

# HEPSCOTT PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 19 March 2015

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### 1. Present

Philip Ashmore (Chair), Ken Reed, Fred Dye, David Cowans, Merle Heppell, Sylvia Johnson (Clerk), County Councillor Glen Sanderson, PC Andrea Teasdale.

#### Apologies:

Philippa Raper, Hollie Ross, Ian Lindley

### 2. PC Andrea Teasdale

PC Teasdale reported that a vehicle and a garage in the village had both been broken into, both had been unlocked. One person from the Stobhill area has been arrested and Andrea urged residents to phone 999 if they see anything suspicious. She stated that the Speed Watch had been problematic; Fred is still waiting for a number to be able to use the speed camera. She informed Fred to write to Nick Patterson, Superintendent at Bedlington Police Station. PA agreed to write on behalf of the parish Council. We were informed that the Neighbourhood Police team would be moving into Sanderson Arcade in May, after which the Police Station will close.

### 3. Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 15 January 2015

Minutes of the last meeting were agreed and signed by the Chairman.

County Councillor Glen Sanderson was thanked for his help in getting the new road surfacing completed; the work had been well done and workmen were very courteous during the period. GS was also thanked for ensuring that the speed sign outside the Parish Hall had been replaced and then when broken recently, repaired very promptly.

DC produced a plan showing the location of the Centenary Tree planted by the WI. PA said he would write to thank the WI.

### 4. Update from County Councillor

GS reported that the NCC budget had now gone through and there would hopefully not be too much impact. He informed of cuts to the Library Service and a review into the Fire Service. He was concerned about the review of NCC's planning process, which would do away with 2 Planning Committees. He stated that he didn't want to lose the democratic input from Town and Parish Councils, but as yet nothing is clear until NCC meet on 1 April. PA stated that HPC had responded to the letter received from NCC regarding the planning review, along with many other Town and Parish Councils, and HPC were also very concerned about the democratic process.

Discussion took place regarding the speed sign for Barmoor. GS stated he would fund the purchase of the sign at around £8500, but that HPC would need to take ownership. GS was thanked for his offer to purchase, which was gratefully accepted by the council members. GS will now move this forward and email PA with details of who needs to be contacted regarding the purchase/insurance/etc.

GS stated that County Hall is still a contentious issue; plans are still being drawn up for the move to Ashington, the cost of which has been stated as being £20m. The future use of the site is still being discussed.

Action

GS/PA

**5. Barratt/Stobhill**

A planning application has been received for 2 very large signs to be erected at the Barratt's site. HPC has made objection regarding the size of the signs and the 10 years duration of time requested the signs be in situ. It was noted that there are 25 conditions attached to the planning approval for the housing estate. KR is monitoring this and will report on any progress at each HPC meeting.

**Action**

**KR**

**6. Morpeth Neighbourhood Plan:**

PA thanked members for urging residents to respond to the recent consultation. Hepscoth had 12% of the responses from 5% of the population, proportionately more than anywhere else in the MNP area.

Current position: NCC's Core Strategy is still due to be completed by summer 2016. It is therefore in our interest to get something in place before that date. PA stated that 2 people from NCC regularly attend MNP meetings and have been very helpful. The MNP is due for submission to NCC by 22 May, however before then it is to go through a pre-submission health check by early April. It will be examined by the Public Examiner around July. A report will then be produced stating if either (1) it is okay to go to referendum, or (2) it needs modifications, and then will go to referendum, or (3) it failed. Twenty eight working days' notice are required for a referendum, which hopefully will take place in or September or October. However once the plan is submitted timing is outside our hands.

PA stated that things were looking much more optimistic than 3-4 months ago.

**7. NCC Core Strategy:**

PA stated that a response had been sent to NCC's Core Strategy Full Draft Plan Consultation from HPC; the response ran to 11 pages. FD noted that the Durham Core Strategy had been rejected, and wondered if this would affect us.

GS stated that he has asked NCC to substantiate the figures in the Core Strategy. GS stated that the Flood Risk Strategy Consultation is on the NCC website, and that Hepscoth still gets forgotten about. PA said that we had commented to NCC that there was no mention of a Hepscoth Flood Alleviation Scheme in their Draft Core Strategy. He agreed to compile a response to NCC's Flood Risk Consultation.

**PA**

**8. Planning Applications**

- Shadfen Park: Decision pending.
- Clifton Caravan Site: This application was approved recently; DC expressed his disappointment at the decision.
- Roseden: We have been informed that this application is to be refused.
- Pennyfield, Stobhill Manor: This application was approved.
- Westgarth: This application has been withdrawn.
- 3 Fieldhouse Close: Went to appeal and regrettably the appeal was accepted. It was noted that no-one was aware of a site visit by the Inspector.
- Barratts signage: HPC has objected to this application due to size/timescale/road safety issues.
- 4 Hepscoth Manor Farm (retrospective), HPC response due to NCC by 30 March
- Langdale: Appeal made to Planning Inspectorate

**9. Financial Matters**

Monthly financial statements approved.

SJ informed members that Brian Parker, who is contracted to empty dog litter bins and inspect the Stobhill Manor Playpark, has informed her of his intention to retire at the end of March. Quotations have been received for tendering of this work and also for the grass cutting contract for the new financial year, at no extra costs from A Rochester (dog bins) and Northumbrian Groundcare (grass/hedge cutting). It was agreed to accept the quotations, SJ to write to confirm.

Members were reminded to submit any claims for expenses within 3 months of expenditure and to make any current claims before the end of the financial year.

**10. Website**

KR stated that a steady number of hits were being made, with January receiving the biggest number to date.

**11. Correspondence**

No correspondence to date.

**12. Meetings and training**

- PA and DC attended steering group meetings of MNP and PA attended plan prep meetings
- PA attended training for Parish Council Chairmen
- SJ to attend NALC Road Show in March

**13. Any other business**

- Hepscott Parish Hall: It was agreed to make this a regular item on future HPC agendas.

DC and KR had attended the recent Hall Management meeting. Plans had been submitted to the management committee for extension of the Parish Hall. Discussions need to be held regarding size. PA asked that we invite the project lead, Lilian Mains to attend a meeting of HPC to keep us informed of plans/progress.

KR informed members that the new matting had been laid for extra car parking.

- PA regrettably informed the members of the resignation of 2 councillors with effect from the next meeting of HPC in May. Merle Heppell and Hollie Ross have been HPC councillors for the last two years and were thanked for all their time and hard work. Merle thanked HPC and stated how much she had enjoyed her time as a Parish Councillor.

These resignations mean there is a need to co-opt 2 more people to serve on the Parish Council. Two Hepscott residents have expressed their interest in this. It was agreed to invite them both to the AGM in May.

- It has been brought to our attention that item 2 on all agendas should be a call for members to declare disclosable pecuniary interests relating to items on the agenda. This will be complied with on future agendas.

**Action**

**SJ**

**All HPC**

**SJ**

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

**Action**

The next HPC meeting will be held on Thursday 23 May 2015, 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:** .....