

HEPSCOTT PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 19 May 2016

1. Present

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

Apologies: County Councillor Glen Sanderson, County Councillor Ian Lindley,

Declarations of interest

None

2. Report from PC Andrea Teasdale

PC Teasdale reported that several building sites in the area have been broken into; these include the site at Dunces Houses and Barratt's Stobhill site. She mentioned that another big development is planned for Hepscott Park, which is in the neighbouring parish of Stannington, but close to Hepscott.

Door to door salesmen have again active been in Hepscott, most are from an ex-offenders scheme, and there have been reports of some being slightly aggressive.

The "speed watch" volunteers have been given a slot in the Hepscott Herald. FD reported that the speed gun calibration expired in March 2016 and asked if PC Teasdale could have this checked out. FD reported that during a recent visit to the A196 with the speed gun he had filled in 4 sheets of speeding vehicles. FD suggested that people are becoming complacent with the A192 speed signs going off and stated he would like to go out with the speed gun on that stretch of road. PC Teasdale suggested FD write to Sergeant Parks, on behalf of the Parish Council, about speeding issues, which he agreed to do.

Action

FD

3. Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 17 March 2016 and matters arising:

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

Matters arising:

Bins: SJ/KR will take a look at the bins at Parkside with a view to having them replaced/resited.

KR/SJ

4. Update from County Councillor Glen Sanderson:

Councillor Sanderson was unable to attend the meeting but sent a report (a summary of which is attached)

5. Barratt/Stobhill:

PA/GS have been trying to establish regular meetings with Barratt and NCC agreed to arrange these. The first meeting will be held on Friday 22 May and MP will attend on behalf of HPC. It was noted that NCC had issued a threat of an enforcement notice to Barratt regarding the discharge of Condition 6 re SUDs. PA has now had an email from Flood Officer, James Hitching stating that he is now happy for the condition to be discharged.

MP stated he now has a schedule for the upkeep of the drainage of the site once completed. A management schedule carried out by a company called Green Belt is in place and a charge will be made to residents for the upkeep. PA stated that eventually progress seemed to be being made. Issues regarding start/finish times have been made to Cllr Lindley.

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

MNP: The MNP has finally been made in legal form; however we wait to see how influential it will be in the planning process. A test case will be the Mitford Estates application at Lancaster Park for houses, hotel, and service point, which is next to the A1 and was initially refused by planning committee.

NCC Core Strategy: The Core Strategy should be out for 6 week consultation in June and July. A major issue for HPC is that of the green belt. Most significantly the area known as the "Triangle" had been designated as safeguarded for employment use only after 2031. HPC contended that the land should have been designated as green belt. NCC have now announced that they have made major modifications to the plan, including taking the Triangle out of safeguarded land for employment and making it green belt. This is a major plus from HPC's point of view. PA stated that a hard copy of the Core Strategy document should be arriving for HPC soon. The plan should have been submitted for public examination in March 2016 but that date has now been pushed back to December 2016. Once it has gone through public examination any changes made should be adopted in summer 2017.

7. Planning Applications:

- a. **Land west of Dunces Houses:** Appeal submitted and awaiting decision.
- b. **5 Dunces Houses:** Appeal submitted and awaiting decision.
(Subsequently we have heard that the above two appeals were refused).
- c. **Langdale:** Awaiting decision.
- d. **2 The Orchard:** Permission granted
- e. **6 Thornlea:** Permission granted
- f. **Westgarth:** Permission granted
- g. **11 The Orchard:** Awaiting decision
- h. **Orchard House, 1 South Lodge Wood:** Awaiting decision.
- i. **Woodlands, 4 South Lodge Wood:** HPC to respond with any objections by 30 May.

8. Hepscott Parish Hall:

KR reported as follows:

- The hall is still doing well; finances are healthy, with most money being made by clubs that hire the hall.
- Discussions are still ongoing regarding the extension to the Parish Hall.
- Car parking remains an issue, with the new matting not working well in the wet weather.
- KR is looking into the possibility of the Parish Hall becoming part of Hepscott Parish Council website, with a possible couple of new pages being added.

9. Financial Matters:

Monthly financial statements had been circulated to councillors with the agenda and were approved. It was noted that 4 items were above £100; these were noted and approved.

