

Hockering Parish Council

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MINUTES of the **Parish Council Meeting** held on Tuesday 14th November 2023 at the Village Hall, Hockering.

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

Also Present: The Parish Clerk.

1. **Welcome and apologies for absence** – There were no 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 10th October 2023** – having previously been circulated to all councillors, Cllr Neave proposed, and Cllr Parker seconded that they be approved and signed. All agreed.
4. **To receive County/District Councillor reports** – District Cllr Bembridge was not present at the meeting.
5. **To receive updates from:**
 - a) **Hockering Life** – Cllr Cocker said that the next issue of Hockering Life has gone to print and will be the same size as the previous issue. Several regular features will be included in future editions.
 - b) **Village Hall** – A neighbouring property has now been sold and the land officially belonging to the Village Hall will be returned. New Fire Doors are in the process of being fitted.
 - c) **Playing Field** – Cllr Cocker reported that football training now takes place elsewhere but matches still take place at the weekend.
 - d) **Village Church** – Cllr Neave said that Hockering, like most churches, is struggling to meet its bills, especially as the monthly Standing Charge for electricity has increased considerably. Unfortunately, the Treasurer has had to give up her post, and unless a new qualified Treasurer is found soon, the Church will have to close, particularly as the congregation is now very low.
 - e) **Primary School** – Cllr Parker reported that the hedge around the school had now been cut and the inside hedge should be cut soon. The School are keen for pupils to be involved with helping village projects in future. The children are now busy practicing for their Christmas productions and will also be visiting a Pantomime.
6. **Open Forum for Public Participation – maximum of 3 minutes per person** – there were no questions.
7. **To consider updates on the following Working Parties:**
 - a) **Neighbourhood Plan** – The Chairman said that he hoped to make progress on setting up a group of interested residents to move this initiative forward in the New Year.
 - b) **Play Area/Youth Club** – Cllr Cocker had given an update on the Playing Field above and said that she had been in touch with two volunteers who are willing to help set up a Youth Club in the Village Hall. She also had a contact who might be able to supply gaming machines for the Club.

If any residents are interested in helping 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) **Local Map on the Bus Shelter** – the District Council have been approached to provide a map of the village which will be framed before fitting to a bus shelter. It was agreed that this would be better sited in the metal bus shelter as this was lighter and more visible.
- b) **Fly-tipping on Church Road** – unfortunately some tyres and other rubbish had been dumped on Church Road and although some had been removed by Breckland Council, there was still more to take away.
- c) **Defibrillator and First Aid Training** – the East Anglian Air Ambulance service are coming to the Village Hall to provide this training on Saturday 2nd December, after the Coffee Morning,
- d) **Speeding in the Village and Parking Outside the School** – Cllr Cocker reported that the Police, the Safer Neighbourhood Team and NCC have been contacted concerning the dangerous and inconsiderate parking across the junction adjacent to the school. She will be contacting these groups to find out the cost of installing double yellow lines or cross-hatching so that drivers ignoring the junction signs and parking legislation can be reported to NCC or the Police if necessary. There is a SAM2 (Speed Activated Machine) jointly owned by neighbouring Parish Councils, and this will be erected in Hockering in the next few months to remind motorists to abide by the speed limit. The Police also carry out speed checks on a regular basis.
- e) **Grasscutting in Village Public Areas** – It was suggested that the Parish Council purchase a ride-on mower so that Cllr Higgins can undertake the cutting of the smaller public areas in Hockering. He will look into the cost and a decision will be made concerning this purchase at the next meeting.
- f) **Bus Service through Hockering** – North Tuddenham PC have been approached as they are eager to have a regular bus service through their village. Hockering PC offered to support their request for a bus to go through North Tuddenham before coming through Hockering then rejoining the A47.

9. To consider future Village Events – It was suggested that a Village Fete should take place next year, possibly in late June/early July. Each venue could be responsible for different events, e.g. Open gardens, a Yard Sale, Food at The Victoria, and maybe an Auction of Promises, with Craft stalls and refreshments in the Village Hall. Each organization can choose to raise funds for themselves or donate to other causes in the Village. Discussions will take place with interested parties in the New Year.

10. To confirm dates of Parish Council meetings for 2024 – It was agreed that the meetings continue to be held on the 2nd Tuesday of each month, with the exception of the Annual Meeting which will be on the 21st May, and then the June meeting will be cancelled. No meetings will take place in February or August.

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

12. 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.

13. 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			£23,350.23	
PAY TYPE	PAYEE	DESCRIPTION	ACTUAL AMOUNT	VAT
BACS	M Ridgwell	Oct Salary	323.20	
BACS	M Ridgwell	Oct Exps	16.60	
BACS	HMRC	PAYE to Period 5	80.80	
BACS	Hockering Village Hall	Hire on 01/10/23 for Litter Pick Event	36.00	
BACS	Breckland Council	Uncontested Elections in May 2023	75.00	
		Total	531.60	
BALANCE C/FWD			£22,818.63	

14. To receive any new items for the next agenda – To progress and receive updates on matters raised above, including cleaning and decorating the bus shelter, repairing Stile footbridges, purchase of mower, discuss and approve Budget and Precept for 2024/25

To note the next meeting of the Parish Council – This is scheduled for 7:30pm on Tuesday 12th December at 7.30pm 2023 in the Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 8.55pm

Signed