be arranged for October. Cllr Cocker suggested a Santa Float at Christmas time. Cllr Blackwell suggested that a river walk could be undertaken to clear and remove litter from the riverside. Other ideas included a Fete, Car Book Sale, Cinema Club, and continuing with the Monthly Coffee Mornings and Bingo. Residents could be asked for their ideas and views, either on Facebook, a Poster in Noticeboards, or an article in the Quarterly Magazine.

10. Planning Matters.

- a) Applications for consideration - None received.
Any other applications received after the publication of the agenda are available on <http://planning.breckland.gov.uk/OcellaWeb/planningSearch>
- b) To note any planning decisions/appeals - Application 3PL/2023/0376/HOU for a two-storey extension has been approved.

11. Finance & Governance Matters

- a) To receive the financial report for the year ending 31st March 2023 – this had been circulated to all councillors prior to the meeting.
- b) To receive the internal auditors’ report and consider any recommendations. Councillors noted the report and its recommendations.
- c) To approve the Annual Governance Statement in the 2022-23 Annual Governance and Accountability Return. Cllr Parker proposed and Cllr Neave seconded that this be approved and all were in favour. It was signed by the Chairman and RFO.
- d) To approve the Accounting Statements in the 2022-23 Annual Return. This was also unanimously approved by Councillors and signed by the Chairman and RFO.
- e) To approve the Certification of Exemption from a limited assurance review under Section 9 of the Local Audit (Smaller Authorities) Regulations 2015. This was also unanimously approved by Councillors and signed by the Chairman and RFO.
- f) To approve the following payments - There were no payments for this May 2023

12. Correspondence for circulation – Any correspondence of importance had been forwarded to Councillors and matters dealt with as required. (Correspondence received after the agenda has been published will be circulated at the meeting).

13. To receive any new items for the next agenda – Matters for discussion at the next meeting include: Siting of the Playground; Working Party for Youth Club; Litter Pick and Clearing the Brook; Repair of the Stile Footpath Bridge; New Local Area Map required on Bus Shelter.

14. To note the next meeting of the Parish Council – This is scheduled for 7:30pm on Tuesday 8th August 2023 in the Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 8.45pm

Signed

Date

Draft