

HEPSCOTT PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 21 July 2016

1. Present

Philip Ashmore (Chair), David Cowans (Vice Chair), Fred Dye, Malcolm Paton, Sylvia Johnson (Clerk), PC Simon Beavers, PC Holly Wendt

Apologies: Ken Reed, Carolyn Reid, County Councillors Glen Sanderson and Ian Lindley

Declarations of interest

None

2. Report from Neighbourhood Policing Team

Action

2a. The meeting welcomed Simon Beavers and Holly Wendt from Morpeth Neighbourhood Policing Team, who have taken over from Andrea Teasdale due to restructuring in the team. PA stated that PC Teasdale had done a first class job and very rarely missed a meeting of HPC. HPC wished to express thanks to her for all her hard work over the past few years and it was agreed that PA write a formal letter to Andrea, copying it to Liz Hall, Northern Inspector.

PA

Simon reported that there had been 3 burglaries in the vicinity recently. Thieves had attempted to steal 2 bicycles, a garden shed had been broken into and various items stolen.

2b FD gave a report on the Northumbria Police Volunteers Conference he attended recently. FD had been very disappointed in the Conference and had met with Sarah Pitt to discuss his concerns.

FD stated that he has been informed he can now deploy the speed gun on 40 mph roads, and can use it on Barmoor Bank. He recently deployed it on the A196 filling 4 sheets in 50 minutes. He asked why a camera van could not be used on that stretch of road. Simon agreed to contact the sergeant and ask if this can be looked at; it had been previously stated there was nowhere to site the vehicle.

SB

3. Minutes of the meetings held on Thursday 19 May 2016 and matters arising:

The minutes from both the AGM and meeting of HPC on 19 May were agreed as true records.

Matters arising:

Bins: SJ/KR are still to take a look at the bins at Parkside with a view to having them replaced/resited as soon as possible.

SJ/KR

4. Update from County Councillors:

Councillor Sanderson was unable to attend the HPC meeting but emailed that the first meeting with Barratts with him chairing had taken place; he stated that it would be a helpful method of communication and was grateful that there had been effective representation from Hepscoth Parish Council.

The reinstatement of the road by Fir Tree Copse has finally been completed by Powergen's contractors. The resurfacing of the footpath, agreed earlier and paid out of his members' scheme budget, is due to be done soon.

5. Barratt/Stobhill:

MP informed the meeting that the main issues now are concerning the maintenance and management of SUDs. There had been some issues regarding the start/finish times of the site.

MP thought it was thought best to concentrate on SUDs, early starts/finish times and mud on roads. It was however, suggested that due to the milder weather, the mud issue should be resolved for now. It was further noted that the SUDs management plan has been signed off by the NCC SUDs Officer.

It was decided that MP/PA should arrange to meet with Alison Byard to discuss progress of the Barratt site. Barratt have stated that they hope to build 80-84 houses this year. As stated by GS above, he hoped that regular meetings would continue with the date of the next meeting being 23 September.

MP/PA

An update from NCC has confirmed that they are adding to their enforcement team and have appointed 2 more Enforcement Officers, increasing their team to 5 for Northumberland.

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

MNP: This is now a legal document and we are waiting to see how it affects planning outcomes. HPC have had success quoting it against the development at Dunces Houses.

NCC Core Strategy: The Core Strategy has been out for consultation and the final date for comments to be received is 27 July. It was acknowledged that the Core Strategy is not yet through all its stages, but HPC are pleased with the way that the "green belt" has been designated and that "The Triangle" (south of Coopies Lane) was now included as Green Belt land.

PA

7. Planning Applications:

- a. **Land west of Dunces Houses:** Appeal refused.
- b. **5 Dunces Houses:** Appeal refused.
- c. **Langdale:** Permission granted to both applications.
- d. **11 The Orchard:** Permission granted.
- e. **Orchard House:** Partial permission only granted, pruning permitted, felling refused.
- f. **Hepscott Hall Cottage:** Awaiting decision.
- g. **Woodlands, 4 South Lodge Wood:** Permission granted.
- h. **Burnside, Hepscott:** Awaiting decision.
- i. **Shadfen Park Farm:** HPC replied to NCC on 18 July. Awaiting decision.
- j. **Meadow View:** Letter received from NCC regarding the new Pre-Planning Protocol. PA to contact the case officer for further information.

PA

8. Hepscott Parish Hall:

KR was unable to attend the meeting.

- Invoices have been received regarding the Parish Hall's inclusion on HPC's website. SJ will arrange payment and invoice the Parish Hall Management Committee (excluding VAT as HPC can reclaim this).
- MP has contacted KR regarding a solution to accessing the extended car park.

9. Financial Matters:

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

As the speed signs have now been paid for in full it was agreed that calculations be made showing the balance due to GS from his member's scheme. PA asked if any invoice had been received from NCC for the work they did, but nothing had been received to date. PA/SJ to meet to calculate balance due to GS.

PA/SJ

10. Website:

Two extra pages have been added to HPC's website giving information about the Parish Hall. The pages give details of facilities, information on how to book the hall and information on future events to be held in the hall. KR will update these at regular intervals.

KR

11. Flood Sub Group

The flood sub group has now had 3 meetings and a further one is planned on 2 August. The group consists of MP/CR/PA/Otto Meth Cohn. The previous Flood Action Group had not met for over 3 years and it has been agreed that the new group, would supersede the FAG. PA stated that the Environment Agency and Northumbrian Water have been contacted to arrange visits and Ian Lavery, our MP, is to visit the village on 22 July to look at the bridge and discuss funding, thanks to OMC's letter to him.

OMC had thought there may be money available for flood work. The main concern is the bridge in the village and the group wishes to see if money is available to take down the parapet. Other issues included maintenance of SUDS (including Barratt's), ditch and watercourse maintenance, improvements to leaky ponds and a longer term flood alleviation strategy.

MP had a meeting with Aaron McNeil, but the NCC Bridge Engineer was unable to attend. The group was due to meet NCC again shortly. DC mentioned Hazeldene Reservoir and wondered if this could be reopened. It had been raised again with NCC

12. Correspondence:

- A letter has been received from NCC regarding the Local Transport Programme for 2016/2017. SJ to check what was requested in the previous year. It was agreed that this year we would like the bridge in the village to be our priority. **SJ**
- We have received a letter asking for a donation to CAN. SJ to check accounts to see what we have donated in previous years. **SJ**

13. Meetings and training attended:

- FD attended the Police Volunteers Conference as mentioned in 2b above.
- DC attended the AGM of the Greater Morpeth Development Trust and the Heritage Group.

14. Any other business:

- **Survey of residents re speed through village:** FD proposed we look at a reduction in the speed limit through the village to 20 mph, as has been done in our neighbouring parish of Stannington. FD had devised a survey sheet for residents immediately affected by vehicles speeding through the village, and asked if HPC would be willing to support the initiative. It was agreed that a survey was a good idea and FD would email the survey sheet to HPC members for any comments, prior to distribution. **FD**

Action

- **Street light initiative:** DC mentioned that the Government has an initiative for replacing old street lights. It was noted that we have an old rural system which is not very good, therefore DC proposed we be proactive and look this issue.

DC

15. Date and Time of next Meeting:

The next meeting of HPC will be held on Thursday 15 September at 6.30 pm.

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

Signed as a true copy: