

## Hickling Parish Council Meeting

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> March 2024 at the Village Hall, Hickling commencing at 7.00pm.

Councillors present: Cllrs Playle (Chair), Green, Lamb, Prosser and Rowe.  
Also in attendance: Cate Stokes (Parish Clerk), RBC Cllr Combellack (from 8pm) and 3 parishioners.

**24.3.1 Opening** – Cllr Playle opened the meeting at 7.00PM with an update of the structure of the PC: All the Cllrs on the current PC are extremely time poor and no one individual wanted to take on the responsibility of Chair. Therefore they had previously adopted a rotating chair policy, however, Cllr Combellack took advice from RBC and NALC and suggested that this policy was illegal. The Cllrs did not want to compromise the PC so have gone back to a single elected chair. With Cllr Playle having the most availability to chair the meetings this position has defaulted to him, a parishioner wished to say that they appreciate what the PC are doing for the community and that Cllr Playle was doing a good job, this was seconded by all Cllrs present.

**24.3.2 Apologies** – Cllr Conway and NC Cllr Cottee.

**24.3.3 Declarations of interest** – None

**24.3.4 Acceptance of minutes** – minutes from the meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> February 2024 were reviewed and accepted.

### 24.3.5 Open session

- A query was raised by a parishioner about the need for planning permission for the installation of driveway mirrors. Several have recently appeared along Main Street in Hickling. **Clerk** to contact the planning authority and clarify the rules given they are situated within a conservation area.
- Parishioner wished to check that the WI Black Poplar tree had been planted in the Parish cemetery. Cllr Playle confirmed location of the new Black Poplar tree.

### 24.3.6 Ward members reports

- Cllr Combellack noted that she has been approached by people interested in becoming flood wardens and undergoing NCC flood Warden training which will involve help and advice with road closures. Rushcliffe have money available to help with storage of flood and road closure signs if locations can be found. PC would need to put in a request to RBC. money for flood alleviation schemes is also available from NCC.
- Biodiversity Policy – Cllr Combellack raised the need for the PC to consider a biodiversity policy. **Clerk** acknowledged receipt of an email relating to training for biodiversity policies and will also contact Clerk at Cropwell Bishop PC for advice.
- Cllr Combellack wished to check that the PC has adopted “.gov.uk” email addresses, this was confirmed by the Chair.
- Information was given relating to the upcoming county authority mayoral and police and crime commissioner elections to take place on 2nd May 2024. The elections will allow the community to elect a mayor for Nottinghamshire, this should increase funding available for pothole repair and connectivity projects. **Clerk** to put up posters and about the requirement for voter ID when going to the polls.
- Cllr Playle requested an update on the traffic calming surveys – Cllr Combellack stated that NCC highways team have been notified that there is concern with traffic in the area of Main Street between Long Clawson Lane and Bridegate Lane and a response is awaited.
- Cllr Combellack reported from The Town & Parish forum which was well attended with an excellent presentation by NALC regarding Code of Conduct and Civility and Respect. Help with Documents and policies was being offered with templates available. Regarding Standing orders it was emphasised, by the Borough Solicitor, that if PCs do not comply with these then votes will be unsound and open to challenge.

#### 24.3.7 Other items

- Lengthman's Hut signage – Cllr Prosser gave an update: following email communication between the local history group and the landowners where the sign is to be positioned this is now moving forward but they will let us know in due course when they are ready for the funds held by the PC for the sign.
  
- Bridegate Lane Cones – Cllr Prosser noted that the roadside cones as you enter the village from Bridegate lane are often very dirty and therefore less effective. **Clerk** to contact Streetwise to find out who is responsible for cleaning these and other signs around the villages.
  
- Litterpick – Cllr Playle noted that the community litterpick was not as well supported as in previous years. It was suggested that perhaps it needs coordinating by a member of the community in future and later in the year when it is warmer and could be made more of a social event.
  
- Hickling pastures notice board – Update received from Cllr Rowe that this was progressing and should be completed next month.
  
- A606 road surface – Clerk contacted Cllrs Cottee, Combellack and Cllr Clarke to find out if the road surface could be resurfaced as a matter of priority. Response from Cllr Clarke suggested that they are waiting for clarification on when the RSA works will commence as it is felt that it would be a waste of public money to resurface the road for it to be dug up again. The PC feel that this is an unsatisfactory response since the road surface is deteriorating rapidly poses and ever increasing threat to causing a serious accident. **Clerk** to write back re-iterating that the PC feel that this needs addressing as a matter of urgency. Letter also to be sent to MP Ruth Edwards highlighting the issue.
  
