



Hockliffe Parish Council

"Serving the local community"

Minutes of Annual Parish Meeting held on Monday 1st April 2025 – 7PM

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

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 15th April 2024:

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

3: Parish Reports:

Chairman's Annual Report:

As the chair of the Hockliffe Parish Council, I would like to take the opportunity to cover some of the activities carried out in the last year by the council members and volunteers.

Last year our previous Chairman, Rob Scott chose to resign his position as he has now moved out of the area, My fellow councillors and I would like to thank Rob for all his hard work over the years of service he has given to the parish and wish him and his wife all the best in their new home.

I would like to thank Peter Edwards, on behalf of the Council and me, who also resigned this year but not before he oversaw the completion of several projects including the '*letters to loved ones*' at the cemetery and the new village notice boards as well as many other tasks, including spearheading the A5 petition, which was brought before parliament.

I would also like to take the opportunity to thank Mel and Rebecca, and their team of volunteers for the fantastic Christmas light gathering. I also would like to thank Blooming Hockliffe for their work in the village, who, due to illness, have not been able to achieve as much as in previous years but will continue to decorate our village



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and make it a more pleasant space, with new additions to key areas in the village expected this year.

Hockliffe continues to suffer from the M1 works, with yet still more projects and maintenance to be completed on our section. This will result in more overnight closures and although we do not form part of the official diversion route the traffic continues to choose the A5 as the easiest route. We will continue to encourage Highways England and partners to try and reduce this blight on our neighbourhood. Following the success of the cameras in Hockliffe Highways England has now installed average speed cameras between Thorn and Hockliffe and Hockliffe and Little Brickhill. This follows on from our section of the A5 being declared as one of the 10 most hazardous roads in England according to a leading Tabloid.

The latter half of last year did see Flooding in Hockliffe which resulted in several homes being flooded, resulting in people having to leave their homes until repairs could be undertaken. We previously had been in discussion with our outgoing MP Andrew Selous, trying to get all the relevant water authorities together to discuss the minor problems with pooling water and sewage. Unfortunately, due to his departure, this has not come to fruition, and I would ask my fellow members to support me in trying to open a similar dialogue with our incumbent MP Alex Mayer to resolve further issues going forward.

In the following year, we hope to push on with further development of the recreational areas in the village adding additional play equipment and hope for further information on the possibility of a village hall facility in our recreation ground. Rebecca who chairs the village hall committee is on the lookout for a secretary so that they can make further progress on this.

Continuing works at the cemetery are still underway as we work to remove the spoil mound. In addition to this, we are looking to take measures at the church to reduce surface flooding.

This year we do face difficulties in holding open-air events due to a change in Government policy that restricts us on our activities, however, we are looking to meet these criteria and look forward to holding events throughout the year.

We have also been told that there may be a request to amalgamate local parishes together this means sharing of funds and resources, to ensure that Hockliffe has an adequate voice and manpower to complete the works we need additional councillors so that we might be equally represented should this become a reality. So, please if you are interested in helping your community contact us about joining.

Lastly, I would like to thank all the members of the parish council and our parish clerk for all their work this year and in the following years.

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):

No Report

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 2025

Signed R Alexander 13th April 2026