

HEPSCOTT PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 21 March 2019

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

Apologies: Fred Dye, County Councillor Glen Sanderson

In attendance: PC Andrea Teasdale, two members of the public (CB, for item 9, and SW) attended the meeting.

Declarations of interest: None

9. **Speeding and Parking Issues - It was agreed to bring this item forward**

CB attended the meeting to discuss speeding through the village. He stated that vehicles did not appear to be adhering to the 20 mph speed limit, with some probably nearing 40 mph. He stated that this was a big problem, and with some people using the village as a "rat run"/shortcut. He asked if we should use speed humps/bumps. He noted that research shows that these do slow traffic down, but realized that there were cost and other implications.

PA gave a potted history of how the speed restriction came into place, and that some residents had opposed the use of speed bumps. PA said a specific meeting to look at the problem of speeding and how to stop speeding was needed. CB and PC Teasdale would be notified/invited to attend. We would need to consult the village before introducing speed bumps.

It was noted that cars are still being parked on the corner of Field House Close.

DC stated that people were ignoring the new car park at the rear of the Parish Hall car park and still parking on the grass.

DC agreed to get 3 quotes for work on the drain in the car park as soon as possible. CB left the meeting at this stage.

2. **Report from Neighbourhood Policing Team**

Cadets are doing a letter drop in Stobhill re parking issues and Andrea suggested that this could also be done in Hepscott if required.

Hepscott Park building site (outside our parish) was being broken into regularly and there were many reports of vehicle thefts in the Morpeth area. We were reminded to lock sheds, cars and garages. JS asked if AT could supply him with information to put online to publicise this. PC Teasdale left the meeting at this stage.

3. **Minutes of the meeting held on 17 January 2019 and matters arising**

DC stated that the phrase "disabled toilets" used in the minutes should be reworded to accessible

The minutes were otherwise agreed as a true record.

Action

DC

Matters arising:

David Cowans has seen Mr S 2/3 times and stated that he had attended film nights in the Parish Hall.

4. Update from County Councillors:

No County Councillors were in attendance

5. Planning Applications/NCC Draft Local Plan:

Current Planning Application update: DC will talk to the Case Office regarding the application for the Rear of Meadow View, which has been withdrawn.

SJ will scan and send information to Councillors on the application received on 23 March for 4 Stoneleigh.

NCC Draft Local Plan: PA stated that the deadline has passed. HPC had 2 issues:

1. Green belt remains unchanged from earlier editions of the Plan. In the Plan, green belt completely surrounds Hepscott village and runs up to the southern boundaries of South Fields and Hepscott Manor, which is good news for HPC.
2. The Triangle – this will be safeguarded for employment land until at least 2031. We wanted this to be green belt, but have to accept this as the next best thing.

PA reminded everyone that this edition of the Local Plan is to ensure it is a "sound plan" which is defined as positively prepared, justified and effective.

6. Flood Sub Group:

MP took HPC through his notes from the last sub group meeting (copy attached). MP has requested gully cleansing in November/December, after the leaves have fallen, instead of July.

AC asked about the maintenance of SUDS in South Fields and was informed that "Greenbelt" SUDS management have now been appointed and residents will pay to maintain this. MP stated that his thoughts were that the SUDS preparation, swales etc, looked very good and professional looking.

7. Financial Matters:

- Statement of Finances: Monthly financial statements had been circulated to Councillors with the agenda and were approved. There were 7 items above £100 and these were approved.
- PA asked for volunteers to form a Task and Finish Group to look at yearly expenditure over recent years. He will bring this back at the next meeting.
- SJ asked for authorisation to purchase a cross cut shredder, which was given. SJ to source from Office Outlet, approximately £70.00.

