Hockliffe Parish Council
"Serving the local community"

Minutes of Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 12th May 2025

Councillors Present: Cllrs R Alexander (Chair), Wuczke, Mel Richards & Mike Richards

Clerk: C Underhay

20: To receive apologies for absence:

All Councillors were present.

21: Declarations of Interest:

None were received.

22: CBC Cllr Mark Versallion Report – including Community Governance Review:

Cllr Versallion reported as follows:
Apologised for not being at recent meeting
Good meeting at the Harvester (surgery)
Tidy tips appointment system – Cllr Versallion asked for it to be put on record his opposition to this scheme. He is due to attend a CBC meeting regarding this.
The Governance Review was discussed – and noted that merging with Parish Councils adjoining us is not something that can be enforced (which is the view of our Councillors).
Still working on speed limit outside the school – there is a new head of CBC Highways, and Cllr Versallion said he would discuss with him. One possibility, in the interim, is to erect 20mph advisory signs – the Councillors considered this to be a good idea, and Cllr Versallion will take this forward.

23: Public Forum:

A resident noted that she saw surveyors in the field behind her. The Chair advised that we had not received any planning application to build new properties. A resident also asked about the brook – the Clerk advised he had been in touch with the relevant authority – and that he will chase them.

24: Approval of Minutes of the meeting held on 1st April 2025:

Cllr Wuczke proposed that the minutes of the meeting held on 1st April 2025 were approved, this was seconded by Cllr Mel Richards, and resolved by all Councillors.

25: Matters arising from the Minutes not dealt with elsewhere on the agenda:

There were none.

26: Dog Toilet Bins:

The Clerk advised he was no further forward with this work.

27: Summer Event:

Cllr Wuczke discussed – event to be held on 26th July – 11am to 3pm. She was fairly advanced with plans – which include a craft table; food van; ice cream van; various stalls etc. A poster will be put on the notice boards. Cllr Wuczke asked if she could use an additional budget for games (as these would be something we would keep) – and this was felt to be a good idea – amount to be considered when Cllr Wuczke has looked at pricing.

The Clerk advised that he has been in touch with our insurers – and they are aware of the event. We can proceed, as long as a risk review is conducted (this will be done by the Clerk).

28: Planning – Applications received:

The Chair advised of one application - CB/25/01188/LB - Old Dairy Farm, Watling Street, Hockliffe, Leighton Buzzard, LU7 9LZ - Listed Building: Ground floor flood damage repairs including new render, plaster, skirting, ceramic tiles, bathroom suite and decorating throughout. This was discussed – the Chair then proposed "no objection" – this was seconded by Cllr Mike Richards and resolved by all Councillors.

29: Cemetery Matters:

The following matters were discussed:

1. The spoils – work completed – Invoice of £925 to be paid – The Chair proposed payment and this was seconded by Cllr Mike Richards and resolved by all Councillors. The next step will be to grass seed the space – the Clerk will ask Lee Harris to do this.
2. Flooding Issue – an estimate has now been received – this is from STD Civils in Leighton Buzzard and is for £9168 inc VAT (which is within the £10000 set aside for this). The work required is to install a French Drain with a "run off" into soaraway crates (underground) – the quote includes removal of any excavated soil and guarantees that no cemetery plots will be disturbed. The Councillors were "favourable" to the quote – however, the Clerk reminded the Councillors that we must make every effort to obtain 2 more quotes – and he is on the process of doing this. This item will be on the next agenda.

30: Finance:

The Chair asked the Clerk to speak.

1. To authorise accounts for payment:

It was resolved that the following amounts could be paid:

Cheque	Amount	To	For
2185	£925	Lee Harris	spoils

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2186	£36	B Simpson	website
2187	£674.79	Goldleaf – April	Maintenance
2188	£644.30	C Underhay	Sal times 2
2189	£428.80	HMRC	Clerk Tax
2190	£4143.36	Fenland Leisure	Repairs to park equipment

To end of March only - A standing order for £26 was paid to C Underhay on 3rd March 2025 for working at home allowance. A direct debit for £11.25 was paid to Clear Methods on 20th March for payroll administration. Credit interest of £34.96 was paid to us on 31st March 2025. Payment of all the above was proposed by Cllr Wuczke, seconded by Cllr Mel Richards, and then resolved by all Councillors.

2. **Account Balances & Budget. To review summary of spend against budget:**
   To end of March only – Current account balance - £3926.09, deposit account balance £32,963.05 – spending against budget for the year - 75.99%

31: A5:

The Chair advised that we had been notified of forthcoming A5 closures. There will be an organised "Teams" call with National Highways – date/time to be advised.

32: The Park:

The Clerk advised that repair work had now been completed – the invoice is for £4143.36. It was noted that it is not possible to obtain different quotes – Fenland Lesure are the only Company that will come and repair/maintain equipment from other suppliers. Payment was

proposed by the Chair, seconded by Cllr Wuczke and resolved by all Councillors.

33: Storage:

A resident, who owns a farm, advised that she has storage facilities. She will advise how much she would want before the next meeting.

34: Correspondence Received (for information only):

None

35: Items for inclusion in the next agenda:

None other than noted above.

The meeting closed at 9.05pm

Colin Underhay – Clerk – 24th May 2025

Signed as a true copy……. (Chair) 9th June 2025

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