

HEPSCOTT PARISH COUNCIL

Meeting due to have been held on 19 March 2020

1. Heps cott Parish Council was unable to meet as planned on 19 March 2020 due to the current Covid-19 situation. The Councillors tried to skype the meeting but I am afraid the technology failed us. We have produced the following notes from email and telephone conversations held with all our councillors.

2. **Morpeth Neighbourhood Policing Team, report sent by Yolandie Scott:**

"Anti-Social Behaviour in the South Fields estate has been reported on two occasions over the last two weeks. I am hoping this will not escalate to the point of last summer's intervention methods.

There was a theft of diesel from South Fields building site on Sunday 15th March, the offenders made off but a vehicle was recovered. I will be liaising with the Site Manager when I return to duty on Wednesday to see if there is anything further.

Further afield there has been commercial burglaries reported in Coopies Lane which could be linked to the theft of diesel but this is not confirmed."

3. **Update from County Councillors:**

We had nothing to report from our County Councillors.

4. **Minutes from last meeting:**

- 4.1 The minutes from the meeting held on 16 January 2020 had been circulated by email, agreed by all councillors and have been uploaded to our website.

- 4.2 Matters arising from those minutes: Nothing that was not covered on the agenda for 19 March 2020.

5. **Planning:**

- 5.1 Current applications:

- Greenfield House: PBA sent a short report and it was agreed that we will write to the Case Officer with our concerns.

6. Flood Sub Group:

A report from the Flood Group is attached to these notes as an addendum.

7. Financial Matters:

Monthly financial statements had been circulated to Councillors with the agenda. Items over £100 were agreed.

8. Community Governance Review (Proposed Parish Boundary Changes):

PBA spoke to Democratic Services at NCC but they could not yet confirm that the issue would be heard at the 6 May 2020 Northumberland County Council meeting.

9. South Fields/Stobhill Manor Updates:

Held over until next meeting.

10. Speeding and Parking issues

Held over until next meeting.

11. Hepscott Parish Hall Committee

The dripping tap and water heater have been repaired. The Quiz night was cancelled, Bridge has ceased as have all events and classes due to lockdown with Coronavirus.

12. Correspondence/Meetings and training attended

12.1 Over the past few weeks, SJ has received several letters from a resident of South Fields, who unfortunately does not give their address. The letters concern the Community Governance Review; however, because there is no forwarding address HPC is unable to address the issues with him/her. The letters will be held on file in the hope that an address is made available at some point.

12.2 Letter from Northumbria Police: SJ wrote to PC Andrea Teasdale after the last meeting, thanking her for her help over the years but stating how saddened we were not to have police representation on a regular basis in future. The letter was copied to Winton Keenen, Chief Constable of Northumbria Police. A reply was received from Northumbria Police thanking us for our letter and stating that it had been forwarded to Chief Superintendent, Janice Hutton for her attention.

13. Any other Business:

- 13.1 Role of HPC in Climate Change:** This item will be rolled over to the next meeting
- 13.2 WI – Planting of fruit trees in the Orchard:** Hepscoth Women's Institute have asked if HPC has any objections to them planting some fruit trees in the Orchard to replace those that have been lost. CR/SJ took the decision that this would be welcomed by HPC.
- 13.3 Spring clean of shrubbery in village:** CR had raised this issue at a previous meeting. There are some areas of shrubbery in the village that are looking very unkempt. CR agreed to speak with our present gardener, Nick, to ask if it would be something he could undertake for us.
- 13.4 Hepscoth Parish Hall car parking:** CR reported that it has been observed that cars have been parking outwith the designated hard surface areas on the grass and on the footpaths. The grass has been badly damaged with deep tyre marks where the grass has been churned up and the footpaths are covered with mud. As a temporary deterrent AF and KW, after discussion with CR have placed some of the brashings left in the orchard over the damaged areas, hopefully giving the grass time to re-establish itself. A more permanent solution is obviously required. CR felt that HPC should consider this and put the item onto the next appropriate agenda.
- 13.5 Play Park Repairs:** SJ had made contact with other Parish Councils to ascertain who undertakes repairs for them. Pegswood Parish Council stated that they use Andy Rochester, who does work for us already, emptying dog bins and cleaning bus shelters. SJ will speak with Andy to see if he could do a walk around with CR and let us know if he would be able to undertake the work required. At the present time this will be on hold because of the Covid-19 lock down.
- 13.6 Food deliveries:** SJ has been asked by the owner of Moorhouse Farm Shop to inform Councillors that he will be willing to deliver goods to any elderly, vulnerable residents, who are currently self-isolating and unable to get out for food. SJ has passed on the phone number to councillors.

14 Date of next meeting:

The meetings scheduled for 21 May 2020 will be the Annual Meeting, followed by the normal HPC meeting. If the current Covid-19 restrictions are still in force we will look at alternative ways of holding the meetings, or at postponing them until June/July 2020. Watch this space!

**HEPSCOTT PARISH COUNCIL
FLOOD SUB GROUP REPORT
19th March 2020**

1. Meetings:

- a. Walk / Investigation of Redhouse burn and Barratts ponds - 31st January 2020
- b. Flood Group met on 19th February and 10th March.
- c. Lead Flood Wardens met on 28th February re proposed meeting of Flood Wardens on 24th March.
- d. Flood Group meeting with Joint Study Group 6th March

2. Meeting with Joint Study Group 6th March

- a. Computer modelling presented and discussed.
- b. Flood mapping presented and discussed.
- c. Validation of the model needs confirmation based on the information and photographs provided by the flood group of the 2008 floods. We have written to NCC regarding our concerns.
- d. Some possible solutions were tabled but no real effort has been made to progress this.
- e. Next meeting will be in a couple of months - to be confirmed.
- f. The business case for a scheme will need to be presented to the EA by the end of the next Financial Year, ie, March 2021
- g. We do feel that we are going to get results albeit very slowly and are more confident that the village will end up with a flood prevention scheme of some sort. This is currently programmed to be complete by 2024.

3. Other Issues:

- a. Proposals for the Culverts running through the Orchard and Crofts Park.
- b. Redhouse burn holding ponds interconnection.
- c. Barratts SUDS management and holding pond.
- d. Bellway SUDS management and holding pond.
- e. Gully cleansing and road sweeping to stop gullies being blocked.
- f. Flood defence inspections.

4. Hepscoth Wardens / Flood Plan :

- a. A revised flood plan is in the process of being issued.
- b. The meeting has been cancelled to be held at some future date. But a newsletter is to be issued shortly to keep flood wardens in the loop.