

HEPSCOTT PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 18 January 2018

1. Present

Philip Ashmore (Chair), David Cowans Malcolm Paton, Ken Reed, Fred Dye, Glen Sanderson (County Councillor), Sylvia Johnson (Clerk),

Apologies

None

Declarations of interest

None

2. Report from Neighbourhood Policing Team

Since the last meeting the policing team has changed again and PSCO Andrea Teasdale has been reallocated to Hepscomb and Stannington. Unfortunately she was unable to attend the meeting but sent a brief report.

"It has been very quiet over Christmas and New Year. There have been reports of poachers near Barmoor Bank in the fields but this is a problem across the area that we are working at addressing.

We did have the police cadets out in November one evening – but I think the problem was with it being dark people didn't want to answer the door – which I fully understand as I don't answer the door either! They were completing community concern questionnaires. I will get them out again one weekend in the day time."

3. Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 28 November 2017 and matters arising

The minutes of the meeting were agreed as a true record.

Matters Arising:

8 Crofts Park: A flood risk assessment had been completed, which stated there would be a negligible effect on direction of flow; however there would be a definite effect on flood volume. There is a need for 10 cubic metres of compensatory storage, which the applicant has agreed to do but who will bear the cost of this and how it will be verified is unsure at the moment.

4. Proposed parish boundary changes and update from County Councillors

Discussion took place regarding Morpeth Town Council's (MTC) proposal to change the parish boundary. SJ had recently received an email from Tracy Bell of MTC requesting a meeting to discuss this. Mitford Parish Council and possibly Hebron parish Council had also received this request. PA and Mike Sharp (MS) from Mitford Parish Council had put together a response, asking for evidence on which the proposal was based, clarification on several issues and further information before any meeting was arranged, and also asking that it be a joint meeting with other parish councils.

Action

PA circulated a map drawn up by MTC's Finance and General Purposes Committee which showed the 6 areas that MTC would like to bring within their boundary. Areas of Hepscoth, Mitford and Hebron Parish Councils are within the proposed changes. These were mainly the new housing estates including South Fields and Stobhill Manor East. PA stated that the purpose of the proposed changes appears to be to receive the Council Tax income from these new houses but MTC have stated that it is an attempt to "tidy up wards and electoral boundaries". We met them informally and they did not seem aware that one third of the population of Hepscoth Parish is in Stobhill Manor East, that we have an elected representative for them, who is elected for that area until 2021. South Fields Estate is due to double the number of houses in our Parish, so Morpeth's 'land grab' would severely affect our precept. PA had checked with NALC, who stated that it would be unlikely/unusual for this to be put into action before elections take place in 2021.

It is important to know that MTC are unable to change the boundaries; they would need to apply to NCC for any boundary changes to be implemented. David Bawn of MTC had stated that there are no planning issues involved in the proposed changes but PA stated that this proposal would increase the risk of Hepscoth's coalescence with Morpeth and change the settlement boundary of Morpeth which the Morpeth Neighbourhood Plan had defined. MS had suggested that this could be the thin edge of the wedge and wondered when and where it would stop. It was noted that MTC have not yet talked formally with NCC, their next step will be to take this to the full MTC meeting on 24 January 2018.

GS stated that he did not agree with what MTC was proposing. NCC will ultimately make the decision, which would involve planning, electoral and legal staff.

It was agreed that HPC need to do some homework/research on this matter and that an awareness campaign should be discussed, to inform residents of South Fields that they are in Hepscoth Parish and what we, as a Parish Council, can do for them. PA/MP had asked Barratt Homes for addresses of all occupied houses many times but a response is slow. It was stated that all occupied homes should shortly receive a copy of the Hepscoth Herald. A flyer will be produced to distribute to South Fields as soon as possible.

PBA

GS stated that he would support Hepscoth Parish Council in every way possible and that a flyer would be an excellent idea.

Update from Glen Sanderson:

GS referred to the withdrawal of the Core Strategy/Local Plan and pledges to reduce the number of houses. He said that Mark Kettley, Head of Planning, had stated that there was an opportunity for developers, but there is strength in the Morpeth Neighbourhood Plan. GS stated that the new Core Strategy/Local Plan is progressing quickly; the first consultation is due in 4 months' time.

He mentioned that there was an issue with the Section 278 Barratt Toucan road crossing and that communications with Barratt had not been satisfactory. MP agreed to write a letter to GS to forward to Barratt.

GS stated that NCC was in the middle of budget setting, and that there was an increased demand on refuse collections for new estates. He stated that he hoped verges/weed spraying would be done more frequently and hoped to get some money invested into the county's country parks. He stated that road gritters had been very busy recently and had gritted over five thousand miles over the Christmas and New Year. He discussed Morpeth's floral clock and the campaign to have this restored to working order. He informed us of the plan to erect a statue of Emily Davison.

GS informed us that a County-wide parking review is to take place soon. He asked how the 20 mph scheme was working in the village; FD stated that he thought things were a lot calmer now. It was agreed that recent tarmacking of roads in the parish had made things a lot better. He stated that the entrance to Coopies Lane is due to be redone in the next week.

PBA thanked him for his attendance and help with the above issues.

5. Planning Applications

- a. 25 Norham Drive – proposed single storey front and rear extension including part garage conversion. Comments are due at NCC on 19 January. It was agreed that if any neighbours objected to this application HPC would back them.
- b. Barratt Homes, South Fields, Hepscott – Re-plan of 271 houses (substitution of house types and addition of 42 houses). MP will look at plans to see if there are any implications due to the mix of houses. No reference has been made in the application to affordable housing. The increase will mean the estate being 428 houses, and members wondered if the drainage would be adequate. PA suggested we ask for evidence from the Floods Officer. PA will meet with MP to look over plans.

