

## Hockering Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting of Hockering Parish Council held at 7:30 pm on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> April 2023 in the village hall.

**Present:**

Cllr J Blackwell (Chair)  
Cllr R Neave  
Cllr L Parker  
Cllr T Bassett  
Cllr M Mason  
Cllr P Cocker  
Cllr B Higgins

District Cllr Bill Borrett  
District Cllr Gordon Bambridge

Eight members of the public  
Sue Marsh (Clerk)

**1. Welcome and apologies for absence**

None received.

**2. To receive declarations of interest**

None received.

**3. To approve the amended minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2023**

Cllr Neave proposed that the amended minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2023 be accepted as a true record of the meeting, this was seconded by Cllr Parker and agreed by Council. The Chairman duly signed the minutes.

**4. To approve the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> March 2023**

Cllr Higgins proposed that the amended minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> March 2023 be accepted as a true record of the meeting, this was seconded by Cllr Mason and agreed by Council. The Chairman duly signed the minutes.

**5. To receive County/District Councillor reports**

D/Cllr Borrett confirmed that there was still time for the Parish Council to raise an objection regarding the proposed new town. An update was given on the progress of the Western Link Road, this appears to be sitting with the Treasury, George Freeman MP is investigating. A47 dualling, awaiting outcome of the judicial review.

D/Cllr Bambridge confirmed the points above and commented on a question regarding the retention of old Parish Council Minutes. D/Cllr Bambridge confirmed that although not a legal requirement for old minutes to be lodged with the Norfolk Records Office, he thought it was a sensible thing to do.

## **6. Open Forum for Public Participation**

- a) A discussion was had regarding the upset caused by the delivery of the other publication inside the HQN. A Parishioner had emailed the Parish Council and a member of the HQN editorial committee with his views on the apology that had been published in the recent copy of the HQN. The Parishioner asked that his letter be published in the next edition of the HQN to give a balanced view.
- b) A discussion was had regarding the whereabouts of the old Hockering Parish Council minutes. The clerk confirmed that when she took up the post in September 2021, she was passed several boxes of paperwork from the previous Chair. Having refiled the said paperwork, she confirmed that she has only been given minutes that date back from 2015 and has no knowledge of the whereabouts of any older minutes. Unfortunately, when the boxes were passed across there was not an inventory supplied, therefore, no factual evidence of what was or should have been in the boxes.

## **7. To consider moving the play area**

A discussion was had regarding moving the play area from its current location to the grass area surrounding the village hall. It was agreed that the Chairman would send a formal letter to the village hall committee asking them to consider this option.

## **8. To consider the joint Parish Councils letter request**

A discussion was had regarding the request from local Parish Councils for Hockering Parish Council to join them in writing a letter to Breckland District Council opposing the proposed new town. Proposed by Cllr Neave, seconded by Cllr Cocker and agreed by Council – clerk to action.

## **9. To consider a Hockering Parish visit Hockering Woods**

A discussion was had regarding the offer of a guided tour of the woods for parishioners. It was agreed to have further discussions with the owners of the woods.

## **10. To consider the purchase of a new dog bin**

As the damaged dog bin had been repaired, it was agreed that a new one was not needed at this time.

## **11. Planning Matters:**

### a) Applications for consideration

- None received

### b) Take note of any planning decisions:

Council noted the following decisions by Breckland District Council:

- None received

## 12. Finance & Governance Matters

a) **To receive a financial report for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023**

The financial report was noted

b) **Acceptance of bank payments were proposed by Cllr Mason and seconded by Cllr Cocker. Agreed by Council:**

• Clerk April salary/allowances	£342.43
• HMRC – PAYE	£ 85.60
• Harlequin Print - HQN	£386.02 (Paid by R Hawker)
• ANBE Creative Design - HQN	£125.00
	<b>£939.05</b>

## 13. Correspondence for circulation

- Flyer from Environment Agency – noted
- Email from parishioner regarding the HQN – discussed in public participation
- Email from parishioner regarding parking – noted

## 14. To receive any new items for the next agenda

- Village events
- Defib training
- Record retention policy – review

## 15. To pass a resolution excluding the press and public from the meeting given the sensitive nature of the business to be discussed – proposed by Cllr Neave, seconded by Cllr Cocker

An interview had taken place the Council agreed to make an offer of employment – current clerk to action.

To note the next meeting of the Parish Council will be held at 7:30pm on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2023 in the village hall.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and the meeting closed at 8:45 pm

Signed ..... Date .....