

Hockering Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting of Hockering Parish Council held at 7:30 pm on Tuesday 13th December 2022 in the village hall.

Present:

Cllr J Blackwell (Chair)

Cllr R Neave

Cllr L Parker

Cllr T Bassett

Four members of the public

Sue Marsh (Clerk)

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Mason and Cllr Higgins.

2. To consider co-option of a new councillor

Cllr Parker proposed that Philippa Cocker be co-opted as a new councillor, this was seconded by Cllr Bassett and agreed by council. The Chairman welcomed Cllr Cocker to the Council, and she duly signed the declaration of acceptance of office form.

3. To receive declarations of interest.

None received

4. To approve the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 8th November 2022

Cllr Neave proposed that the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 8th November 2022 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.

5. To receive County/District Councillor reports

District Cllr Bambridge reported that many planning applications remain on hold due to the nutrient neutrality issue. District Cllr Bambridge also confirmed that he continues to be involved in the local housing issues. There is a lack of social and affordable housing nationally as well as locally.

6. Open Forum for Public Participation

a) A question was raised regarding the lack of streetlights in Hockering. It was explained that the villagers agreed years ago that they preferred a dark sky policy. Streetlights could be installed, but there would be a process that would have to be undertaken, which would consist of a village referendum, costing for the placement of the lights and the maintenance. All the costs would be the responsibility of the Parish Council, which in turn would have to increase the precept (cost to parishioners) to cover these.

7. To receive a report on the walk through tidy up of the watercourse

Matthew Philpot, area manager for Broads, Norfolk Rivers, East Suffolk, Waveney & Kings Lynn IDB had arranged for the work to be completed. The work had taken two

full days and the council are pleased with the results. It was hoped that going forward, working groups could be set up in the summer to ensure the watercourse remains tidy. A few sandbags had been dislodged and Matthew would contact Anglia Water as he felt that these may be their responsibility. – Action, clerk to follow up

8. To consider the condition of the brick bus shelter

Cllr Neave stated that the bus shelter was dirty and smelly and was in need of some general maintenance. It was agreed to investigate cleaning and painting the bus shelter – Action, clerk to follow up in the spring

9. To consider replacing the local map

The existing map had been taken down from the inside of the brick bus shelter due to vandalism. The clerk has requested the cost of a new one from Norfolk County Council. Any new map would have to be repositioned so as to deter it being vandalised again – Action, clerk to follow up with Norfolk County Council

10. Planning Matters:

- a) Applications for consideration
- b) **None advised**
- c) Take note of any planning decisions:

Council noted the following decisions by Breckland District Council:

- **None received**

11. To consider the placement of potential new playground equipment

Deferred to January 2023 meeting

12. Finance & Governance Matters

a) **To receive a financial report for the year ending 31st March 2023**

The financial report was noted

b) **To consider the draft budget and set the precept for the year ending 31st March 2024**

The council felt that the precept should not be increased due to the current economic climate, therefore it was proposed by Cllr Neave and Seconded by Cllr Parker that the precept remain the same as last year - £10,000

c) **Acceptance of bank payments were proposed by Cllr Neave and seconded by Cllr Parker. Agreed by Council:**

• Clerk Dec salary/allowances	£ 372.38
• HMRC – PAYE	£ 89.80
• Norfolk Rivers	£1,566.00
• Hire of Village Hall	£ 260.00
• ICO	£ 35.00 (DD-Paid)
• Road Ware – Dog Bin	£ 206.34 (paid by clerk)

- Hosting of website £ 108.00 (paid by clerk)
£2,637.52

13. Correspondence for Circulation

None received

14. To receive any new items for the next agenda

- Training needs for councillors

To note the next meeting of the Parish Council will be held at 7:30pm on Tuesday 10th January 2023 in the village hall

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and the meeting closed at 8:30 pm

Signed Date