

HEPSCOTT PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting held on 19th January 2012

- 1) **Present:** Derrick Melia (Chair), John Lewis, Norma Barker, David Cowans, Anne Finlay, Philippa Raper.

Apologies: Stephen Connell, Angela Parr (Clerk)

Note: There was one member of the public present throughout the meeting - Phillip Ashmore and Dorothy Cowans attended for the time assigned to the mast at Clare House.

- 2) **Minutes of the last meeting** were corrected, agreed and signed as an accurate record of the meeting.

3) **Matters Arising:**

- (a) 7 (4) Hepscott Park – no further information available
- (b) 13 Queen's Diamond Jubilee – is an extra Agenda item
- (c) 15 Clearing of Briarlea ditch has been well carried out.

4) **Stobhill Play Park.**

Digleys had carried out a safety inspection and identified 7 items which needed attention. It was noted that they had not designated any of these as urgent. B.Parker had visited and cannot complete these tasks. D.Melia will ask Storey Engineers (Hepscott Station) for an estimate for the tasks.

Action: DM

5) **HPC Website.**

Angela Parr had prepared a document regarding the content, costs and running of a Parish Council website. It was decided to call a meeting specifically for decisions about these. This will be Monday 13th February at 10.00a.m. at Mardale.

Action: Anne Finlay, Derrick Melia, Norma Barker, Philippa Raper and Angela Parr

6) **Planning Applications:**

- (a) Telescopic Mast, Fieldhouse Lane.
 - i) Derrick Melia had received a letter from Jocelyn Stephenson regarding the nuisance noise emitting from the mast especially in the early morning.
 - ii) Dorothy Cowans asked for the conditions placed on the erection of the mast eg what is the meaning of "temporary planning permission". The Planning meeting was 3 Feb 2011 for one year but the year is to run from the date when the mast was constructed i,e, June 2011.
 - iii) The mast constructed is not as large as the original application – if the application is agreed does this mean the original larger mast could be built?
 - iv) How can it be reviewed when it is not constructed?
 - v) Visibility. The only photograph of the mast shown was from the entrance to Clare House but the mast can be seen from Crofts Park, The Pines and Willowbridge House.
 - vi) Branches had been removed from trees around the mast so now it is more obvious.

Action: A letter would be sent to add these to the earlier observations and objections of the Parish Council.

(b) Fir Tree Copse

Proposed construction of three dwellings. Derrick Melia had spoken to Peter Rutherford who indicated this may be decided through delegated powers, There were 5 objections submitted, If it goes to the planning committee it will be the March meeting.

(c) Limecroft

Construction of a 6 bedroom house.

No objections have been lodged but no decision has been made yet.

Flooding on this site. Norma Barker pointed out that the application indicated that there was no known flooding problem but there has been flooding there and in the neighbouring part of Thornlea in the past..

Action: DM would write to this effect

[Dorothy Cowans left at this point]

7) Northumbrian Police Authority Stakeholder Briefing Issue 1

It was felt that there was nothing we could do about this new layer of bureaucracy. No action to be taken.

8) Financial Issues:

The financial spread sheets were examined.

John Lewis pointed out the large sums in Misc. but these were connected with the Parish Hall toilet construction and refurbishment.

9) Additional Grass Cutting:

DM had not found the grass cutting plan and so it had not been given out to tender. Returns for Winter 12-13 need to be returned to Northumberland County Council by Jan 24 so there is no time to acquire other tenders.

10) Meetings attended by Councillors:

(a) Norma had attended a "State of the Area" meeting with Northumberland County Council in Morpeth Town Hall and reported back with a cutting from the Morpeth Herald. Matters discussed had included affordable housing, communications with parishes, education services, budget spending and Broadband delivery funding. Norma had spoken with Councillor Steven Bridgett, Rothbury and Coquetdale, about faster broadband delivery to rural areas like Hepscoth.

Savings had to be made and 2/3 of the budget was ring fenced so pressure was in the remaining third. Potholes – NCC impressed by their new machine for filling potholes.

Library vans – NCC had 4 but 2 were aged and one had been repaired with parts from the other leaving 3 servicable vans.

David Towns pointed out that there were about 4,00 houses planned for the future in different areas of Morpeth and more services would be required.

Lots of planning initiatives were given permission but not carried out leading to stalemate in development.

Each parochial area had their problems which were not being addressed and communications were poor.

Neighbourhood Planning Initiatives – where could parish councils get training?

John Lewis explained about pilot studies being set up by the Government.

(b) David Cowans had attended an area cluster meeting of Community Action Northumberland (CAN) CAN put forward a case for its existence – supported by DC.

David went on to comment on the Biomass Power Station planned for Battleship Wharf in Blyth.

11) Correspondence:

Jocelyn Stephenson's letter
Many emails forwarded to councillors

12) AOB:

(a) Queen's Diamond Jubilee Celebrations

There was no interest in having a beacon but the parish Hall Management Committee are planning a village party, run on "Faith Supper" lines and have asked the Parish Council for financial help – perhaps to cover the cost of band/trees. It was agreed to help with this.

The Hepscoth Heritage Group were planning an exhibition. The WI are planning a tree planting.

(b) Stephen Connell's resignation means that we need another councilor for Stobhill Manor.

(c) Derrick Melia gave notice that he will not stand as Chairman at the next AGM.

(d) Norma commented on the stones and pieces of wood being placed along the grass verges through the village and asked if the County Council could put kerbs along the village road.

Action: DM/ AP

(e) Tidy Up Day to take place the Saturday before Easter ie March 31st

(f) Publicise the date of the Carrying of the Olympic Torch through the parish.

13) Date of next meeting: 15^h March 2012