

# HEPSCOTT PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 17 March 2016

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### 1. Present

Philip Ashmore (Chair), David Cowans (Vice Chair), Fred Dye, Ken Reed, Carolyn Reid, Sylvia Johnson (Clerk), County Councillor Glen Sanderson,

**Apologies:** Philippa Raper, Malcolm Paton, County Councillor Ian Lindley, PC Andrea Teasdale,

### Declarations of interest

None

### 2. Report from PC Andrea Teasdale

PC Teasdale was unable to attend but submitted a short report for the meeting (summary attached).

### 3. Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 21 January 2016 and matters arising:

The minutes from the last meeting were agreed as a true record.

### Matters arising:

**Community Speed Watch:** The CSW volunteers had been out before Christmas and had monitored 100 vehicles, of which none had been speeding. The volunteers hope to get out more regularly in better weather. Thanks were given to the volunteers for giving up their time for this work.

**Dog Litter Bin:** SJ had reported the rut in the road again to Northumbrian Water, but was told that this work had been undertaken and that it appears tractors are causing the problem. Northumbrian Water agreed to repair but stated that they would not undertake this again. Discussion took place regarding moving the bin to a more suitable location. KR/SJ will look at the area for more appropriate siting of the bin.

**Rubbish Bin at Parkside:** It was agreed that a new bin be purchased and possibly re-sited after correspondence from a resident. SJ to contact NCC to ensure they will continue to empty the bin if moved to a different location and progress bin purchase.

### 4. Update from County Councillor Glen Sanderson:

GS reported that the Budget Meeting of NCC had been held two weeks previous. He stated that the closure of Haydon Bridge Fire Station, near the A69, had been controversial. The move of County Hall to Ashington progresses, causing controversy. £40M is to be borrowed, and a vote to remove this from the budget had been lost. There is still no clarification of the future use of the Morpeth site.

GS mentioned the difficult planning issues in Hepscoth recently and that some issues were still to be resolved.

Action

KR/SJ

SJ

**5. Barratt/Stobhill:**

KR had attended a meeting regarding this recently in PA's place. There had been over 20 conditions set out when the Barratt appeal was granted. HPC were specifically concerned about those to be discharged before the development started, especially on drainage. However none of these appear to have been discharged 8 months later. KS stated that a report from the company responsible for the landscaping and SUDS had been submitted, but that the plan lacks detail. Barratt is hoping the first house will be sold by the end of March. The question of whether HPC should write to the Inspector who granted the appeal was raised, and/or possibly going to the press. PA suggested that if going down that route we concentrate only on one condition, that of the SUDS and especially the SUDS maintenance plan. PA stated he would discuss this with GS, with the possibility of talking to the Planning Department at NCC first. It was agreed that there should be a one month time limit on this issue.

PA

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

**MNP:** HPC were delighted that the MNP had met with favour at the recent referendum, 93% of those that voted were in favour of the plan and the turnout had been 30% (very good for these kind of votes). In Hepscott 177 votes had been cast out of a possible 532, a 32.7% turnout and the highest in the area. The postal vote had been in excess of 25%. The next step is that the "Plan is Made" and then will go to NCC committee for the final stage in the process by the end of April. We now have to wait to see how the plan is going to work. It should have "considerable planning weight" but the "jury is still out".

**NCC Core Strategy:** The Core Strategy was due to be adopted in December 2016 but it has been agreed that there is no hope of that being fulfilled. A new date, which is still to be confirmed, is autumn 2017, meaning a slippage of one year. One reason for the slippage is comments from developers regarding green belt issues in the County.

**7. Planning Applications:**

- a. **Land west of Dunces Houses:** Appeal submitted and awaiting decision.
- b. **5 Dunces Houses:** Appeal submitted and awaiting decision.
- c. **Land east of Turner Square:** Permission refused.
- d. **Land south east of Roseden Cottage:** Permission granted.
- e. **Langdale:** Awaiting decision.
- f. **Barmoor Cottage:** Permission refused.
- g. **11 Thornlea:** Permission granted.
- h. **2 The Orchard:** Awaiting decision.
- i. **Westgarth:** Received after agenda published - variation of condition 2 - HPC to submit comments.
- j. **6 Thornlea:** Received after agenda published - extension to house and garage - HPC to submit comments.

**8. Hepscott Parish Hall:**

KR reported as follows:

- The hall is very popular for rentals.
- Application has been made to several charities for funding to extend the Parish Hall and some small pledges have been received. The extension will cost around £20K, with half that amount still required. Discussion took place regarding an approach to Barratt seeking a donation from them. HPC were asked if they would be willing to give a small grant and this will be given consideration.
- The Parish Hall has a website but KR would like this to be streamlined. He asked, rather than creating a new website, could another page be added to HPC's website, bearing in mind that this would entail a cost to HPC. KR to investigate costs for this.

KR

**9. Financial Matters:**

Monthly financial statements had been circulated to councillors with the agenda and were approved. It was noted that 2 items were above £100; these were noted and approved.

**10. Website:**

The website continues to get a regular number of hits, averaging 30 per month. KR reported that the most popular page on the website is the "History of Hepscott". PA/SJ said that at recent training on Transparency Regulations the possibility of running PC websites through CAN was raised. KR said he would investigate and report back.

KR

**11. Correspondence:**

**Women's Institute:** PA had received correspondence from the WI asking for permission to plant snowdrops in the orchard in memory of 2 recently deceased members. This thoughtful gesture was approved at the meeting. CR also informed the meeting that the WI is planning a Dementia Awareness meeting in June.

**12. Meetings and training attended:**

PA/SJ attended Transparency Regulations training in February

PA/DC attended meetings on Morpeth Neighbourhood Plan

Several MNP steering group meetings have been cancelled recently.

**13. Any other business:**

- **Hepscott Flood Alleviation Scheme/Village Bridge:** As MP was unavailable recently the group have not yet met. They plan to meet up before the next meeting of HPC. PA wrote to Aaron McNeil (Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Manager) requesting a meeting; he has had no reply and plans to follow this up. Otto Meth-Cohn of Hepscott Flood Action Group has suggested he talks to the local MP to see if there is any funding available for flooding issues.

PA

- It was noted that the bottom end of the lane from Redhouse Farm has been flooded constantly during the winter months, often freezing over and causing problems for walkers/runners. DC/PA agreed to walk the lane to look at any problem areas. The same lane is also covered in potholes at present. SJ will contact NCC to report this problem.
- Discussion took place regarding the "leaky ponds" (SUDS). We have been informed that the pond at County Hall will be visited by James Hitching, NCC Flood Officer within a few months. Our thanks to Joan Tebbutt and David Parker of Morpeth Town Council for alerting us to this. The pond is in Morpeth but acts as a "leaky pond"/SUDS for Hepscott.

SJ

**14. Date and Time of next Meeting:**

The next meeting of HPC will be held on Thursday 19 May 2016 and will follow the AGM which takes place at 6.30pm in the Parish Hall.

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

**Signed as a true copy:** .....

**Attachment to minutes of Hepscott Parish Council meeting - 17 March 2016**

**Report from PC Teasdale**

As an update we have received the usual reports of the door-to-door sellers as discussed last time.

There have been reports of boy racers through the village and we have had the same problems in Stannington and Morpeth town centre so we are addressing this and have asked for Traffic Officers to have a look at the problem as well. We have issued warnings to several drivers.

On 9<sup>th</sup> March a quad bike was stolen from Shadfen – we think the offenders had been the night before as the occupant had seen torches shining in the area. There have also been lead thefts from various buildings in Northumberland. There are still reports of poachers in the area which usually ties in with other crime.

The Police are running several operations to try to deal with these issues and have requested assistance from traffic and dog section officers. However if you see any suspicious vehicles or people in the area please phone the police on 101 or take registration numbers and send them to Andrea.