

# HEPSCOTT PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 21 January 2016

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### 1. Present

Philip Ashmore (Chair), David Cowans (Vice Chair), Philippa Raper (part), Ken Reed, Malcolm Paton, Sylvia Johnson (Clerk), County Councillor Glen Sanderson, PC Andrea Teasdale,

**Apologies:** Fred Dye, County Councillor Ian Lindley,

**In attendance:** FB, Hepscott Resident

### Declarations of interest

None

### 2. PC Andrea Teasdale

PC Teasdale stated that there have been several incidents of door to door sellers recently, often ex-offenders. She reported that there have also been thefts of trailers/horse boxes from drives but luckily not in Hepscott. There have also been lots of poachers around recently. She stated that the community speed watch have not been out as much lately with the bad weather, but this will pick up again as soon as possible.

### 3. Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 19 November 2015 and matters arising:

The minutes from the last meeting were agreed as a true record.

#### Matters arising:

**Speed signs for Barmoor Bank:** PA said this had been frustrating but a provisional installation date was given as 1 February; however this is not agreed until details of utilities are provided.

**Core Strategy:** PA wrote to NCC regarding the triangle of land between the two railway lines south of Coopies Lane saying that HPC's view was that this should be green belt, not safeguarded land.

### 4. Update from County Councillor Glen Sanderson:

GS stated that he too was frustrated regarding the delay in installing the speed signs.

GS/PA had met with the Floods Officer, James Hitchin, regarding the discharge of planning conditions on the Barratt's site at Stobhill. Barratt had submitted a 10 page document regarding management of SUDS, but it was yet to be accepted by the Floods Officer

County Hall: GS reported no change on the current situation regarding the move of County Hall to Ashington, except that the Chief Executive has agreed to external auditors, Ernst Young, being appointed to audit the figures.

Action

Land south of Roseden (planning application): GS stated that on the flooding issue, the dye test would not probably give sufficient grounds for refusal of planning permission. A camera is to be brought in to establish what the issue was with the drainage. A site visit is to take place on 1 February with the Planning Committee Meeting on 9 February. NCC/Highways have been helpful in trying to expedite the work and hopefully the camera work will be done on 22 January.

**5. Barratt/Stobhill:**

The discharge of conditions has still not been completed. PA has asked the Case Officer to establish what has been agreed/done by Barratt. KR gave information on the conditions that HPC is interested in, ie, Foul Water, SUDS, Landscaping, Landscape Management Plan, Children's Play Area and Travel Management Plan.

**6. Morpeth Neighbourhood Plan (MNP) and NCC Core Strategy update:**

**MNP:** NCC has issued a press release stating that the MNP is going to referendum on Thursday 25 February. The MNP Steering Group is due to meet on 8 February. Polling stations will be open from 7.00 – 22.00 and the count will take place the following day, Friday 26 February.

**NCC Core Strategy:** The deadline for the consultation was 28 November. Our major issue was "the triangle" (item 3)

**7. Planning Applications:**

**a. Land west of Dunces Houses:** Went to appeal. HPC have objected to the Planning Inspectorate. Awaiting decision.

**b. Land east of Turner Square:** No further information. SJ to check on planning portal (on checking the application had been refused).

**c. Land east of Stobhill Roundabout (Barratt discharge of conditions):** No progress to date.

**d. Land east of Stobhill Roundabout (Barratt variation of condition 2):** No progress to date.

**e. Shadfen Farm:** Permission granted. SJ to check if letter received and forward to HPC members.

**f. Land south of Roseden:** Discussed in 4 above. Awaiting decision.

**g. Langdale:** Neighbouring resident FB was present to state his views on the further 2 applications made recently. HPC has written objecting to both applications. Awaiting decision.

**h. Barmoor Cottage:** Comments are due at NCC by 28 January for this application to build a dwelling in the garden of an existing property.

SJ

SJ

**8. Hepscott Parish Hall:**

KR reported as follows:

- Broadband has now been installed in the hall.
- The hall is very popular with the last 2 events being well attended.
- The management committee are still planning for the extension and have applied for funding.
- A new cooker has been installed.
- The car park flooded recently during the bad weather.
- A review of finances has taken place.

**9. Financial Matters:**

- Monthly financial statements had been emailed to councillors and were approved. It was noted that 6 items were above £100; these were all examined, noted and approved.
- A quotation has been received from Northumbrian Groundcare for grass/hedge cutting in the new financial year, which will be considered.

**10. Website:**

The website continues to get a regular number of hits. It was noted that deadlines for uploading agendas/minutes are being complied with.

**11. Correspondence:**

A request for funding for the Northumbrian Gathering had been received. A letter of refusal will be sent.

SJ

**12. Meetings and training attended:**

PA/DC attended meetings of MNP Steering Group.

PA attended a neighbourhood meeting regarding drains/flooding.

**13. Any other business:**

- PA informed the meeting that Parish Councillor PR has tendered her resignation with effect from May 2016. PR has been an excellent councillor representing the Stobhill/Barmoor areas of Hepscott and our thanks go to her for all her hard work on behalf of the Parish Council. PA stated that we need to recruit a new councillor willing to be co-opted until the 2017 elections. If anyone knows of interested individuals please inform PA/DC.
- KR stated that the rut in the road to the West of Parkside where the dog litter bin is situated has not been filled in. SJ had been informed that, as a gesture of goodwill, Northumbrian Water would repair this on a one off basis. SJ to remind Northumbrian Water of their offer of repair.

SJ

**Action**

- **Hepscott Flood Alleviation Scheme/Village Bridge:** PA raised the issue of flooding in the village. After Christmas the level of the burn had been quite high. It was noted that Crofts Park normally bears the brunt of any flooding. PA stated that Government money is available to help with flooding issues and HPC should think of applying for some of this. It was agreed to set up a subgroup consisting of PA/MP/CR to gather evidence/formulate a plan and bring this to the next meeting.
- **Bottle Bank:** It was noted that there is a bottle bank in Eglingham Way, Stobhill Manor.

**PA/MP/CR**

**14. Date and Time of next Meeting:**

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 17 March 2016

Minutes taken and prepared by Sylvia Johnson, Parish Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer.

**Signed as a true copy:** .....