	Action
<p>8. South Fields/Stobhill Manor update:</p> <p>PA stated that communications from MTC regarding the "land grab" had gone relatively quiet. PA will keep an eye on MTC's minutes online.</p> <p>JS stated that 30% of the South Fields roads have been surfaced, although NCC doesn't have ownership of the roads yet. JS will contact them to ascertain when the rest will be completed.</p> <p>JS has made contact with David Leightley, Site Manager.</p> <p>General parking on South Fields – JS has spoken to PC Teasdale and hopes to have more regular police patrols. He has also requested help with the Facebook page and asked Councillors to contact him directly with any information suitable for this.</p>	<p>PA</p> <p>JS</p>
<p>10. Hepscott Parish Hall:</p> <p>PA, DC and AC had had discussion with Stephen Rickitt from NALC regarding reclaiming VAT on purchases made on behalf of the Hall Management Committee. A question was who owns the Parish Hall. SJ stated that the hall is listed on the Asset Register and DC stated that previous Councillor, A Finlay, may have details/deeds/etc. SJ will forward a copy of the Asset Register to PA.</p>	<p>SJ</p>
<p>11. Correspondence/Meetings and training attended</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • After correspondence from the War Memorial Project, it was agreed to send a donation of £50.00. SJ will ascertain where to send this to. • A letter had been received from Robert Slater, of Northumbrian Groundcare stating that regrettably he was no longer able to continue with the supplementary grass/hedge cutting in the parish. Robert had walked SJ around the areas informing her of the work that is required and when it should be done. It was agreed that SJ/MP/DC would meet at the Parish Hall on Sunday 24 March and walk the route. MP agreed to draw up a plan/specification and SJ would request quotes for the work from prospective gardeners. <p>Councillors were asked to inform the Clerk of any other training/meetings attended.</p> <p>MP had attended:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HPC Flood Sub Group Meeting 13th March • Flood Wardens Meeting 22 January • NCC meeting with James Hitching 30th January <p>PA had attended:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting of the Flood Sub Group • NCC meeting with James Hitching • Meeting with NALC 	<p>MP/DC/SJ</p>

12. Any other business

- **Standing Orders:** PA/SJ had met recently and started looking at this; unfortunately circumstances had prevented a further meeting to conclude the work. PA will bring this to the meeting in May. A proposal will be circulated by PA as soon as possible.
- **Fly tipping:** AC had contacted GS regarding this and was informed that all fly tipping should be reported to NCC by phone/website. PA stated that it might be useful to ask other Parish Councils as to how they prevented fly tipping in their parish and AC said she would ask. PA wondered if NCC kept a record of any incidents and when they were reported, did we have data on whether the issue was getting better or worse?.
- **Website:** PA/JS will meet up to discuss the way forward with our website.
- **Chairmanship:** PA informed the meeting that after six years as Chair of HPC he is to resign at the AGM in May, although he wishes to remain on the Council, if other Councillors agree to this.

13. Date and Time of next Meeting

The next meeting of HPC will be held on Thursday 16 May 2019 in the Parish Hall, following the AGM at 6.30 pm

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

Signed as a true copy:

Action

PA

AC

PA/JS

HEPSCOTT PARISH COUNCIL

FLOOD SUB GROUP REPORT

21st March 2019

1. Meetings:

- a. The last HPC Sub Group meeting was held on the 13th March and the next will be the 1st May 2019.
- b. The last Flood Wardens meeting was held on the 22nd January at East Hartford Fire Station where the Flood Emergency Centre is housed. It incorporated a tour of the facilities and emergency systems in place.
- c. A meeting was held with James Hitching (Flood Officer for NCC) on the 30th January 2019 to request assistance with:
 - i. To set up a meeting with Network Rail
 - ii. Identify the route the Redhouse burn is taking with colour dye.
 - iii. Confirmation regarding 8 Crofts Park
 - iv. Flood Study progress.

2. NCC Position Statement:

- a. The latest statement was issued on the 4th February 2019
- b. Updates included:
 - i. Flood Risk Modelling completion by May 19.
 - ii. Topographical survey in Crofts Park and CCTV survey of the Orchard culvert to be carried out Feb / March.
 - iii. NCC inspected assets in January 2019, no maintenance issues identified.
 - iv. Joint study to comment on silt builds up under bridge.

3. Joint Flood Study:

- a. MMB (Consultant) has inspected parts of Crofts Park and the Orchard.
- b. From this walk around they are intending to carry out a Topographical survey in Crofts Park in March 2019 and CCTV survey of the culvert running through The Orchard in the spring.
- c. Report of findings put back to May 2019
- d. If the study identifies a need for flood management works it would be scheduled for 2024.

4. HPC have now written to NCC requesting gully cleansing in the village be carried out November / December after leaf drop.

5. **Hepscott Flood Plan:**
 - a. Flood Plan has been updated by Andrew Youngs (Lead Flood Warden) and reissued.
 - b. Further amendments regarding telephone numbers to be issued.

6. We have inspected the Barratt site SUDS work. All looked to be in good order and well advanced.

7. Network Rail is being contacted regarding a meeting.

8. Annual inspection of Flood Assets - we have been out on two occasions and nothing of note was recorded.

9. Discussion with Private Consultant about flood risk reduction in Hepscott is being progressed.

10. Aaron McNeil of NCC has confirmed that their consultants (MMB) are to undertake the following additional work.
 - Trace the Redhouse burn from the Barratt site SUDS through to the holding ponds at the rear of the Orchard using coloured dye. They are also communicating with Network Rail as the Redhouse burn runs through their land.