

HEPSCOTT PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 16 March 2017

1. Present

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

Apologies:

County Councillors Glen Sanderson and Ian Lindley, PC Andrea Taylor

Declarations of interest

None

2. Report from Neighbourhood Policing Team

PC Taylor was unable to attend but emailed the following report:

There has only been one crime of note since the last meeting which was a burglary to a shed between Monday 6th February and Tuesday 7th February. There was no property taken but a reminder should be given to secure all property and not allow items to be on display.

3. Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 17 November and matters arising:

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

Matters Arising:

PA had left 3 messages for Sue Fryer at Northumbria Police, but has had no response.

A donation of £200 was given to the South Morpeth Coalition as agreed at the last meeting in support of their opposition to NCC's County Hall applications.

PA has ask Terry Luck for a breakdown of the £15 - £20K which was quoted for the scheme to reduce speeding through the village.

4. Update from County Councillors:

Emailed report from Glen Sanderson as follows:

"I wanted to thank you for your friendliness and support over the past four years. I think we have achieved quite a bit working together from traffic calming to drainage and planning. We shall see how I get on in the election but it would be nice to think we could continue this joint working.

The letter from the Council should straighten out the 50mph signs and all being well the rest will be removed in the autumn.

Clifton Lane is in the programme for rectifying."

Action

5. Barratt/Stobhill:

The next meeting of the Liaison Group will be held on 12 May 2017. PA has asked for news about the site visit.

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

The applications for the County Hall Site (housing, school and retail development) have now been called in by the Secretary of State and we await a response.

The Core Strategy will be officially submitted for examination on 17 March 2017.

7. Planning Applications:

- a. Burnside: Application permitted due to being considered Brownfield land.
- b. Clarks Bog: DC, PA and John Lewis recently undertook a site visit and were impressed with the venture. There were no objections to the application, the main concern being that the bird hides/porta cabins/etc are not considered permanent. It was agreed that we will support the application but with provisos that (a) the land would not be classed as brownfield, and that no permanent structures are erected on site in the future, (b) any classrooms used on site remain as temporary structures. There is no need for a warden's house on site.
- c. Land rear of Stonehaven: Permission refused.
- d. 8 Crofts Park: HPC to respond to letter from NCC regarding amendments/alterations
- e. South Park: Letter from NCC arrived after Agenda sent out. HPC to respond to NCC by 3 April.

8. Speeding/Parking in the Village

- Speeding: FD had been on Speedwatch between 8 – 9 am, on two occasions since the last meeting, when 14 - 15% of vehicles were recorded speeding, with 2 vehicles exceeding 46 mph. This was at a time when school children cross the road for the school bus.
- Parking: Cars are no longer being parked on the corner at Fieldhouse Close/Lane. One resident was unhappy as people are parking outside his house; three cars are being parked there regularly. It was agreed that FD take registrations and check up on owners. FD had received a complaint regarding a vehicle parking opposite the junction on the road and the grass. FD will monitor this and pass on details to the police. KR has spoken to the Bridge Club members and the police have put up notices, which have helped.
- 20 mph scheme: We are waiting for feedback re costs but at present are no closer to finding the finance for the scheme.

FD

FD

9. Flood Alleviation Sub Group:

The Sub Group met on 8 March and met Elaine Smith (NWL/NCC/EA Joint Study Leader) on 15 March. The Joint Study is finalizing data collection and she would update us at the end of April, she said. The Flood Plan is almost in place, as are flood wardens. MP asked for volunteers from HPC; DC/FD agreed to volunteer. MP stated that we need a volunteer in The Orchard and he will try to recruit. A meeting will take place on 17 March with Andrew Hampton from Greenbelt Group Ltd regarding the SUDs. The silt trap in the burn has not been installed to date and core drilling on the parapet of the bridge is still to take place. MP will continue to pursue NCC. PA stated that MP/CR/Otto have put in a tremendous amount of work and thanked them all for their efforts.

MP

10. Elections:

Parish Council Elections are to take place on 4 May 2017. All present HPC members have agreed to stand for re-election. We have 7 seats; 5 for Hepscott Village Ward and 2 for Stobhill Manor Ward. PA agreed to stand for Stobhill Manor Ward with the remaining 5 standing for Hepscott Village Ward. If there are no other nominations we will be re-elected unopposed with no election necessary. We will still have one vacancy. All nomination forms were completed and SJ will take these to NCC on 30 March for checking.

SJ

11. Hepscott Parish Hall:

KR stated that discussions were still ongoing regarding the extension and the car parking. He said that the Management Committee have a healthy bank balance. CR stated her concerns regarding the car parking on the rubber matting; it had been very muddy and she was concerned that someone might slip on the rubber surface.

12. Financial Matters:

Monthly financial statements had been circulated to councillors with the agenda and were approved. There were 10 items above £100 and these were all approved.

13. Website:

KR stated that the website had recently received about 60 hits. He urged councillors to see if we can make more use of the website and stated that he could add articles of interest. KR had received information about the NALC website, which is in its early stages, but if we join this we will only be allowed one page, which it was agreed was not enough space.

14. Correspondence:

A quotation had been received for the grass cutting/hedge trimming. SJ to obtain more quotes before a decision is made.

SJ

15. Meetings and training attended:

DC/KR attended the meeting of the Hepscott Parish Hall Committee.
PA/DC attended the site visit for the Burnside Planning Application.
PA attended planning committees re Burnside and County Hall.
Flood Group meetings as above (para 9)

16. Any other business:

Stobhill Manor Playpark: DC to follow up and action any work required as per the recent report. It was noted that once DC has done this we may need to purchase new litter bins, one for the playpark and one as previously agreed for Parkside in the village.

DC

Bus Shelter: The bus shelter on the A192 near Stobhill Manor has been the target of vandals, who have painted a deep black strip around the shelter. SJ will arrange for Andy Rutherford to try to remove this.

SJ

17. Date and Time of next Meeting:

The next meeting of HPC will be held on Thursday 18 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: