

HEPSCOTT PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held following the AGM on Thursday 15 May 2014

1. Present

Philip Ashmore (Chair), David Cowans (Vice Chair), Ken Reed, Fred Dye, Merle Heppell, Hollie Ross, Sylvia Johnson (Parish Clerk), Glen Sanderson (County Councillor)

Apologies

Philippa Raper, Ian Lindley (County Councillor)

In attendance

PC Andrea Teasdale, Neighbourhood Beat Manager, Morpeth Neighbourhood Policing Team

2. PC Andrea Teasdale

PC Teasdale informed the meeting of cold callers operating in the Village. Residents were welcome to phone her if they had any issues with this matter. She said that the new speed gun was working quite well, but that we needed more volunteers. We were informed of a number of quad bikes/cars being stolen from Stobhill. There had also been graffiti in Morpeth town centre. Fred Dye expressed his thanks to Andrea regarding the matter of speeding in Fieldhouse Close.

3. Minutes of the meeting held on 20 March 2014 and matters arising from those minutes/minutes of special meeting held on 11 April 2014 on Rule 6 Status

The minutes of both the last meeting and the special meeting were accepted as true records and signed by the Chairman.

DC asked if the Parish Council would consider extending the car park at the Parish Hall. It was noted that the Parish Hall Management Committee are responsible for the upkeep of the hall. There have been problems when the present car park has been full, meaning visitors have parked on residents' driveways, footpaths, etc. It was agreed that KR would try to get to the next available meeting of the Parish Hall Management Committee to ascertain their views on the matter. DC stated that planning permission had been obtained some time ago for the extension of the car park. A detailed plan with costs would be required.

Action by

KR

4. Update from County Councillors

Councillor Glen Sanderson gave an update on County Council matters. Speed cameras, had been deployed 9 times in 6 months on the A697.

GS said the subsidy which allows children over 16 who are still in education to receive subsidised travel has been going for 4 years and allows children the freedom to choose for further education but was to be removed. The Consultation is still on NCC's website.

On the proposed sale of County Hall GS said that not all options had been looked at and that the matter is being vigorously opposed.

GS discussed NCC's Core Strategy, which is now moving on to the next stage of preparing a Consultation draft. There will be a meeting at the end of July where the final draft will be presented. Consultation will take place in August, but he was concerned that the time scale may be too tight to allow meaningful consultation. He noted that all time scales for the Core Strategy had slipped by about 6 months.

5. **Barratt's Stobhill update**

As stated in the notes from the special meeting held on 11 April, Morpeth Town Council, Morpeth Action Group and HPC have joined together and applied for Rule 6 Status at the Public Inquiry. This has been accepted by the Inspectorate. A Statement of Case due by Wednesday 21 June has almost been completed; Alison Byard and Joan Tebbutt have done a lot of the work, for which we thank them. It has been agreed that any costs should be shared between MTC and Hepscott in proportion to the electoral roll numbers as stated in the minutes (ie, Hepscott 7% share).

PA stated that much more detailed evidence of our point of view is now required, and once this is complete then evidence will be swapped with Barratt on 24 June. Barratt's evidence will then be examined in detail in the remaining four weeks before the hearing starts on 22 July. PA stated that he may ask for a small HPC group to help prepare evidence and look through Barratt's documentation.

PA

6. **Morpeth Neighbourhood Plan update**

This is moving as fast as possible to complete the draft policies by the end of May. A revised timetable is still due to be finalised.

7. **NCC Core Strategy**

See County Councillor Update (4 above).

8. **Planning Applications**

- **Clare House (Mast):** This had already been granted temporary approval. PA stated that HPC had strongly opposed this application and Jocelyn Stephenson has been very appreciative of all the hard work. HPC agreed to withdraw their noise objections, providing Mr Callicott minimised the use the mast before 8.00 am, but still objected on grounds of visual appearance and loss of amenity. However the application was approved.
- **3 Fieldhouse Close:** The appeal for this has been dismissed. FD and other residents were thanked for all their hard work in this matter.
- **South Lodge wood:** The Monkey Puzzle tree has been felled.
- **Langdale:** This application has been withdrawn by the Applicant for the time being. He had agreed to talk with his neighbours and then HPC. PA waits to hear from him.
- **Redesdale House:** No date yet for planning meeting. HPC had concerns over "light industrial use"

9. Financial Matters

A record of expenditure from 1 April to date had been emailed to Councillors. All expenditure was agreed. SJ had received correspondence regarding the insurance premium for the forthcoming financial year, which was lower than the previous year.

Action by

10. Website

KR stated that the website is getting hits, but not in great numbers. There were 37 in February, 15 in March and 19 in April. It was noted that the website is getting hits from Wikipedia. As agreed, the website will be monitored and a decision on its future will be made in September 2014

11. Correspondence

SJ had received correspondence from Mr Anil Khanna, resident of Om, on the A192, wishing to have a litter bin put in place outside his house, near the bus stop. It was agreed that MH would visit Mr Khanna to investigate the matter.

MH

12. Meetings and training attended by Councillors

- PA, DC and SJ had attended the recent training regarding planning applications delivered by NCC.

13. Any other business

- FD asked if we could write to NCC about the standard of grass cutting in Hepscoth Village. He showed photographs taken earlier in the day, which showed that all grass cuttings had been left on the grass verges and of the indiscriminate use of weed killer. It was agreed that we write to NCC expressing our concerns. SJ to draft a letter for PA.
- MH informed the meeting of a complaint from a resident re a footpath hazard in the village.

SJ

16. Date and time of next meeting:

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 17 July at 6.30 pm – apologies received in advance from MH

Prepared by Sylvia Johnson, Parish Clerk/RFO, 4 June 2014

Signed as a true copy: