

HEPSCOTT PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 20 July 2017

1. Present

Philip Ashmore (Chair), David Cowans (Vice Chair), Malcolm Paton, Carolyn Reid, Sylvia Johnson (Clerk)

Apologies:

Fred Dye, Ken Reed, County Councillors Glen Sanderson and John Beynon.

In attendance:

Anne Colver

Anne left the room whilst Councillors discussed, and unanimously agreed, co-opting Anne onto the Parish Council to fill the current vacancy.

Declarations of interest

None

2. Report from Neighbourhood Policing Team

No police representative at meeting.

3. Minutes of the AGM and HPC meeting held on Thursday 18 May and matters arising:

The minutes of the AGM and the HPC meeting were both agreed as a true record.

Matters Arising:

Stobhill Manor Playpark: DC had discussed Morpeth Town Council's service agreement for their playpark in Stobhill Manor with Tracey Wardle (Town Clerk) but it seems unlikely that we will be able to buy into this.

4. Update from County Councillors:

No county councillors were in attendance at the meeting.

5. Barratt/Stobhill:

The recent Liaison Meeting was postponed and we are still awaiting a further date. It is proving difficult to get a meeting date and the promised site tour. PBA to ask GS to expedite this. It was stated that there is muddy water in the burn, which is quite bad during heavy rain. This has been logged as a Pollution Incident with the Environment Agency by MP.

PBA/GS

Action

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

Nothing to report on MNP.

NCC has withdrawn the Core Strategy, which was due to be submitted for its Final Stage. PA met with Mark Ketley on 17 July and was advised that the Core Strategy has no weight in planning applications at present, nor in any objections to planning applications. MK assured PA that the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) would still be upheld; this states where building in the green belt can/cannot be undertaken. Without the Core Strategy NCC must now fall back to the saved policies of Castle Morpeth Borough Council, which were made in 2003.

The reasons for withdrawal, stated in a letter received from NCC were:

- Differences regarding population projection
- New data suggesting less housing being required.
- A Government consultation which is soon to begin on a standardised methodology to calculate housing need, which will have a bearing on future housing requirements.
- Ongoing discussions between the 3 North of Tyne Authorities and Government regarding the possibility of a devolution deal.

PA agreed to follow up and arrange a meeting with GS for clarification. On the face of it this is bad news for Hepscoth. MNP had established the Hepscoth Village and Morpeth Settlement boundaries, but could not establish Green Belt; that was a function of the Core Strategy. Now this has been withdrawn and the prospect of Hepscoth being surrounded by Green Belt has been put back probably 2-3 years. In the meantime we will be prey to developers wishing to build on land that was due to be Green Belt.

PA

7. Planning Applications:

- a. 8 Crofts Park (extension) – Both HPC and the Floods Officer had objected to the original application, after which further information was submitted by the applicant and we were re-consulted. The Floods Officer then sent a 2nd note asking for a flood risk assessment. Mark Ketley was informed by PA that HPC had not withdrawn its objection, and there is no evidence in the public domain that the Floods Officer has withdrawn his objection. However, the application has been permitted. Mark Ketley agreed to look into it.
- b. South Park – Application permitted
- c. 8 Crofts Park (FELTPO) – The original application to fell one large Sycamore tree and one large Alder tree was objected to by HPC. The application was amended to crown raise and 15% crown thin on Sycamore only and this was permitted.
- d. Karamanda – HPC objected to original application to fell three Sycamore and one chestnut tree. The application was then amended to a pruning plan and the application was permitted.
- e. Maple Lodge – The application to fell one Pine tree was objected to by HPC and the application was subsequently withdrawn by the applicant.

- f. Land west of Stonehaven – This is a new application but seeking to amend a previously approved application from 2014. The amendment is for a 5 bedroom eco family home with attached triple garage. HPC objected to the application as it was outside the settlement boundary; inappropriate for a green belt location and would overcrowd the site.

8. Website

KR was unable to attend the meeting therefore no report was received.

9. Parking/Speeding in the Village

- Speeding: The cost for the 20 mph scheme has been reduced and we hope to go ahead with the scheme as soon as possible. It is hoped that this might stop drivers using the village as a rat run.
- The plan to reduce the speed limit from Stobhill Roundabout to Barmoor Bank to 40 mph has also been approved. NCC will pay for this scheme.
- Parking in the Village: A resident had contacted FD about a vehicle parked on the bend, which he then reported to Simon Beavers and is awaiting a reply.
- Village Hall Parking: The Parish Hall Management Committee has received quotes for new car parking facilities at the Hall. A decision will be made once all quotes requested have been received.
- Motorcyclists: CR reported that on several Saturday evenings a group of Motocross riders have been causing a disturbance at the bottom of Fieldhouse Lane beside the field. A couple of residents had complained to CR. As both paths in that vicinity are public footpaths it was agreed that a complaint could be made about riding on footpaths and the noise levels. CR agreed to write to Simon Beavers.

CR

10. Flood Alleviation Sub Group:

MP had a meeting with Martin King on 4 April but has had no contact from him since that date. MP stated that the burn has now been listed on biannual gravel watch. We have not heard from the Joint Flood Study group. Aaron McNeil (NCC) is hoping to organise a meeting and will invite Elaine Smith from Northumbrian Water, who is leading the Joint Study Group.

The Flood Plan is progressing but we need volunteer wardens in The Orchard area. PA stated that although this has been hard going, MP/CR and Otto had done some excellent work. It was agreed that we will be much better prepared for floods in the future.

11. Hepscott Parish Hall:

Nothing to report as KR was unable to attend the meeting.

Action

12. Financial Matters:

Monthly financial statements had been circulated to councillors with the agenda and were approved. There were 9 items above £100 and these were approved. SJ stated that a reclaim of VAT had been made totalling £1718.84. Once this is received a payment of £294.08 will be made to the Parish Hall Management Committee for the VAT paid on the chairs for the Hall.

SJ

13. Correspondence:

A letter had been received from NCC regarding the Local Transport Plan asking for our three top priorities. This will be discussed at the September meeting before any decisions are made.

14. Meetings and training attended:

- PA met with Mark Ketley regarding the Core Strategy
- Meetings had been held in connection with the 20 mph scheme
- Meeting held with Ian Storey

15. Any other business:

Stobhill Manor Playpark: As reported in Matters Arising above it seems very unlikely that we can buy into the MTC Service Agreement. DC therefore agreed to find a contractor who would be able to complete the repairs necessary to the playground equipment, and ensure that the necessary work was done, by the next meeting if possible.

DC

16. Date and Time of next Meeting:

The next meeting of HPC will be held on Thursday 21 September 2017 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:

Action