Hockliffe Parish Council
"Serving the local community"

# Minutes of Annual Parish Meeting held on Monday 15th April 2024 – 7PM

Councillors Present: Cllrs R Scott (Chair), R Wuczke-Reyland, P Edwards, Mike Richards & Mel Richards

Apologies for Absence: Cllr R Alexander

Clerk: C Underhay  Various residents were also present.

## 1: Introduction:

The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed all invited guests. The Chair will invite questions after each report.

## 2: Approval of the Minutes of the APM held on 17th April 2024:

The Minutes were signed as a true reflection of the meeting.

## 3: Parish Reports:

### Chairman's Annual Report:

As Chair of Hockliffe Parish Council in my report this year I would like to highlight some of the activities carried out by the Council.

We have had another eventful year, In May we had the parish elections in which Richard, Rebecca, Peter and Myself stood uncontested. We saw the departure of Paul, David, and Pamela, and would like to thank them for their contribution as members of the Parish Council to the village.

This year included the celebrations for His Majesty King Charles III's Coronation with celebrations throughout the village including coronation flags adorning lampposts.

Further work has been done with our plight that is the A5. This has included continued meetings between the Council, our MP Andrew Selous and National Highways. Finally, after continual request from not only the council but also some villagers, National Highways agreed to install Average Speed Cameras through the village to address the speed of vehicles exceeding the 30mph limit, we must thank our MP Andrew Selous for his continued support to achieve this. The cameras were

finally installed and switched on in October 2023 having a dramatic effect on the speed of traffic through the village.

Within the first month of operation the cameras caught 3545 people speeding. Not bad for a scheme that was originally dismissed by Martin Fellowes of National Highways as "not viable either side of traffic lights". The level of speeding traffic has decreased month on month since October with January's figure at 672 vehicles.

We continue our efforts on a longer-term solution to the volume of traffic through the village. This year Cllr Edwards has organised a petition with officers in the Houses of Parliament for a reduction in traffic on the A5 through Hockliffe. He then canvassed for volunteers from the village to go from door to door collecting signatures from residents. This was extremely successful with over 85% of residents supporting this initiative. This petition was then handed to our MP Andrew Selous to present in the Houses of Parliament.

The petition was observed by MP Richard Holden of the Department of Transport, the detrunking of the A5 through Hockliffe will now be considered in the next road investment period for 2025-2030.

This is a massive achievement for all those involved.

During the months of November to January we experienced night closures on the M1 for the installation of temporary safety barriers and signage for works to improve the motorway, this had a huge impact on the village with massively increased levels of traffic coming through overnight. Despite lobbying National Highways and Balfour Beatty no improvements were made to diversion routes and this will again be an issue when they come to remove the safety barriers later on this year.

Residents may recall that I mentioned last year about the solar farm project on land off Church Lane where a sum of £5,000 per annum will be given to the Council for use in the village for the next 30 years. I am delighted to say that works has started on this.

Richard, Rebecca and myself continue to work with others on the development of a Village Hall, this year the Parish Council have used S106 funding to enable the resurfacing of the tarmac in the Recreation ground, not only to improve this area for residents but also as enabling works for this project.

Remembrance was once again celebrated throughout the village with decorations put up by Blooming Hockliffe.

I would like to thank the Blooming Hockliffe Volunteers for their continued support to the village as their efforts make our village a more pleasant place.

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Colin Underhay, Parish Clerk to Hockliffe Parish Council,
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Our Christmas Tree lighting ceremony went ahead as usual with Santa handing out presents at the Harvester, our thanks go to Natalie and the team who provided mulled wine and mince pies for the occasion and Roger and his band for the music and sing-a-long.
In March we welcomed two new co-opted Councillors to the Parish Council, Mike and Melanie who are a welcome addition to our group.
We continue to deliver the normal services of a Parish Council, including the maintenance of our recreation ground, cemetery and churchyard. Our Clerk Colin Underhay has continued to keep us all inline this year and performs his duties seamlessly. This includes all of our policies and procedures, and our financial reporting.
What another great year!
Looking at the year ahead, plans are being made for further tarmacking at the Rec, a Letter to Loved Ones Post Box at the Cemetery, a Remembrance Bench for the village and some replacement swings one of which will be inclusive, here's to the next 12 months.

## A5:

This was included in the Chair's Report

## Hockliffe Helping Hands (delivered by the Clerk):

The following tasks were carried out during the year:
36 jobs in total (12 people helped)
12 Hospital trips
9 shopping
7 signposting
6 Drs/Dentist
2 Optician

## St Nicholas Church Report (read by the Clerk):

No report received

## Cemetery Report (Clerk):

There were no interments during the year ending 31st March 2024. The only income received was £25 for an inscription. During 2024/25 it is hoped to re-draw the cemetery map and have it digitized.

## Blooming Hockliffe (Mandie Underhay):

Summer plants are due to be planted in May – and help is going to continue to be sought from residents.

## Any Other Business:

There was no other business. The Chair closed the meeting at 7.30.

Colin Underhay – Clerk – 27th April 2024

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