PA stated that the bank balance is much higher than normal; however this is due to invoices for the balance of the Interactive Speed Signs still to be paid to SWARCO. As NCC had installed the posts for this work, we await an invoice from them. Once all invoices are settled any monies remaining from the donation from Councillor Sanderson's fund will be paid back to him.

10. Website:

The website continues to receive an average of 28/30 hits per month. KR had looked into the possibility of transferring the website to CAN, but to date has not been able to get much information regarding this.

As noted in Item 8, KR has been investigating the possibility of adding a couple of pages to HPC's website for the Parish Hall. Items to be added will include details on the hire of the hall and information on forthcoming events. The one-off charge for the additional pages will be £35.00 + VAT for each of the two pages making a total of £84.00. There would also be an additional cost of £60/year to allow for additions to be made on a one-a-month basis. The Hall Management Committee would pay these additional charges. There could be the opportunity for the Heritage Group to make contributions to the website based on the new pages being made.

11. Correspondence:

Nothing to report.

12. Meetings and training attended:

DC/PA/SJ attended planning training recently arranged by NCC.

DC/PA attended MNP Steering Group meeting on Tuesday.

Action

KR

13. Any other business:

Hepscott Flood Alleviation Scheme: A sub group has been established and 2 meetings have taken place, one with NCC. The group met with Aaron McNeil of NCC on 6 May and he agreed to look at the holding ponds. It was agreed to put a machine on site and increase the depths and banks around the ponds, thereby increasing capacity. The group have asked for a meeting with the Bridge Team from NCC, with a view to increasing the flow of water under the bridge in Hepscott and to remove the bridge parapet. Aaron has agreed to write to property owners and send out a brochure "Living on the Edge". The group will meet with NCC again on 10 June. They hope to establish a regular inspection of the main risk areas in the parish. The full Flood Group will meet again on 14 June. It was stated that Flood Action Group's Otto Meth Cohn, has been asked to join the group. They hope to meet with the Environment Agency and Northumbrian Water at some point in the near future.

The aims of the group are:

"To put to the Parish Council a Hepscott Flood Alleviation Plan to achieve 2 things:

- a. to introduce specific measures to reduce the flood risk in Hepscott village and across the Parish;
- b. to raise awareness of the flooding issues in Hepscott with the various agencies that control and influence flood risk so that we are included in their future plans and strategies".

14. Date and Time of next Meeting:

The next meeting of HPC will be held on Thursday 21 July at 6.30 pm.

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

Signed as a true copy:

Report from Councillor Glen Sanderson for Hepscoth Parish Council: 19 May 2016

I attach a copy of the Motion that I proposed at last month's Council, and a Question that I tabled."

Motion No.1

In accordance with Council Rules of Procedure No.10, Councillor H.G.H. Sanderson moved the following motion, received by the Democratic Services Manager on 30 March 2016:-

"Given the desirability to demonstrate openness and transparency, a number of Councils record their meetings for the benefit of the public who might wish to listen to proceedings. This Council determines to allow our residents this opportunity also, and so resolves to begin audio recording of all meetings held in the Council Chamber from September 2016 for a trial period of one year".

Recording would allow residents to hear Councillor debate in open Council and Planning meetings.

The Administration agreed with the principle but said it couldn't be easily carried out in the present Chamber but would be incorporated with visual recording in the new County Hall in Ashington.

I also raised the issue of traffic delays on the A1.

For over three weeks very significant delays and disruption has been caused to traffic using the A1 in the area near Tritlington. These works have not been as a result of road repairs or junction safety or widening improvements, but to provide two lay-bys for the occasional use of service buses.

Just over £500,000 has been spent building the two lay-bys for allegedly 40 passengers per week. There have been no bus related accidents. I have raised this again with Highways England who need to consult more with local people in my view.

The County Hall move was agreed by majority vote but issues still remain - not least the future use of the Morpeth site.

The planning review has taken place and there will now be three committees instead of two - however they will not return to evening area based committee meetings.

I am trying to reach agreement to set up a formal Liaison committee for the Barratt's site, such as we have for opencast sites, given the continuing issues. This would meet regularly and involve residents, Parish Council and NCC representatives along with the developer. The County Council is all in favour but some issues remain.