

HEPSCOTT PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 18 May 2017

1. Present

Philip Ashmore (Chair), David Cowans (Vice Chair), Malcolm Paton, Ken Reed, Carolyn Reid, County Councillor John Beynon, Sylvia Johnson (Clerk)

Apologies:

Fred Dye, County Councillor Glen Sanderson

In attendance:

PCSO Simon Beavers, Morpeth Neighbourhood Policing Team
5 members of the public attended

Declarations of interest

None

2. Report from Neighbourhood Policing Team

PCSO Beavers stated that he thought the 5 members of the public in attendance were there because of two issues; parking and obstructions in the village and parking around the Parish Hall. Members of the public said that there have been confrontations between residents in Parkside as parking is increasingly becoming congested. It was agreed that it would be better to have a polite word if someone is causing an obstruction, but they could contact PCSO Beavers if problems arise. PA stated that it was extremely useful to hear the views of residents and assured them that the issue would be discussed further by HPC. PCSO Beavers said he would write to residents.

The second issue concerned parking around the Parish Hall, especially when the Bridge Club takes place. A solution to this is being looked at but this will not be immediate. It appears to be the same users who are causing obstructions and parking illegally in the vicinity of the Parish Hall, obstructing driveways and parking near corners. Matting had been put down for extra parking but has proved of limited success and an alternative is being researched. Progress with this is likely to be the best solution.

PCSO Beavers reported that there had been one burglary in the Parish in March, in a garage attached to a house. Another reminder was given to lock all garages, cars and houses. Simon is on leave until 5 June but still accessible by email.

3. Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 16 March and matters arising:

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

Action

KR

Matters Arising:

After leaving several messages for Sue Fryer at Northumbria Police, PA has had no response. He will email her with a request that, if possible, attendance at HPC meetings is by the same PCSO for continuity.

PA

PA had asked Terry Luck of NCC for a breakdown of the £15 - £20K which was quoted for the 20 mph scheme to reduce speeding through the village.

4. Update from County Councillors:

PA welcomed Councillor JB to his first meeting. JB stated that County Hall remaining in Morpeth was great news. He reported on the speed signs/boundaries on the A192. There had been concerns that the speed on the A192 from Stobhill roundabout went from 30mph to 60mph to 40mph in a short space of highway and that is currently being dealt with. PA stated that HPC had not been consulted about the scheme.

JB stated that NCC will hold their next meeting on 24 May and the new administration will be fully operational then. The meeting is open to the public and starts at 3.00 pm.

5. Barratt/Stobhill:

Further enquiries have been made regarding the site visit, but the Barratt representative is currently on holiday. The recent Liaison Meeting was postponed and we are awaiting a further date.

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

MNP is in place and it is hoped that it will now be adhered to by NCC.

The Core Strategy was submitted for examination on 7 April. It contained good news (Green Belt proposed up to the settlement boundaries of Hepscott Village, meaning most of the Parish was in Green Belt land) and not-so-good (a proposal to declare a triangle of land south of Coopies Lane IE as safeguarded land to 2031. This land is only 400m from the village). We hope to oppose this at the public examination.

7. Planning Applications:

It was noted that all three applications for the County Hall site had been withdrawn. PA stated that the South Morpeth Coalition had done a great job, there had been lots of anger in the town but the withdrawal appeared to be a good result.

- a. Clarks Bog – Application granted permission.
- b. 8 Crofts Park (extension) – PA stated that the Floods Officer has objected but that no decision had been made to date.
- c. South Park – No decision to date.
- d. 8 Crofts Park (FELTPO) – No decision to date

Planning Applications (cont'd)

- e. Karamanda (FELTPO) – Amended pruning plan submitted but no decision to date.
- f. Greystoke – Application withdrawn
- g. High Gables (Pruning TPO) – Application granted permission
- h. Maple Lodge (FELTPO) – No decision to date

8. Parking/Speeding in the Village

- Speeding: The cost for the 20 mph scheme has come down to £14½K. GS is to look at this again as soon as possible.
- Village Hall Parking: As previously stated the installed matting is not working and the Parish Hall Committee were investigating this. It may be that a proper subbase of hard-core is necessary. KR said that the money is available for this and it is hoped to have the work done by autumn. It was agreed that we need to find alternatives for parking; we cannot accept cars being parked illegally on corners. We should allow the Parish Hall Management Committee to get the issue sorted as soon as possible.

GS

KR

9. Flood Alleviation Sub Group:

The Sub Group had met regularly and was making progress. NCC seemed to have changed their mind on the need for a silt trap. It was noted that the Burn was more discoloured with mud and this was thought to be discharge from Barratt. MP has emailed Aaron McNeil for the bridge topographical survey. It was agreed that a sample of the water should be taken and passed to the Environment Agency. MP has not heard any more regarding the Flood Study but we expected to meet Elaine Smith soon.

The community Flood Plan is now in place. Volunteers are needed, especially in the Orchard vicinity. It was agreed that the Flood Plan was going to be one of the best outcomes from the group. MP will organise meetings with flood volunteers and the Environment Agency for training sessions. It was agreed that the Flood Plan should be displayed in the Parish Hall and also put onto the website.

MP

10. Elections:

County Council and Parish Council Elections took place on 4 May. As no further nominations were received Councillors were therefore elected unopposed. Our thanks go to both Councillors Glen Sanderson and Ian Lindley for their support over the last few years. Glen Sanderson was re-elected. HPC welcomed John Beynon to his post as County Councillor for Stobhill in place of Ian Lindley and look forward to working with him in the next few years. SJ collected forms of Disclosable Pecuniary Interest to return to NCC. CR and KR to complete and forward to SJ in the next few days.

KR/CR

11. Hepscoth Parish Hall:

KR stated that the bank balance was healthy. The Highlights shows have proved very popular. It is hoped to hold the first Hepscoth Village Flower Show in September. The WI is to hold a Murder Mystery night on 23 June.

12. Financial Matters:

Monthly financial statements had been circulated to councillors with the agenda and were approved. There were 2 items above £100 and these were approved.

13. Website:

KR stated that the website is currently receiving about 60 hits per month. Councillors were urged to make more use of the website and send any articles of interest to KR for uploading. KR stated that the website is our accountability mechanism and shows that we are being transparent.

14. Correspondence:

Agreement was made to pay the annual subscription to NALC. SJ to send cheque.

SJ

15. Meetings and training attended:

DC/KR attended the meeting of the Hepscoth Parish Hall Committee.

MP attended various meeting with NCC re Flood Management.

16. Any other business:

Stobhill Manor Playpark: DC had met with Alison Byard recently and discussed Morpeth Town Council's service agreement for the other playpark in Stobhill Manor which is under their management. DC to discuss with Tracey Wardle (Town Clerk) to see if HPC can tag on to this agreement. DC will get figures as soon as possible.

DC

17. Date and Time of next Meeting:

The next meeting of HPC will be held on Thursday 20 July 2017 at 6.30 pm in the Parish Hall.

Minutes taken and prepared by:

Sylvia Johnson, Parish Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer

Signed as a true copy: