

# HEPSCOTT PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 17 May 2018, following AGM

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1. **Present:** Philip Ashmore (Chair), David Cowans (Vice Chair), Malcolm Paton, Anne Colver, Glen Sanderson (County Councillor), Sylvia Johnson (Clerk)

9 members of the public were also in attendance (South Fields and Hepscoth Stobhill Manor)

**Apologies:** Fred Dye, Carolyn Reid, Ken Reed, John Beynon (County Councillor), PC Andrea Teasdale

**Declarations of interest:** None

### 2. Report from Neighbourhood Policing Team

PC Andrea Teasdale was unable to attend the meeting but had submitted a report via email as follows:

*Please lock all gardening equipment away and do not leave anything lying around. There have been no issues in the parish but there are people out and about all the time looking for easy things to steal.*

*I have requested that HPC receive feedback with regards to Community Speed Watch deployments. There was not a good enough uptake by volunteers from other areas to make a meeting a viable option so this will not happen yet but is something that can be reviewed in the future.*

*The Camera Enforcement Unit now have new supervision so I have been in contact with them about their ability to deploy in areas where we receive complaints, however they cannot promise to deploy to all areas.*

### 3. Minutes of the meeting held on 15 March 2018 and matters arising

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

#### **Matters Arising:**

No matters arising, other than items on main agenda.

### 4. Proposed Parish Boundary Changes:

The Chairman updated the meeting on Morpeth Town Council's proposals to change the Parish boundaries and move South Fields and Hepscoth Stobhill Manor into Morpeth. Several members of the public from those estates attended the meeting in response to an HPC leaflet drop which had taken place recently, informing them of MTC's wishes to change the boundaries. It was noted that HPC would consult with residents of South Fields and Hepscoth Stobhill Manor and also with MTC, and would, if required, strongly oppose the change to the Parish Boundary. This was proposed by the Chair and seconded by all councillors. It was agreed to invite MTC representatives to the next meeting of HPC on 19 July, to discuss their boundary proposals, as per their recent request. SJ to respond to request from MTC.

**Action**

**Proposed parish**

**SJ**

## 5. Update from Glen Sanderson:

NCC is now a year into its administration and trees have been planted at County Hall to replace those felled. Work is beginning soon at Ashington on the land where the building of County Hall was previously planned. The proposed plans may include commercial use, cinema, restaurant and bowling alley.

NCC is working with the remnants of ARCH personnel, trying to dispose of some property acquired.

Weed spraying is taking place; 10 extra staff have been taken on for this work. Blue dye indicates that spraying has taken place. Verges are to be cut properly this year, but some will be untouched to save any wild orchids growing there.

Work has begun to improve facilities at 3 Country Parks; at Bolam Lake, Druridge and Plessey Woods, money will be spent improving amenities. Parking charges may be introduced to offset costs.

Parking in the county is recognised as a problem. There has been a consultation on this recently. There will be £10 million spent on new parking facilities with extra long stay and fewer short stay spaces.

Roads are to be a priority as lots of damage was caused by the winter weather. There are 10 times the number of potholes than normal. Claims are up from motorists for vehicle damage, however most are expected to be unsuccessful. The scale of the problem is huge and £420,000 will be used from NCC reserves to help with this.

GS stated that he thought the South Fields liaison group with Barratt should be set up again and PA agreed with this. GS stated that the Toucan crossing at South Fields is in hand and should be operational by June/July.

## 6. Planning Applications

- 25 Norham Drive, Stobhill Manor - Proposed single storey front and rear extension including part garage conversion.  
**Ref: 17/04408/FUL – Permission granted**
- Barratt Homes, South Fields, Hepscoth – Re-plan of 271 houses (substitution of house types and addition of 42 houses).  
**Ref: 17/04652/FUL – To be heard at NCC Planning Committee Meeting on 5 June. Floods Officer has withdrawn his objections.**
- Selworthy, C132 Hepscoth, Hepscoth, NE61 6LH – Extension to side for playroom/sun room in lieu of conservatory.  
**Ref: 18/00541/FUL – Permission granted.**