- Invasive weeds A46 - Cllr Playle raised concerns about the presence of an invasive non-native weed along the A46 and A606 near the Widmerpool junction. **Clerk** to contact highways to alert them to the need to get this under control as it is spreading quickly.
  
- Wildflower verge – Cllr Playle noted that the verge that has been seeded for wildflowers has been covered by the spoil from the recent ditch clearing. Motion to reseed proposed – **AGREED** by all.
  
- Flood warden update - Cllr Playle and Cllr Combellack have had discussions with several members of the community about being involved with emergency response to flooding it is felt that this requires someone from the community to coordinate. **Clerk** to contact volunteers and see if they need help organizing training etc. **Clerk** also to contact Lowdham PC to discuss how they support their flood response volunteers.
  - Cllr Playle also wished to discuss the need for a longer-term project to address flood prevention using natural defenses and stop “knee jerk” reactions such as de-silting of brooks. Some landowners have been approached to discuss this and have so far given positive responses. It was noted that the scheme is beneficial for both community and landowner as it would be a way to potentially get an income from land that is not able to grow crops due to it already being susceptible to flooding. PC suggest that it would be good to get a study done to be able to present to landowners and allow the planning of a larger project within the village e.g to establish nature areas with walks through them instead of just walking through muddy fields.
  
- Church yard lime tree – Cllr Playle updated on the recent removal of a diseased lime tree at St Luke's church, Hickling. This tree was due to be poisoned however, following discussions with the tree surgeons it has been agreed to allow a new tree to grow from the roots of the old tree.
  
- Email addresses for contacting the PC – it has been agreed that only the Clerk's email will be published in the Hickling Standard and the advice to parishioners is to contact

the PC through the Clerk initially. This will stop individual Cllrs being overwhelmed with emails and the Clerk can direct individual enquiries to the relevant portfolios.

- Walkers green inspection – Cllr Lamb to continue monthly inspections going forward.
- Annual audit of accounts – David Dixon at Dixon accounting has been appointed
- AGM – Date in May to be confirmed
- D-Day 80 – Suggested beacon lighting on 6<sup>th</sup> June. **Clerk** to contact previous organizers of beacon lighting for help and advice.

**24.3.8 Correspondence**

- Community notices – Clerk has been approached by a parishioner about the selective removal of posters from the bus stop on Main Street, Hickling. Cllr Combellack advised that the bus stop is not owned by the parish and therefore nothing can be done.
  - Flooding and drain clearing near Pudding lane – Pictures received of lorry clearing the drains at the South end of Main Street on 4/3/24. Also pictures of the drain re-covered in mud following milk tanker reversing over it when cars are parked opposite the lane.
  - Defibrillators – Current costs of replacement defibrillators received so that PC can start planning to fund the replacement of the three community defibrillators in the next few years.

**24.3.9 Decision Notices**

Ref: 23/02275/FUL

Applicant: Rob Brown

Development: Erection of 9 new dwellings and extension of existing bungalow and associated landscaping and highway works

Location: Haulage contractors Bridegate Lane Hickling Pastures LE14 3QA

**APPLICATION REFUSED**

Ref: 23/02192/FUL

Applicant: Mr Paul Sharp

Development: Demolition of detached garage construct single stored side/rear flat roof extension, associated raised rear patio area and side boundary fence

Location: 23 Harles Acres Hickling LE14 3AF

**APPLICATION GRANTED**

Town and country planning act 1990, section 211, notice of proposed works to trees in Hickling conservation area

Permission granted to reduce height of Leylandii conifer by half to rear of Home Farm

Town and country planning act 1990, section 211, notice of proposed works to trees in Hickling conservation area

Permission granted to reduce height of 2 Leylandii conifer and a Hawthorn tree by 2 m at 10 Harles Acres

**24-3-1: Finance**

Balance of accounts: 13/03/24

Current Account: 10011.44

Reserve Account: 3893.82

Cheque no,	Payee	Description	Amount
BACS	Community Heartbeat	Replacement Defib pads (bus shelter)	£42.00
BACS	Community Heartbeat	Replacement Defib pads (Village Hall)	£42.00
BACS	NALC invoice 3134	2024/25 Membership	£148.80
BACS	Information Commissioner's Office	GDPR – data protection fee renewal (due 26 <sup>th</sup> April)	£40.00
BACS	NALC invoice 3235	Year end training course	£30.00
BACS	Fairfield services	Risk assessment work	£344.00

No Further Business – Meeting closed 8:30pm