

HEPSCOTT PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 25 July 2019

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

Apologies: County Councillor Glen Sanderson and PC Andrea Teasdale

Declarations of interest: None

2. **Report from Neighbourhood Policing Team**

Action

PC Teasdale had submitted a report as she was unable to attend the meeting:

"A trailer was stolen from Fairmoor over the last month which has not been recovered. A horsebox was stolen from Widdrington and was located in Ashington the same night with false plates. If you have any trailers / horseboxes that are not being used please try and secure them with a locking device, take the wheel off or block them in.

There have been several complaints that scam phone calls are being made purporting to be from HMRC and the Police. One man gave his bank details and has lost £5000. Please do not give out any bank details – do not engage in conversation and hang up."

3. **Minutes of the meetings held on 16 May 2019 and matters arising**

No matters arising other than what is included on the agenda.

Minutes from the AGM and Parish Council meeting were agreed and signed as a true record.

4. **Update from County Councillors:**

As he was unable to attend the meeting, CC Glen Sanderson forward a report as follows:

"I have read the response from yourselves to Morpeth Town Council who I understand propose to press on with their plans. Let me know if you want to discuss this and I will happily meet up.

Comments have been favourable about the surface dressing programme in and around the village.

In June we agreed to declare a climate change "emergency". This is a big word to use but having spoken to many young people and heard their views I felt emergency is appropriate. As part of this we have committed to reduce the Councils carbon footprint by 50% by 2025 and to work with Government to achieve carbon neutrality for the County as a whole by 2030. Additionally we have set up a multi organisation steering group which will bring forward an Action Plan laying out key actions for the next three years. I will be chairing this group.

We hope to introduce a pilot kerbside glass recycling trial this year which, if it's successful, we will roll out across more of the County next year. As well as this we will be looking to double the number of electric car charging points in our car parks and other longer term areas like school bus transport and ensuring school buses have cleaner engines.

Work is continuing well on our County Hall refurbishment programme and the new school nearby. I am hoping to turn the site of the current school into new car parking. In addition we are looking to increase car parking in Amble and Berwick.

Our Parks improvement programme is proceeding well - we have just completed a new bird hide at Bolam Lake as well as other improvements there, put in a new play area at Plessey, and will be refurbishing the cafe at Druridge Bay over the winter, and 9 out of 9 parks entered have been awarded Green Flag.

We will be starting on our new car park at Morpeth station in October to have this open to meet the new train services starting in mid-December. I am wanting to run our anti littering campaign again this autumn."

5. Parish Boundary Changes

PA/CR had met on Tuesday. MTC have logged papers with NCC, but HPC was not informed. GS stated that he is opposed to the plans. The issue may go to NCC in autumn and a 4 week consultation will then take place. PA had spoken to Lesley Bennett at Democratic Services, NCC who confirmed that the papers had gone to Democratic Services, who will write to HPC in due course. NCC will also put the issue onto their website. They will make contact with residents of South Fields and Stobhill Manor. MTC aim to have the issue ratified in time for the 2021 elections. We need to find out how this affects our Stobhill Manor elected Councillor. It was agreed that nothing is stopping us holding public meetings or doing door-to-door canvassing to collect data. CR/JS/PA will meet on Monday 29 July to progress but asked for everyone's help, eg, in canvassing etc, to which all present agreed. It was noted that residents may think that by moving into MTC their children will get into Morpeth schools easier, however we know this is not the case. It was noted that Mitford PC are also opposing this, but Hebron PC are accepting the proposed changes.

6. Planning Applications/NCC Draft Local Plan:

- 6.1 Planning applications: See Addendum 1 of the minutes
- 6.2 Local Plan latest: The Local Plan went to the Inspector on 31 May 2019.

7. Flood Sub Group:

Minutes of the last Flood Group meeting are shown as Addendum 2 of the minutes.

8. Financial Matters:

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

Task and Finish Group: The group will meet on 7 August at 1:00 pm.

9. South Fields/Stobhill Manor update:

CR had met up with Rachael Hogg. JS stated that things were quiet at the moment. It was agreed that Barratt should be approached first about provision of park benches/litter bins/etc. JS will find out at the next Barratt Liaison Group meeting when the new bus shelter will be erected.

JS

10. Speeding and Parking issues/Special Meeting

FD stated that Speedwatch Volunteers were not invited to a recent meeting with police. FD stated that he had done some survey work in West Thirston at the request of GS, however only one car was speeding at 36 mph. He had also surveyed at Longhorsley with nothing untoward. In Hepscoth Village he has concentrated on busy periods and has done 5 deployments this year. Compared to last year the number of speeders is slightly down.

FD has looked into further traffic calming measures, eg, speed humps, speed cushions, etc. Costs are substantial, speed humps cost £2,300 per hump, which would cost around £40,000 for the village road. FD stated that he thought we had achieved what we originally set out to do, which was to reduce speeding through the village. FD wondered if perhaps PC Teasdale could join him on a deployment in the village, as she would be allowed to speak to drivers, whereas FD is not.

Thanks were given to FD for his work on this matter and it was agreed that the 20 mph project has, in the main, been successful and road safety has improved.

JS stated that the South Fields Facebook page has comments about speeding in the estate. The question was raised as to who is responsible for putting up signs, is it Barratt or NCC? As far as we are aware the roads have not yet been adopted by NCC, which means that the answer is probably Barratt Homes.

FD discussed parking issues on Field House Close/Field House Lane. One car owner constantly parks right on the bend. FD stated he may push for a change in priority if there are any more complaints. Our thanks go to FD and his team for doing a great job.

11. Hepscoth Parish Hall:

- AC attended the AGM
- Events are doing well
- Film nights are popular
- DC had some verbal quotes for the repair of the drain and will progress this.