PA/MP

6. Flood Alleviation Sub Group

An update was provided by MP (copy attached). Our thanks were expressed to members of the sub group for all their hard work. A meeting of the Flood Wardens is to take place on 23 January.

7. Website

KR stated that our regular reports show that most people looking at the website tend to view the minutes pages and the Parish Hall page. He stressed that we need to use the website more. KR had encountered problems recently when trying to edit information, but that is now resolved. He stated that he thought the website was not mobile phone friendly but will look at this again.

KR

8. Speeding and Parking

FD stated he was very disappointed in the way that Northumbria Police are using the Community Speedwatch. He stated that the planned conference was cancelled due to lack of interest. He stated he would have liked this to be a chance to network. It was agreed that FD would email his thoughts to GS. FD stated that he was pleased PCSO Teasdale would once again be our police representative, as she took an active interest in the Community Speedwatch volunteers.

FD

FD stated that he thought the new 20 mph scheme through the village will be a big success. He stated that speeds appear to have dropped already. FD stated that he had written an article for the Hepscoth Herald which he will send to PA and also to KR for updating to the website.

FD

FD stated that he had received a phone call regarding a vehicle obstructing Fieldhouse Close and Parkside. He had emailed PCSO Beavers with the registration number.

9. Finances

Monthly financial statements had been circulated to councillors with the agenda and were approved. There were 4 items above £100 and these were approved.

10. Parish Hall

The car park had been completed and thanks were given to DC for his work on this.

An "umbrella" licence has been gained to enable movies etc to be shown from the internet.

KR gave information of forthcoming events, including the Highlights Show, which is always very popular. PA informed KR of a well-known radio presenter/popular poet named Ian McMillan who is trying to visit all parish halls. PA will send information to KR to see if this would be appropriate for Hepscoth.

PA/KR

11. Correspondence

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Information had been received regarding training arranged by NCC on Planning Issues. Several dates/venues have been arranged and MP/PA/AC/SJ would all attend.

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12. Meetings and training attended

Meetings of the Flood Alleviation Sub Group had been held as well as meetings re the proposed boundary changes and No 8 Crofts Park.

13. Any other business

Stobhill Manor Playpark: DC had not received the quote from Straughans, and thought they may be too busy for this work at present, but will try to contact them again. DC/SJ will contact Stephen Rickitts at NALC to ask if he knows of anyone who could undertake the repairs work. DC was asked to get 3 quotes and proceed with a view to implementing the work before the next HPC meeting and thanked for the work to date.

DC/SJ

DC/SJ

Barratt/Stobhill update: MP had prepared a report (copy attached) and stated that another meeting was required, with GS in attendance.

MP stated that there were lots of leaves on the edges of the roads, especially in Fieldhouse Lane and agreed to email the works department of NCC. He stated that there is a broken street light in the village and will also report this.

MP

14. Date and Time of next Meeting

The next meeting of HPC will be held on Thursday 15 March 2018 at 6.30 pm in the Parish Hall.

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

Signed as a true copy:

Hepscott Parish Council

Sub Group for Flood Alleviation in the Hepscott Parish

HPC meeting Report - 18th January 2018

1. Community Flood Plan
 - a. 11 volunteers to act as flood wardens from around the village.
 - b. First meeting of the flood wardens took place on the 3rd October.
 - c. Second meeting organised for 23rd January to look at:-
 - i. Properties at Risk
 - ii. Environment Agency Flood Alert Register
 - iii. Trigger Levels
 - iv. Vulnerable Residents
 - v. Actions of Flood Wardens
 - vi. Lead and Deputy Flood Wardens
 - vii. Lines of Communication
 - viii. PPE
 - ix. Questions

2. Meetings attended by the Sub Group
 - a. HPC Sub Group meetings continue, the last 29th November the next 24th January 2018.
 - b. Flood asset inspections has been conducted at the back end of 2017
 - i. Concern expressed regarding route of Redhouse Burn, bypassing holding ponds 1 and 2. Further investigation required.
 - c. Meetings with NCC on the 2nd November - included Aaron McNeil, Martin King and 3 members of the Environment Agency.
 - i. MP letter sent to confirm interpretation of meeting
 - ii. EA Responded with a long transcript of meeting just before Christmas
 - iii. NCC followed with a long statement of their intention with flood alleviation in Hepscott after Christmas
 - iv. Group to discuss correspondence

3. Other areas being pursued:-
 - i. Joint Flood Study Conclusion
 - ii. Increase flow capacity under the bridge on the C132
 - iii. Topographical survey of the area around the bridge
 - iv. Silting up of the river from construction sites – enforcement action taken against Barratt.
 - v. Gravel build up in river
 - vi. Regular Gully cleaning

Hepscott Parish Council

1. MP letter to Steve Jones, Technical Director of Barratt on the 10th January 2018
2. Issues of Concern
 - a. Asked for the addresses of occupied properties and a monthly update.
 - b. The pollution incident in the Hepscott Burn. Asked for confirmation that the measures required are now in place.
 - c. At the meeting on the 21st November Barratt reported that the appointment of Greenbelt Group to manage the SUDS was imminent. We have asked for confirmation.
 - d. HPC requested site visit.
 - e. Asked for an update on the position of the list of resident complaints:
 - i. Hedge maintenance and repair
 - ii. Formal Pedestrian Access points
 - iii. Toucan Crossing
 - iv. Play Parks in Phase One
 - v. Pothole repair
 - vi. Street Lighting Phase One
 - vii. Phase one wearing course to roads and footpaths
 - viii. Street Signage
 - ix. Reports of anti-social behaviour
3. Further Meeting will be required.
4. Submission for a change to planning for half the site to increase number of houses by 42 to a total of 438.