

HEPSCOTT PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 16 January 2020

1. **Present:** Carolyn Reid (Chair), David Cowans (Vice Chair), Philip Ashmore, Fred Dye, Malcolm Paton, Anne Colver, County Councillor Glen Sanderson, Sylvia Johnson (Clerk)

Apologies: John Sadler

Declarations of interest: None

2. **Report from Neighbourhood Policing Team:**

Unfortunately we had no police representation at the meeting or a written report, which we found very disappointing. It was agreed that SJ write a letter of thanks to PC Andrea Teasdale, who gave up her time and was a great help to HPC, and copy this to the Chief Constable. SJ also to write to The Chief Constable to express HPC's concern at the new arrangements for police representation and the lack of written information.

Action

SJ

3. **Update from County Councillor, Glen Sanderson:**

GS informed the meeting that climate change is a priority for NCC and they have declared a climate emergency. The council hope to halve Co2 emissions by 2025 and be carbon neutral by 2030. A steering group has been formed and they are to hold public meetings throughout the county. NCC is planning to change their fleet of cars from diesel to electric/petrol. Apparently it will be more difficult to change the large vehicles. They are to encourage walking/cycling and will offer every household a small sapling tree to plant in gardens.

NCC has relaunched their anti-littering campaign and GS stated that local schools have been brilliant in this campaign. The council are trying to get on top of fly tipping; 2 hot spots have been highlighted.

The Local Transport Plan results will be released next week. Initiatives for cycling/walking are expected to be high priority. GS stated that instead of the usual £150K, there will be £300K invested in the plan.

FD commented that potholes, recently repaired have already broken down. GS replied that roads with little tarmac are difficult to repair effectively. Funds for road repairs had been considerably reduced. A Hepscoth resident present informed GS of damage that occurred to his car because of a large pothole in the village. GS informed him that he could claim compensation from NCC. SJ informed GS of the numerous potholes on the road from Shadfen to Bothal, and across the Bridge.

PA brought up the matter of the "Land Grab". GS stated that he has talked to Stephen Rickitt at NALC and will try to help HPC where he can. NCC's Consultation runs from 9 January – 28 February. PA asked GS to write and express his views.

AC expressed concern at how narrow the A192 is, especially from Barmoor to Hartford Bridge – this makes it quite difficult for cyclists.

4. Minutes of the meetings held on 21 November 2019 and matters arising:

- 4.1 Minor amendments are to be made to the minutes from November and they will then be signed off and uploaded to the website.
- 4.2 CR stated that there was concern about when minutes should be uploaded to the website, as being a small council we only meet every 2 months. Steven Rickitt has confirmed that the minutes of an HPC meeting have to be uploaded onto the website within 30 days. To prevent un-agreed minutes appearing on the website the following was agreed: SJ to email minutes to Parish Councillors within 2 weeks of a meeting, who will send any amendments back to SJ as soon as possible and then the agreed minutes will be uploaded to the website within the permitted 30 days. This will be trialled for 6 months.

5. Planning:**5.1 Planning Application updates: (A detailed schedule of all recent planning applications is attached to these minutes - Addendum 1)**

- **Land south west of Barmoor Farm:** Refused by NCC but now appealed to the Planning Inspectorate. SJ has upload HPC's comments onto the Planning Inspectorate website, the deadline for which was 6 December.
- **Westfield, Hepscott:** Refused by NCC but now appealed to the Planning Inspectorate. HPC's points were all given in the letter sent to NCC, which will be taken into consideration by the Planning Inspectorate. HPC had no further comments to make.
- **Four Winds:** DC attended the Planning Committee meeting and stated that the application was approved; however NCC's website is still showing the application as "Awaiting Decision". SJ will email the case officer and query this.
- **Greenfield House:** HPC have been notified that this application has been withdrawn by the Applicant.

5.2 NCC Local Plan latest information: No further information.**6. Flood Sub Group:**

A report of the last Flood Group meeting is attached to these minutes as Addendum 2

7. Financial Matters:

- 7.1 Monthly financial statements had been circulated to Councillors with the agenda and were approved. All items over £100.00 were approved.

7.2 SJ left the room whilst discussions took place regarding an increase in her salary. On her return CR informed SJ that all Councillors had agreed that an increase of one increment should be given. She also thanked SJ for all her good work and expressed the appreciation of all the Parish Councillors. SJ thanked them for this.

8. Community Governance Review (Proposed Parish Boundary Changes)

As mentioned in Item 3, NCC's Consultation period runs from 9 January – 28 February. It was agreed that we need to have a document produced and placed in front of NCC which gives all details of what HPC has covered, including details of the recent door-to-door surveys in South Fields and Stobhill Manor East. A thorough discussion was held on the issue. It was decided that a further flyer needs to be produced and passed on to all residents of both estates. The flyer will include information on the consultation and encourage the residents to write to the Democratic Services department by enclosing an example of a brief letter. The whole Council agreed that the document which had been previously circulated should be sent to NCC. CR gave a big thank you to PA for all his hard work on this issue.

9. South Fields/Stobhill Manor update:

JS was not in attendance but PA/CR will discuss the items in item 8 with him.

CR/PA/JS

10. Speeding and Parking issues:

FD informed the meeting that Community Speed Watch signs are to be put in place at either end of the village. Parking is problematic at the end of Parkside/Field House Close, with one red car causing an obstruction regularly. FD discussed possible changes in the road priority. It was agreed that the triangle opposite the Parish Hall should be one of HPC's priorities on the LTP for next year.

