

Hockering Parish Council

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MINUTES of the **Parish Council Meeting** held on Tuesday 10th October 2023 at the Village Hall, Hockering.

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

Also Present: District Councillor Gordon Bambridge, 1 member of the public and the Parish Clerk.

1. **Welcome and apologies for absence** – Cllr B Higgins sent his apologies.
2. **To receive any declarations of interest** – there were no declarations of interest.
3. **To approve the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 12th September 2023** – having previously been circulated to all councillors, Cllr Parker proposed, and Cllr Neave seconded that they be approved and signed. All agreed.
4. **To receive County/District Councillor reports** – District Cllr Bembridge said that there had been few matters of importance to report from recent meetings. The District Council Local Plan is going ahead and although the proposed call for sites is still open it is hoped that the decision will be made by the end of the year. He suggested that if the Parish Council have any comments or concerns on the proposed sites then they should send these comments in now, rather than wait until the consultation ends. He confirmed that the work sites along the A47 are where the contractors are carrying out preparations in the expectation that work on the upgrading can start early in 2024.
5. **To receive updates from:**
 - a) **Hockering Life** – Cllr Cocker said that the first meeting of the new Hockering Life Committee took place last week with 9 people willing to help. There are plans for several regular articles to be included in future editions and the deadline for the next edition, which will be published in mid-November, is the 27th October. The intention is that the magazine will be based on content rather than advertising.
 - b) **Village Hall** – the Village Hall is regularly booked up and the proposed play session for toddlers will be starting soon.
 - c) **Playing Field** – Cllr Cocker reported that there are plans to redevelop the area around the tennis court and the Working Party will look at the various options available to cater for all age groups on the site. Enquiries will be made to see if funding is available from Sport England or the National Lottery.
 - d) **Village Church** – Cllr Neave said that Hockering, like most churches, is having to raise more money as the charges made by the local Diocese have increased and there are also costly repairs needed to the Church. The coffee mornings are well supported and help with fund raising.
 - e) **Primary School** – Cllr Parker reported that the hedge around the school had still not been cut and is dangerous for the children as the hedge contains brambles. She will be in contact with the grounds contractors on behalf of the school to try to get the work done as soon as possible. Cllr Cocker raised concerns about parents parking dangerously across the junction outside the school and the Police will monitor the area in future. Photos of inconsiderate parking will be sent to the Safer Neighbourhood Team to ask for their advice on parking, speeding and anti-social behaviour in the village.
6. **Open Forum for Public Participation – maximum of 3 minutes per person** – a resident attended the meeting who said that she would be willing to help with setting up a Youth Club in the village. Her details will be passed on to the Youth Club Working Party and she was thanked for her offer of help.

7. To discuss proposals for Working Parties:

- a) **To Develop a Neighbourhood Plan** – The Chairman said that he had attended a Breckland Council Open Forum in Dereham on this topic which was useful. He will put an article in Hockering Life asking for volunteers to help get this initiative moving forward.
- b) **To Consider the Future of the Play Area** – Cllr Cocker had given an update on the Playing Field above and would be asking for residents’ views on what play opportunities are missing in the village. This will then help to plan the future of the existing Play Area.
- c) **To Set Up a Youth Club** – It is hoped that now there are volunteers willing to help, a Youth Club could be started in the near future. The Friends of Hockering School will be asked if they can provide any help.

If any residents are interested in helping on any of these Working Parties, they would be warmly welcomed and should contact the Parish Council for more information.

8. To consider updates on the following:

- a) **Holding a Litter-Pick and Clearing of the Brook** – This event was very well attended and several bags of rubbish were removed by NCC and the borrowed equipment returned. It was suggested that the event be repeated early next year.
- b) **Local Map on the Bus Shelter** – the District Council are willing to provide a map if we give them details of size and content - Cllr Blackwell will follow this up and Cllr Parker said that she would arrange for a frame to be made.
- c) **Defibrillator and First Aid Training** – the East Anglian Air Ambulance service have been contacted and they can provide this training. It was suggested that Saturday 2nd December, after the Coffee Morning, would be a good date and EAAA will be asked if this is convenient.
- d) **Speeding in the Village** – as mentioned above the Safer Neighbourhood Team will be contacted to ask for advice on how to mitigate this problem.
- e) **Grasscutting in Village Public Areas** – Easton College had been contacted to ask if their students could help with planning the use and upkeep of public areas in the village as part of their work experience – no reply has been received yet.
- f) **Bus Service through Hockering** – First Bus had been contacted to complain about the fact that the scheduled bus often misses Hockering. No reply has been received, but Cllr Bembridge suggested that North Tuddenham PC be contacted as they are trying to get a bus service operating through their village and this would then join the route through Hockering.

9. To consider future Village Events – the Pumpkin and Guy Fawkes competitions are being organized by Cllr Higgins.

10. Correspondence for circulation - All correspondence had been circulated and dealt with as required.

11. 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 – none received.

12. Finance & Governance Matters

All councillors agreed to approve the following payments and note the income:

PAYMENTS FOR APPROVAL THIS MONTH: THE CO-OPERATIVE BANK COMMUNITY ACCOUNT				
BALANCE AS AT 12.09.23			£18,822.11	
PAY TYPE	PAYEE	DESCRIPTION	ACTUAL AMOUNT	VAT
BACS	M Ridgwell	Sep Salary	323.20	
BACS	M Ridgwell	Sep Exps	20.20	
BACS	Norfolk ALC	Autumn Conference – J Blackwell	25.00	
BACS	HMRC	PAYE to Period 4	80.80	
BACS	J Blackwell	Litter Pick Refreshments	22.68	
		Total	449.20	
RECEIPTS	Breckland Council	Precept		5,000.00
BALANCE C/FWD			£23,372.91	

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

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

The meeting closed at 8:55pm

Signed

Date