

HEPSCOTT PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting held at 6.30 pm on Thursday 16 January 2014

1. Present

Philip Ashmore (Chair), David Cowans (Vice Chair), Ken Reed, Philippa Raper, Fred Dye, Merle Heppell, Hollie Ross, Sylvia Johnson (Parish Clerk), Glen Sanderson (County Councillor) Ian Lindley (County Councillor)

Apologies

None

2. Minutes of the meeting held on 21 November 2013 and matters arising from those minutes

Action by

The minutes of the last meeting were accepted as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

FD stated that the potholes in Fieldhouse Lane/Close had been repaired.

3. Barratts Stobhill planning application (update)

A public meeting was held on 16 December at King Edward VI School, Morpeth and was well attended by members of the public. GS stated that it had been a very useful exercise and had allowed people the opportunity to have their say.

A site visit was held at 10.00 am on Monday 13 January and many residents of Hepscott and Stobhill were present. GS had attended and noted how busy the traffic was, even though rush hour had ended by then. PA stated that the Case Officer, Jenny Green, had treated everyone fairly. PR thanked PA for sending notes/emails out promptly. PA stated that it would be the end of February before this application goes before the Planning Committee.

FD stated that the main issues were still traffic and flooding. It was noted that new legislation was due to come into force on 1 April 2014 from SAB – SUDs Adoption Body and that applications after then would need to be approved by SAB. However it now appears this may not be in force until around October 2014.

It was agreed to set up small working group of 2/3 people to plan for the Barratt hearing as the next meeting of HPC is not until March, by which time the application will have been heard by the planning committee. GS stated that he thought a working group to be a good idea and he would be willing to set up a meeting between the working group and an NCC representative to look at a traffic survey. He felt that flooding was so important an issue that we might seek a second opinion.

4. Further updates from County Councillors

GS stated that there had been no notice given regarding the temporary one-way system in Bridge Street to enable road works. He also stated that the sale of County Hall had arisen very quickly. IL had spoken with the Leader of NCC as he was concerned that Morpeth would lose out if the sale went ahead

4. Cont'd

IL informed the meeting of the redevelopment of St Aidans at Stobhill.

GS stated that a recent OFSTED report had highlighted problems with 12 Northumberland schools.

5. Morpeth Neighbourhood Plan

PA had attended a couple of steering group meetings. A Plan Preparation Group (PPG) had been established, which was a smaller group of people to put the plan together and PA was a member of this group. PA stated that the topic group chairs were now pulling the stats from the questionnaires together and analysing the results. The aim is to have the draft policies together by the end of April. The draft MNP is due to be approved for consultation by the end of May. It will go before Independent Examiners as it must be broadly in line with National Policies and NCC's core strategy.

6. NCC Core Strategy consultation reply (update)

There had been an extension of the Consultation until 16 January. PA had written a draft reply and asked for comments/amendments before it was sent. All Core Strategy consultation questions had been responded to by MNP. One issue was the green belt. HPC had tried to get agreement with MNP that the A196 should be the inner green belt boundary but although this was not agreed to it was agreed to recommend the area south of the A196, including the land of Barratt's application should be classed as safeguarded land. PA gave the definitions of what safeguarded land was; it was land safeguarded to meet possible longer-term development needs, stretching beyond the Plan period (ie beyond 2032) and was not to be allocated for development at the present time. Planning permission could only be granted following a Local Plan Review. PA advised that HPC should make their own reply; the draft response which has been circulated says we broadly support MNP, but we have our own view that the inner green belt boundary should follow the A196.

KR stated that if the land south of the A196 is built on the run off changed dramatically, increasing the risk of flooding. If development goes ahead there will be an issue of traffic at Telford Bridge and Mafeking Roundabout. A further study of traffic is to be undertaken. It was agreed that the issue of flooding is still the main issue for Hepscott. PA agreed to add these points into the HPC reply and the reply was unanimously agreed. He would email the reply later that evening to NCC and meet the deadline.

7. Planning Applications

The following are Planning Applications in progress:

- **Clare House (mast):** PA had spoken to resident JS who is still keeping her log. PA reiterated that we needed evidence of noise in their house, but we may be running out of time. DC stated that he still keeps his log of tv interference which is generally late at night. The Environmental Officer is due to visit again on Friday 24th January at 1.30 pm. PA stated he would attend this and DC also agreed to attend.

Action by

PA

PA/DC

7. cont'd

Action by

- **Nedderton wind turbine (update):** PA stated that there had been an objection from the MoD in Alnwick since last August stating that the turbine would interfere with Air Defence Radar. The applicant had until the end of January to reply with a solution and if this is not cleared up it is likely to be refused.
- **3 Fieldhouse Close:** No date as yet for the site visit by the Planning Inspectorate.
- **Land at Dunces Houses:** Application to build 2 detached dwellings and associated access. HPC sent comments to NCC on 19 December. Nothing to report since that date.
- **Shadfen Park Farm:** Conversion of existing farm buildings to single dwelling, demolition of existing cottage with alterations to and extension of existing dwelling. HPC made no objections in principle, although noted lack of information on foul drainage. Nothing to report since 19 December.

PA asked if anyone knew about the road closure signs in the village. SJ had received a letter that day stating that NCC was to fell a tree close to the roadside at South Lodge Wood on 21 January. The road will be closed for several hours that day only.

8. Financial Issues/Report:

SJ had emailed copies of the monthly spreadsheet showing details of all recent expenditure.

SJ stated that a full penalty refund of £400 had been received from HMRC following the letter sent by PA/SJ explaining the circumstances.

A quotation has been received from Northumbrian Groundcare for the grass cutting/hedge trimming in the next financial year. It was noted that we should seek a further 2 quotes from other interested parties, and also 3 quotations for the job of emptying the dog refuse bins. PA asked SJ to liaise with DC regarding these issues.

SJ/DC

9. Meetings and training attended by Councillors

There was nothing to report not already mentioned.

10. Correspondence

SJ received an email some months ago from a resident of Hepscott regarding a ploughed field obstructing a public right of way near the sewage works. This was reported to NCC who asked the farmer to refrain from ploughing so close to the edge of the field in the future, and also sought his agreement to improve the stiles on the path. NCC's field team will visit the path in the next few months and cut the narrow section of path adjacent to the sewage works.

11. Website

At the last meeting it was noted how difficult it was to find the website from search engines. KR explained that the more hits the website receives the easier to find it will be. KR will write an article about the website for the next edition of the Hepscoth Herald to raise the profile. KR stated that he has asked AF to include a link to our website on the Parish Hall website and will try to get other links set up.

Action by

KR

12. Any other Business:

PR stated that there was a broken litterbin at Coalburn near the bus stop. SJ agreed to contact NCC as they should maintain this.

SJ

The question of the annual litter pick was raised, as this was normally arranged by AF, who had since left the council. PR To discuss with AF.

PR

KR stated that the police had visited the Bridge Club on 16 January and reminded members not to park on pavements, etc.

13. Date and time of next meeting:

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 20 March 2014 at 6.30 pm in the Parish Hall.

Prepared by:

Signed as a True copy

**S Johnson
Parish Clerk/RFO
11 February 2014**

.....