

HEPSCOTT PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting held on Thursday 18 July 2013

1. Present:

Phil Ashmore (Chair), David Cowans (Vice Chair), Philippa Raper, Ken Reed, Merle Heppell, Fred Dye, Hollie Ross, Sylvia Johnson (Parish Clerk)

There were no apologies for absence.

County Councillor discussion: PA welcomed County Councillor Glen Sanderson to the meeting as one of the two County Councillors for Hepscoth Parish. GS attended for the beginning of the meeting.

GS gave information about the large area of his constituency, covering 10 Parishes. He spoke about the challenges facing the County Council due to budget cuts. There was now a labour administration. He mentioned onshore wind turbines, speeding problems on the A697 and potholes.

PA stated that there were 2 major issues in Hepscoth Parish that were of concern, firstly flooding, as there have been a number of incidents since 2008, and secondly the Green Belt for the southern boundary of Morpeth.

HPC has been made aware of a proposal by Barratts to build around 400 new homes on the land to the south of Stobhill roundabout. GS knew about this but stated that he had received no contact from Barratts.

PA stated that he appreciated GS's support regarding the planning application for a radio mast at Clare House, Hepscoth and thanked GS for his attendance. GS left the meeting at 7.00 due to a prior engagement.

PA welcomed Sylvia Johnson to her first meeting as Parish Clerk.

2. Co-option of New Councillors

PA informed the meeting that there were 7 places on HPC. Of these 4 were already elected, so 3 could be co-opted. Merle Heppell, Fred Dye and Hollie Ross were proposed (by PA), seconded (by DC) and their co-option was agreed. PA pointed out that there was no difference between a co-opted and elected councillor. Hollie Ross agreed to be a councillor for Stobhill Manor.

3. Minutes of the meeting held on 16 May 2013

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

4. Matters Arising

Stobhill Playpark Inspections: It was noted that the Playpark at Stobhill is due for inspection around August/September. SJ to remind Digley and Co. It was agreed that HR would act as liaison with Digley and Co.

**To be
actioned by**

**SJ
HR**

5. HPC Website

KR has been doing some work regarding the website and presented his findings. This has been an ongoing issue for many months. KR has made several amendments to the website and informed the members of the charges made for the maintenance and upkeep of this. There will be an annual fee of approximately £400.00, and all agreed that it was a worthwhile charge. There was also discussion about the maps being used at present on the website. KR agreed to discuss further changes with the working group and consult the Parish Council of these before going ahead. KR informed the members that all minutes, agendas, etc, will be displayed on the website and any documents mentioned in the minutes, eg financial reports, will have to be displayed also.

KR

6. Declarations of Pecuniary Interest

All new councillors were requested to complete forms giving details of any pecuniary interests. These forms are then sent to Legal Services at NCC. All forms were returned to SJ at the end of the meeting.

7. Planning Applications

Several members would like to be advised of Planning Applications by email from SJ giving the planning application reference. They will then be able to go onto NCC website to view the details before sending comments by email to SJ. This will greatly speed up the process of obtaining comments. It was agreed that emailed comments would be copied to all members, giving everyone the opportunity to see them.

The following are Planning Applications in progress:

- **Roseden:** Approved – building work underway
- **3 Fieldhouse Close:** Application to demolish and rebuild. Objections from HPC and from householders in village.
Outcome: Refused by Planning Committee. The applicant has 12 weeks in which to appeal. FD has the plans for this and will get them back to SJ asap.
- **Langdale:** Planning application to enlarge considerably. HPC made objections and are awaiting the decision.
Outcome: Letter received by SJ on 28 July 2013, stating that application has been withdrawn by the Applicant.

FD

- **Clare House:** Planning application for full permission for radio mast which has temporary permission at present. Strong objections from HPC and householders in village. NCC Planning Committee meeting held on 4 July at which FD spoke on behalf of HPC. Discussion took place regarding issues with the mast. The mast has been granted a 2 month stay to investigate noise issues. HPC needs to gather as much evidence as possible for its objections, including complaints to OFCOM.

Outcome: 2 month stay.

- **18 Eglington Way:** (Extension) Permission granted
- **Fish Passes:** No objections made by HPC – views emailed to NCC by DC.

The members then discussed a proposal by Barratts, David Wilson Homes and Tees Valley Housing for the erection of around 400 houses on land south of the A196 at Stobhill Roundabout. PR stated that she had attended the public consultation meeting held on 12 July, along with PA and DC. It had to be noted that at present this is only a proposal, no planning application has been made. Discussion took place regarding Green Belt land and the need for HPC attendance at the forthcoming meeting with Karen Ledger (Head of Planning) (23 July) and the Green Belt Workshop (24 July). PA agreed to attend both meetings.

8. **Financial Issues/Report:**

SJ distributed copies of a spreadsheet showing details of all recent expenditure. It was agreed that in future a copy of the spreadsheet showing all recent expenditure would be attached to the Agenda for the next meeting.

A Lloyds TSB form was completed to change the authorised signatories for financial transactions.

9. **Meetings attended by Councillors:**

DC attended Alnwick Planning meeting at which Clare House Mast and 3 Fieldhouse Close were on the agenda. FD also attended and presented the case for HPC on Clare House (PA on holidays).

PR, PA and DC attended the consultation meeting in respect of the Barratts' proposal for housing at land to the south of Stobhill Roundabout.

Morpeth Neighbourhood Plan Meetings were attended by DC and PA. KR stated that he is on the Editorial Board.

SJ

10. Correspondence:

Letter from NCC regarding Free Parking for All. This had been responded to by PA.

11. Any other Business:

- **Councillor Training:** Information received from NALC regarding training/refresher training for councillors - 10 September in Morpeth on an afternoon session, evenings at Hexham (13 September) and Felton (5 September). It was agreed that FD/KR/PR/MH attend Morpeth session and HR to attend Felton session. SJ to book.
- **Footpaths:** PR reported that the footpath between Coalburn and Hepscott is in need of strimming where it exits onto the Hepscott Village main street on a blind corner. HR reported that the footpath at the Stobhill Playpark is overgrown. SJ to make enquiries as to who should undertake this work.
- FD reported that brambles are growing out onto the footpath at 3 Fieldhouse Close. It was agreed that we try to make contact with the current owner (who is not living at the address at present). FD will try to get contact details.

SJ

FD

12. Date and time of next meeting:

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 19 September at 6.30 pm in the Village Hall.

Apologies for absence were given by PA and PR.

Prepared by:

**S Johnson
Parish Clerk/RFO
3 August 2013**

Signed as a True Copy

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