## 6. Planning applications (cont'd)

- Land south of A196, Stobhill (Barratt/South Fields) – Advertisement consent (retrospective) installation of one development board and three flags  
**Ref: 18/00243/ADE – permission granted**
- 1 The Orchard, Hepscott, NE61 6HT – Construction of single storey conservatory to rear.  
**Ref: 18/00542/FUL – Permission granted (permitted development)**
- Westgarth, Hepscott – Variation of condition 2 (approved plans) pursuant to planning permission  
**Ref: 15/00910/FUL – Permission granted**
- Old Hepscott Manor – erection of new double garage with games room and reinstatement of pitched roof to existing garage  
**Ref: 18/00814/FUL – Application withdrawn**
- 7 Thornlea, Hepscott – proposed porch to front below existing house roof overhang  
**Ref: 18/00980/FUL – Permission granted**
- Storage Rear of Meadow View, Barmoor Bank – change of use and conversion of an existing building to a single dwelling  
**Ref: 18/00971/FUL – no decision to date**
- 12 Eglington Close, Stobhill Manor – replace existing fencing in back garden with acoustic fencing  
**Ref: 18/01244/FUL – HPC comments due at NCC by 23 May 2018**

## 7. Flood Alleviation Sub Group

The Flood Plan is now in place. Operation of the Plan was tested on 6 March during a period of heavy rain. The rain died off quickly and the burn began to recede. MP rang the Environment Agency on the 3 telephone numbers given but none were answered. This was taken up with Phil Taylor of the Environment Agency and we were to be given a dedicated number, however this has not yet been received. The sub group met on 11 April and will meet again on 23 May.

Pollution incident – Barratt said this was rectified and will not happen again.

Gulley cleaning – Martin King will get back to us as soon as possible regarding this issue.

8 Crofts Park – The Flood Risk Assessment has been completed and it has been agreed that NCC will pay for the work required.

## 8. Website

As he was unable to attend, KR submitted a report covering the last year's website usage as follows:

*The website is a well-developed resource with two basic components. One part communicates the business of the parish council containing relevant statutory information including minutes of meetings and general information about the parish. The second component contains information about the parish hall including information about regular events held in the hall, availability to parishioners and others as well as booking details etc. The website is linked to other websites, including Wikipedia and various other sites advertising venues for hire, and a search on any internet engine makes it relatively easy to find. The website is an essential part of the running of the parish and various statutory requirements make it essential that it be continued in some form.*

*The site has an average 'hit rate' of approximately 50 hits per month, though this can vary quite widely from month to month. Approximately 50% of these hits devote themselves to the Hall with the rest dealing with parish matters. These 'hits' represent the number of visitors to the site though it should be noted that some individuals may visit the various pages within the website on multiple occasions.*

*The website also represents new technology with potential for developing social media links. Unfortunately there is a shortage of councillors who have the skills to develop such links and as a result, the site is arguably underused.*

*The site is also relatively expensive as its maintenance is outsourced to a private company. At the moment unless a councillor is able to devote more time to an examination of potential uses, the council will need to accept such costs as the price of retaining an internet presence.*

*Having said this, the website is a successful venture for the council. The site itself is well developed, well maintained, easy to navigate and a valuable resource.*

## 9. Speeding and Parking

Parking is still an issue. Field House Lane is still a problem area; FD has sent photographs to the police to try and identify the offenders. There is a problem with a drain in the Parish Hall car park, which needs repairs done. DC had reported this and will send the job number to GS to chase up.

DC

**10. Finances**

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

2 new litter bins and a dog litter bin have been ordered after a request from a South Fields resident. The litter bins will be sited at the bus stops at the top of the A192 near Stobhill Roundabout. The dog litter bin will be sited in a convenient place on the South Fields side of the A192.

A special meeting of the council will take place on 31 May to approve the annual accounts and Audit (now called the AGAR).

**11. Parish Hall**

The Parish Hall has been redecorated inside. There are lots of activities going on at present. We need to reinforce to South Fields and Hepscott Stobhill residents that it is their Parish Hall as well as Hepscott village's. The annual flower show will take place later this year and a Gardener's Question Time is being held soon. Details will be available on the website and on the board outside the Parish Hall.

A talk is to be given to the WI by Hepscott resident Otto Meth-Cohn; he has written a book about his life as a Kindertransport child during the war years.

**12. Correspondence**

None.

**13. Meetings and training attended**

PA and SJ attended NALC training on the new Data Protection Act and new Audit information.

Various Flood meetings were attended by PA, MP; Boundary change meetings by PA and Barratt Liaison meetings by PA, MP.

**14. Any other business**

- Maintenance and painting for Stobhill Manor Playpark: This has now been completed and is looking much better. DC will forward the invoice to SJ as soon as it is received.
- Barratt/South Fields Estate: A meeting had taken place earlier in the day which had mainly dealt with the follow up of items from residents, ie, parking, bins and road signage. The playground area has been identified.

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

The next meeting of HPC will be held on Thursday 19 July 2018 in the Parish Hall at 6:30 pm

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

**Signed as a true copy: .....**