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ATTENDANCE: Luke, Steve, Jo, John, Rossana, Trevor, Debora, Joules, Peter, Helena

APPOLOGIES: Carole Mitchel, Mark Hopkin , Fi Thompson, Cherry Lythe

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

Not available, Lindy is poorly and Luke has not got a very good printer so we didn't manage to print them in advance of the meeting. Commitment made to bring previous minutes to future meetings.

VOLUNTEER TO TAKE UP CLERK ROLE

Discussed briefly, John indicated that Lindy is prepared to do a 12 month term unless a volunteer comes forward sooner.

1. **ACCOUNTS AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS** Lindy and Luke are now signatories but have not been able to make any payments whilst Natwest takes it's sweet time to sort our access so we are behind on some important work... namely progressing accounts, purchasing compost loo and doing more building work. The accounts should be done and will need signing off at the May meeting.
2. **FOOTPATH IMPROVEMENTS** - Carole Mitchell Sparrow Thorn - The geography of the village makes it very difficult to safely run, walk ,or, in my case, be pulled by a dog! A few people have commented that our only footpath across the fields is often impassable due to flooding at the A617 entrance and at the top of the first field. Levelling the dips behind the gates with hardcore would seem to be a solution to prevent the water collecting. Would residents be willing to support contacting the appropriate department of the County Council to determine whether this would be viable. As they are not very good at filling holes, presumably the Parish Meeting would have to organise and meet the cost from the precept. My understanding of the law is that the owner of the land has responsibility for safety and is not allowed to block footpaths but the local authority is responsible for maintaining the surface.

Rossana has taken community action placing stones from field but this is not working.

John proposed approaching the county council first. If no progress is achieved through NCC there was support for taking responsibility for it ourselves.

ACTION: Luke to contact the NCC Rights of way officer and report impassible footpath.

UPCOMING EVENTS-

We would like to create a Callendar of events for the year and we are seeking suggestions and help in putting events on... help offered for individual events on the day.

- Current dates in the diary are:
- Sat 30th March 10am – Spring walk around and plant swap... come and see some ducklings and have a choc treat and cuppa. Bring any spare seeds, plants or cuttings to swap.
- 10th May 19:30 Georgie Buchanan harp player and folk singer/song writer
<https://www.georgiebuchanan.com/> this will be a ticketed event to cover the musician and contribute to the upkeep of the hall.

Agreed £12 ticket price for 10th May concert

ACTION: Luke to promote May 10th gig at £12/ticket

ACTION: Luke to Ask the pub to have a cash pot behind bar or Luke to do it from home.

ACTION: Luke to Invite Gate to Southwell FF to see if they would like to join.

ACTION: Luke Check spread re loo Just in-case hope for compost loo to be ready.

AGREED Next pathways working day 14th of April 14:0

ACTION: NEXT MEETING DATE SET Cycle trip **along the trent vale trale (Later date setting – June)**

3. LIVE AND LOCAL MEMBERSHIP

We are now members of Live and Local who can support us putting on some great shows or entertainment (see here: <https://www.liveandlocal.org.uk/whats-on/>). They also offer a free Living Room Project where we work with an artist to create a piece of art with villagers. See here <https://www.liveandlocal.org.uk/get-involved/livingroom-creative-community-projects/> Any ideas?

4. **PATH TO SOUTHWELL- FURTHER INFORMATION FROM VILLAGERS** Sustainable Hockerton Ltd directors agreed budget of £2000 towards office time required for moving the path to Southwell project forward and delivering on the pathway if the research finds a possible way forward. THANKS SHL! The work will be carried out by HHP Trading ltd and Luke will be leading on it.

As part of this project Luke has joined the Newark and Sherwood Active Travel Advisory Group (N&S ATAG) and took part in their meeting this month. There are several other people trying to create safe cycle routes in the group and a success story to learn from in the formation of the Trent Vale Trale (see here <https://www.trentvaletrail.org/the-route-1>). Proposal to cycle this with villagers to get a feel for what they have been able to achieve and maybe meet with the lead people behind the project who are members of N&S ATAG.

Luke has been exploring whether promoting the cycle route as a link between southwell and Newark has more gravity.

Luke is seeking further information from villagers that may help the project move forward... historical attempts, what came up or knowledge of land owners, authorities etc... please email chairman@hockerton.com

Information offered by villagers

Hockerton to Southwell road is the C21. There is a reasonable cycle route to Newark already via Rollerston so maybe not necessary.

Luke has had an initial conversation with Simon Christie who is supportive of project but suggests we reach out to Craven Smith Mills first as they were the block last time.