FD stated that CSW volunteers got together at Bedlington recently. Most of them stated that they would welcome a police representative to go out with them every 3 months.

11. Hepscott Parish Hall Committee:

AC informed the meeting that:

- Broadband provider has been changed
- AF is trying to get an automatic heating control
- A new microwave has been bought
- The hall is used every day
- In December there was a wreath making session, a mulled wine session, an excellent carol service and the Not the New Year Party on 28 December.

12. Correspondence/Meetings and training attended:

DC attended:

Heritage Network meeting
A Morpeth Town Council meeting regarding the Town Centre Plan
John Grundy's talk – DC gave thanks to those who had attended
Hepscott Parish Hall meeting

13. Any other business

- **Photographic ID:** Staits of Morpeth informed SJ that CR's photograph had been lost. CR agreed to revisit to have another taken. SJ has also to visit for her photograph to be taken. Ken Stait will send an invoice once all badges have been completed.
- **Playpark Inspection:** CR stated that most of the highlighted issues in the recent report were low risk. The main concern was the broken rubbish bin and its concrete foundation. CR/MP agreed to visit the playpark to decide what needs repairing.
- **Hedge reduction:** SJ had received 2 quotes for the hedge reduction. It was agreed that SJ ask All Seasons Gardening Services to proceed with the work.
- **Archived documents:** SJ currently stores boxes containing archived HPC documents in her husband's garden shed. CR agreed to take a couple of boxes and she and PA will go through them to see what needs to be kept.
- AC mentioned that the Blyth Tall Ship Williams Project is looking for donations. DC thought that Blyth Town Council should be approached to donate. He thought HPC funds should be used for Hepscott Parish and HPC services. However members could support it privately.

14. Date and Time of next Meeting

The next meeting of HPC will be held on Thursday 19 March 2020 in the Parish Hall, at 6.30 pm.

Dates of subsequent meetings in 2020 are as follows:

21st May
16th July
17th September
19th November

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

Signed as a true copy:

Action

CR/SJ

CR/MP

SJ

CR/PA

ADDENDUM 1

Details of recent planning applications discussed at the meeting of Hepscott Parish Council on Thursday 16 January 2020

- Burnside, Hepscott - Approval of reserved matters for appearance, landscaping, layout and scale relating to planning permission 16/01944/OUT
Ref: 18/01421/REM – Application permitted
- Land south west of Barmoor Farm, Barmoor, Hepscott - Outline permission for the demolition of an existing garage and erection of a single residential unit
Ref: 18/03873/OUT – Application refused by NCC – now appealed to Secretary of State
- Barratt Homes, South Fields, Morpeth - variation of condition 2 to replace house types and relocated 2 visitor parking spaces
Ref: 18/04368/VARYCO – Application permitted
- Westfield, Hepscott - Proposed new single-storey dwelling adjacent to Westfield, Hepscott
Ref: 18/04418/FUL – Application refused by NCC - now appealed to Secretary of State
- Greenfield House, Hepscott – Demolition of 1 dwelling and replacement with 3 dwellings including access
Ref: 19/02197/OUT – Application has been withdrawn by the Applicant
- Four Winds, Hepscott – Demolition of existing bungalow to create 2 private dwellings, retaining existing access and internal driveway together with retention of all trees and hedges to external boundaries
19/03670/FUL – Awaiting decision
- Land west of Field House, Hepscott - Proposed conversion of traditional agricultural buildings and development of new build units to comprise 9 dwellings
19/03789/FUL – Registered
- Baronoaks, Dunces Houses, Hepscott - To erect a boundary wall and gate
19/03922/FUL – Application permitted
- Oakfield House, Hepscott – Replacement of windows and doors. Dormer extension to side elevation and external landscaping.
19/04369/FUL - Registered

ADDENDUM 2

HEPSCOTT PARISH COUNCIL FLOOD SUB GROUP REPORT 16th January 2020

1. **Meetings:**
 - a. The Flood Group met on 22nd November, 25th November and 13th December.
 - b. The next Flood Group meeting is scheduled for the 28th January followed by a meeting with Joint Study Group on the 7th February.

2. **Discussions with Joint Flood Study Group. MP noted he was unable to attend the last meeting at NWA offices:**
 - a. Computer modelling.
 - b. Flood mapping.
 - c. Network Rail information.
 - d. Flood Group members agreed to provide dated photographs.
 - e. "Climate Change" predictions will be taken into account.
 - f. Consultants (MMB) have been instructed by NCC to progress on to the design solutions stage to look for flood management proposals.
 - g. Next meeting will be on the 7th February at NWA in Cramlington.
 - h. If the study identifies a need for flood management works it would be scheduled for 2022 / 23.
 - i. PA noted that he felt progress was being made.

3. **Other Issues being pursued/discussed by the Flood Group:**
 - a. NCC Position Statement.
 - b. Coloured dye to trace the route of the Redhouse burn.
 - c. Proposals for the Culverts running through the Orchard and Crofts Park.
 - d. Thornlea ditch maintenance.
 - e. Gully cleansing and road sweeping to stop gullies being blocked.
 - f. Flood defence inspections.

4. **Hepscott Flood Plan:**
 - a. A meeting is to be scheduled to review / update the flood plan before the next Flood Wardens Meeting in March 2020
 - b. A Youngs, Jill Kelly and MP attended the Northumberland Flood Wardens meeting at the offices of the EA on the 25th November 2019.

5. The repairs to the embankment upriver of the weir have not progressed for some months.