DC

12. Correspondence/Meetings and training attended

CR attended Parish Chairman training

MP attended:
25th June with Mott McDonald Bentley
25th June with Flood Sub Group
25th June with Aaron McNeil

Councillors were asked to inform the Clerk of any other training/meetings attended.

Discussion took place about the possible siting of a defibrillator in the village. It was agreed to discuss this at the next meeting.

13. Any other business

13.1 Standing Orders: PA stated that the newer edition of the Standing Orders is not out yet - to leave on Agenda for next meeting.

PA

13.2 Website: JS is arranging a consultation with Parishcouncils.org - to bring back to next meeting.

JS

13.3 Hedges in village: CR had noticed lots of hedges in the village being neglected. A member of the public had joined the meeting at this point regarding the same issue. CR agreed to walk round the village, then to contact Steven Wardle at NCC.

CR

It was agreed the hedge bordering the Orchard on the road through the village needs to be reduced in height. SJ will ask our new gardener for a quote. MP will supply a brief spec.

SJ
MP

13.4 SJ had received email correspondence from a gentleman regarding the need for a litter bin at a bus shelter on the A197 opposite Catchburn Farm. MTC had referred him to HPC stating it was in our parish. However DC was able to refer MTC to a document produced by him last year for MTC's Rachael Hogg, which listed all our bus shelters and this was not one of them, it is outside our parish boundary. SJ referred this back to MTC and a new bin has since been supplied

13.5 Fly tipping: AC had done some work on this and produced information to be discussed. To be discussed again.

13.6 The public member attendee wished to record her thanks for all that HPC do for the parish, she stated that she was very grateful.

14. Date and Time of next Meeting

The next meeting of HPC will be held on Thursday 19 September 2019 in the Parish Hall, at 6.30 pm

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

Signed as a true copy:

ADDENDUM 1

Details of recent planning applications discussed at the meeting of Hepscott Parish Council on Thursday 25 July 2019

- **Burnside, Hepscott - Ref: 18/01421/REM**

Approval of reserved matters for appearance, landscaping, layout and scale relating to planning permission 16/01944/OUT – **Application Registered**

- **Land south west of Barmoor Farm, Barmoor, Hepscott - Ref: 18/03873/OUT**

Outline permission for the demolition of an existing garage and erection of a single residential unit – **Application refused**

- **Barratt Homes, South Fields, Morpeth - Ref: 18/04368/VARYCO**

Variation of condition 2 to replace house types and relocate 2 visitor parking spaces – **Application Registered**

- **Westfield, Hepscott - Ref: 18/04418/FUL**

Proposed new single-storey dwelling adjacent to Westfield, Hepscott – amended /additional information received at NCC – **Awaiting decision**

- **Storage Rear of Meadow View, Barmoor Bank, Barmoor - Ref: 19/00990/FUL**

Change of use and conversion of existing building to single dwelling and storage – **Application permitted**

- **9 Thornlea, Hepscott – Ref: 19/01427/FUL**

Proposal to change existing double garage space into study/utility and single garage – **Application permitted**

- **4 Barmoor Bank, Barmoor, NE61 6LD - Ref: 19/01937/FUL**

Demolition of lean to extension and construction of 2 storey extension to rear – **Application permitted**

- **Adjacent to Westfield, Hepscott - Ref: 18/04418/FUL**

Proposed new single-storey dwelling adjacent to Westfield, Hepscott (amended plans 11.7.19) – **Awaiting decision**

ADDENDUM 2

FLOOD SUB GROUP REPORT

For meeting of Hepscoth Parish Council held on 25th July 2019

1. Meetings:

- a. MP met Mott McDonald Bentley at the Redhouse Burn / Railway Track at 10:00 am on the 25th June to discuss direction of flow, ponds, dye etc.
- b. Also on the 25th the Sub Group met at 1:00pm.
- c. Followed by the Flood Group meeting with Aaron McNeil at 2:00pm on the 25th June.
- d. The next Sub Group meeting will be 4th September, followed by a meeting at County Hall on the 23rd September.

2. The meeting with Aaron McNeil on the 25th June discussed the following:

- a. Topographical Survey covering the Hepscoth burn, Redhouse burn, Catch burn and Coal burn, because of issues with Network Rail completion of the survey was delayed until 25th June.
- b. Computer modelling will now be started which is expected to take 6 to 8 weeks.
- c. A flood map will then be prepared covering these areas / parish.
- d. The Culverts running through the Orchard and Crofts Park have been plotted onto a plan pinpointing their location.
 - i. CCTV survey of the culverts was unable to access 80% of the system because of tree roots, silt, etc. It also recorded pipework showing signs of cracking.
 - ii. NCC is investigating remedial actions in conjunction with the contractor carrying out the CCTV survey. NCC did not comment on who will ultimately pay for any work they did however note that under normal circumstances the property owners whose land the culverts run under are responsible for the upkeep.
- e. The work to confirm the route of Redhouse burn with the use of dye was carried out on the 25th June but we still await the results.

3. NCC Position Statement:

- a. The latest statement was issued on the 25th June 2019
- b. Future Statements will be in a reduced format highlighting new information.

4. Joint Flood Study:

- a. Report of findings put back to September 2019
- b. If the study identifies a need for flood management works it would be scheduled for 2023.

5. Gully Cleansing:

- a. We understand from NCC that the last cleansing was October 2018
- b. Local problem gullies have also been attended to as and when reported.

6. Hepscoth Flood Plan: Further amendments regarding telephone numbers to be issued

7. Barratts Stobhill: This will be added to our annual inspection list.

8. Discussions with a Private Consultant about flood risk reduction in Hepscoth: On hold awaiting the outcome of the Joint Flood Study.