The verge is owned by land owners... who are these?

Brief discussion about feelings on the pathway being set back from the road... some concerns about using the path at night with John, Lindy, Rossana saying they wouldn't feel safe using it at night due to risk from dangerous people... it was pointed out by Helena that mainly likely to facilitate day use by villagers for active travel in nice weather and leisure activities that are not likely to be in the dark hours. Mixed opinions on this.

ACTION: Peter and Trevor. Look into map evidence of old foot paths at the Southwell Local History society (last Wednesday of every month in the library).

ACTION: Pathways working group - 14th of April 14:00 Bring high viz, bring barrows, elec. Strimmers. Focus on Southwell road junction and Overhanging Hanging hedge stretch. Remove soil and place in the new soil bays at the village hall.

Andy took a lead on this project historically.

ACTION: Luke to seek information from Andy that will help trying to further the project.

5. **STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF FRIENDS OF SOUTHWELL POOL** Luke proposed creating a statement of support for the Friends of Southwell Pool...
https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61554498098374&locale=en_GB

Update from Trevor

Trevor will share email website for further information.

Individuals to write to district council to ask about their position on the pool. What is good value for money. Failed to have a proper debate.

AGREED statement in support of Friends of Southwell Pool:

Lots residents of Hockerton have expressed concern about the closure and process around the Southwell pool. It provides an essential resource for the health and wellbeing of many

residents. Every month that it remains closed we are experiencing reducing wellbeing in the village...

6. **VILLAGE HALL** Little progress has been made on the damp proofing or ventilation, partly due to lack of access to the bank account.
7. **WATER** Dispute has been concluded! Thanks so much Lindy for fighting our case we are now in cred it rather than £2000 owed. Everyone was delighted!
8. **COMPOST LOO** No progress on this yet as we have not had access to the bank account. We will order and pay for this in the next weeks.
£1299.99 including VAT and delivery

9. **PARISH BIODIVERSITY POLICY** – Decision to be made on whether to adopt a policy

ACTION: Luke to share template biodiversity policy for villagers to consider further on the Whatsapp so people can read it with more time.

Start with collective litter pick. Trevor Residents can become Green champions and receive litter picking equipment. Luke has registered for prize of litter picker set and bin bag holders.

ACTION: DATE SET NEXT MEETING Agreed to do a litter picking day on caunton road to ice cream parlour picking day.

Although we are **not** a parish council we could take the initiative as village meeting to follow suit... Luke proposes adapting the model policy for Hockerton.

Under the 2021 Environment Act, public authorities (including town and parish councils) operating in England must consider what they can do to conserve and enhance biodiversity. Government guidance published on 17 May 2023 clarified that, as a public authority, town and parish councils

must:

- consider what they can do to conserve and enhance biodiversity.
- agree policies and specific objectives based on their consideration.
- act to deliver their policies and achieve their objectives.

Town and parish councils, unlike other authorities, are not obliged to publish a report on their actions, but the Government guidance required all public authorities to complete their first consideration of what action to take for biodiversity by 1 January 2024, with policies and actions formulated soon after. If you haven't started on this yet, don't panic! Have a look at the template attached to the agenda (can be viewed here <https://www.slcc.co.uk/site/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/Model-biodiversity-policy-30-October-2023-1.pdf>)

10. RURAL COMMUNITY ACTION NOTTINGHAMSHIRE (RCAN)- DECISION TO BE MADE ON MEMBERSHIP

Luke has participated in a village hall trustee network meeting and will be participating in the networking event held by RCAN. It was a valuable networking event and lots of useful information such as information on the Live and Local project, funding opportunities, hall rental prices across the region etc... RCAN has previously come on a tour of Hockerton Housing Project to learn about Sustainable Hockerton.

AGREED: Becoming a member of Rural Community Action Nottinghamshire Annual membership costs £95.00 + VAT and can be paid directly into RCAN's bank account. Luke proposes that the village becomes a paying member of the network.

ACTION: LUKE to sign up Rural Community Action Nottingham (RCAN)

11. PAVEMENT IMPROVEMENTS - PROPOSAL FOR A TIMBER SOIL BAY AT VILLAGE HALL.

We had a great turn out for our first resident volunteer session in February. We cut back the extremely overhanging hedge beyond the pub and started clearing some of the soil away that is covering a lot of the pavements, this created a lot of soil 'spoil' that was tipped next to the wall by the hall (the nearest easy place to deposit it temporarily). The soil build up has gotten out of hand in some areas and it would be a challenge to get on top of it. I believe this is really the responsibility of the houses that border the pavement. We need to collectively take action to make our village safer and working together we can help each other get it into a more maintainable state. Luke proposes we put in another collective effort to remove the soil from the worst areas and then hold residents responsible for maintaining it moving forwards.

Proposal: Install lidded timber soil bays along the south edge of the village hall plot behind and below the level of the wall that borders the A617. These should be sturdy and have locked lids to prevent fly tipping. It is important that they look smart. The soil that we remove on behalf of the village can be tipped straight into these over the wall and the weeds that are abundant in the pavement soil left to compost for a year or two. This could then be used on ornamental planters potentially with bioremediation for the road pollutants... this can be done with fungi treatments and activated biochar.

AGREED to spend £200 and get it done before work day in April.

ACTION: LUKE purchase materials for compost bays and arrange build.

3x3m Tanalised Posts = £56.97

11 x Tanalised Planks = £125.67

Hardware = £5

Locks = £15

Total = £200

12. PHONE BOX – IDEAS FOR ITS USE REQUESTED - PROPOSAL FOR A AUDIO INSTALLATION

AGREED – repair the phonebox and keep in good condition for now, revisit in the future.

IDEAS / DISCUSSION / VIEWS

We cleared away some of the branched overshadowing the telephone box. This is a village asset with no purpose at the moment. Any ideas from villagers are welcome.

Luke proposes installing an audio device with handset and pre-recorded sound clips that we can select as a village... The audio starts automatically when you lift up the hand set and put it to your ear. This could be the catalyst for an oral history project where we gather stories of Hockerton in years gone by (This could make a good commission for the Live and Local Living Room project). It could also be a 'Funny Box' where we get stand up comedy recordings from potentially from (famous?) comedians ... or villagers can submit their favourite jokes. We could use the Phonebox to go and 'have a laugh'.

This is a quirky light hearted idea that could improve mental health in the village and give us something unusual to say about our small village. Luke would be happy to oversee this project or work with others to do so... it would require technical maintenance, promotion and moderators to keep it updated and appropriate. The village meeting would have the final say on content.

There are some repairs and maintenance to do to keep the box in good shape but nothing major, probably in the region of £100. An interesting project would create the motivation to do this work.

The audio equipment would cost in the region of £500 (<https://www.interpretationshop.co.uk/product/1-button-autoplay-audio-point/>) but would probably be a battery powered version. The equipment could probably be grant funded or the village could decide to get straight on with it and fund it ourselves. The electronics would be secured behind a metal panel where the telephone electronics used to be so would not be easy to steal/vandalise.

Comments received from Carol Mitchel

I would, however, like to comment on the proposal for the telephone box and would ask that my views be presented to the meeting as follows -

Whilst it is clearly an innovative and exciting idea, I fear that the location could prove problematic in terms of vandalism, nuisance to neighbouring property and vehicle access for maintenance. Our previous experience with the book exchange was a complete disaster with the contents neglected, becoming dirty, damp and ultimately hazardous to health.

I believe the best way forward would be to undertake a programme of renovation with a maintenance and cleaning plan. If there is enough regular support in this respect and the box is maintained in good order for a year or so, we could then revisit the idea. I'm not saying 'never' but don't think it should be rushed into.

Opinions in the group.

General agreement with Carol's point... start with tidy up and maintenance and then revisit ideas for it at a later date. Other ideas offered – plant swap spot.

ACTION: Luke to follow up repair of phone box.

13. LORRIES, TRAFFIC CALMING AND ROAD SAFETY MEASURES

Rosanna suggested 20mph through the village but there was disagreement in the room about how appropriate this is, Trevor pointed out that this would cause congestion.

Another idea offered was chevrons painted on the road and large painted 30 sign on the tarmac like in Kirklington possibly with a build up to the 30mile zone going from 40 to 30.

ACTION: Luke to contact Kirklington parish meeting to ask how they arranged for it to be painted on the road ...

ACTION: Luke to contact Notts community speed watch –

The mobile speed camera authority... to ask if they are still coming with mobile cameras ... contact Notts CC highways department to make a statement that the parish meeting has noted speeds are not within the limit and residents are concerned.

ACTION: Luke to contact Notts CC highways department

A set of Community Speed Watch jackets turned up at the hall.

ACTION: Luke to check if the speed watch jackets should be returned.

Noted that the signs at the west of the village are overgrown Trim around village sign.

ACTION: Pathways working group to trim back vegetation around the west speed sign on April work day.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

NEXT MEETING

Agreed to keep changing days of the week of the meeting to enable more people to attend.

Next meeting Thu 23rd of May 19:00