

HEPSCOTT PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 16 May 2019

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

Apologies: County Councillor John Beynon

In attendance: PC Andrea Teasdale

Declarations of interest: None

2. **Report from Neighbourhood Policing Team**

PC Teasdale (AT) had completed a letter drop in Stobhill and South Fields regarding parking issues.

PA asked about the possibility of a speed camera on Barmoor Bank; AT replied that she has tried to get the speed camera at that location several times but had always been refused. FD asked if it would be possible to have this at the end of the village at the junction with the A192.

3. **Minutes of the meeting held on 21 March 2019 and matters arising**

Task and Finish Group: PA had asked at the last meeting for volunteers to form a Task and Finish Group to look at HPC finances re current underspend and the accruing of funds. It was agreed that PA/MP/CR form the group and report back to the full council in a few months.

DC has only had one reply regarding the work on the drain in the Parish Hall car park. He will bring this back to the next meeting in July.

Hepscott Parish Hall: It has been confirmed that the Parish Hall belongs to Hepscott Parish Council and that Morpeth Solicitor, David Auld, had done the original transaction. We still await a copy of the Deeds.

The minutes were agreed and signed as a true record.

4. **Update from County Councillors:**

GS stated that a planning application had been lodged for a further car park at Morpeth Railway Station. He informed the meeting that the county recycling rate is improving and that an invitation had been sent for a visit to the Recycling Plant, but that places had now been filled, however, a further date may be arranged. JS would have liked to attend this but unfortunately it was to be held during working hours. He asked if any other dates would be outside work times, but unfortunately that would probably not be possible.

Climate change is a very important item on NCC's agenda. GS will present a 10 year plan to NCC in July.

Action

PA/MP/CR

DC

Weed spraying will be as last year, with blue dye being used so people can see the areas that have been treated. Verge trimming will begin shortly.

The remedial work on County Hall is progressing well. Advance Northumberland is also moving forward.

The new mayor for North of Tyne was recently elected and Northumberland hopes to get its fair share of money from the Mayor's funding. There is also an initiative of an alliance with Cumbria and the Borders called Borderlands which has funding for Cross Border Schemes

PA asked GS when the Local Plan would be submitted as the NCC timetable states this should happen in May. GS was unsure but asked PA to email him and he would get the information to him as soon as possible.

GS

5. Planning Applications/NCC Draft Local Plan:

Burnside: PA had spoken to Case Officer, Tamsin Wood and asked for measurements of the proposed developments; the dwellings are reportedly 1.5 storeys, due to the upstairs being in the roof space. PA had questioned how high the building would be. Concerns were voiced as to infill with the village.

7 Barmoor Bank: Although HPC had stated we had no objections to this application, NCC has refused permission.

South west of Barmoor Farm: We need to look at this application very carefully. PA has asked GS if this application could be referred to Committee.

GS

6. Flood Sub Group:

Minutes of the last Flood Group meeting are shown as an addendum to the minutes.

7. Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) for 2018/2019:

All information had been circulated to Councillors by email prior to the meeting.

7.1 Councillors read and agreed the report from the Internal Auditor.

7.2 Councillors read and approved the Annual Governance Statement (AGAR).

7.3 Councillors read and approved the draft annual accounts

7.4 Councillors read and approved the Accounting Statement and Explanation of Variances

7.5 Councillors read and approved the Certificate of Exemption

SJ will forward the appropriate AGAR forms to PKF Littlejohn, External Auditors.

SJ

8. Other Financial Matters:

8.1 Statement of Finances: Monthly financial statements had been circulated to Councillors with the agenda and were approved. There were 3 items over £100.00 and these were approved.

8.2 Quotes for supplementary gardening in Hepscott – 3 quotes had been received these were examined and Councillors agreed to offer the work to All Seasons Groundcare, who are based in Hepscott Village. SJ will write with confirmation and email those not successful, thanking them for sending quotations.

SJ

8.3 NALC subscriptions: An invoice for £276.68 had been received from NALC for our annual subscriptions. It was agreed that this should be paid as their work is very necessary and their training is most welcome at reasonable prices. SJ will send a cheque for the amount stated.

SJ

9. South Fields/Stobhill Manor update:

JS stated that Playparks have been installed by Barratt Homes. A South Fields resident had enquired if HPC would be willing to pay for some seating and litter bins beside the play equipment. JS agreed to contact the resident and ascertain what type of seating/litter bins would be required. We will also need to contact NCC to ask if they would be willing to dispose of the litter from the bins.

Roads in the estate continue to be surfaced. JS stated that the Barratt Liaison Group is to continue. JS recently had a very useful meeting with the deputy site manager.

Car parking is an issue; JS was grateful that AT had delivered leaflets in the estate regarding this.

Speeding on the A196 has dropped considerably since the installation of the Interactive Speed Sign.

Boundary Changes: We have not heard anything more from MTC directly regarding the issue of boundary changes. It appears Hebron Parish Council is in agreement with MTC. MTC will need to approach NCC with their full proposal.

10. Speeding and Parking issues/Special Meeting

GS has very kindly purchased a "Body Cam" for use by our Community Speed Watch Volunteers and our thanks go to him for this. FD reported that there have been death threats made to CSWVs in other areas and a car had mounted a pavement in Choppington, targeting CSWVs. FD was reminded that this should be added to our asset register and to let SJ know the purchase price and details.

FD

At the last meeting a resident (CB) attended to discuss speeding in the village and raised the suggestion of speed humps. FD stated he could understand the problem but is unsure if speed humps are the solution. He reported that traffic has slowed down considerably with lots of vehicles keeping to 20 mph.

DC reported that there are still speeding vehicles in Field House Lane. It was agreed that a special meeting should take place to discuss this issue on 9 July 2019 at 6:30 pm in the Parish Hall and to invite AT and CB.

11. Hepscoth Parish Hall:

DC reported that events are doing very well; there is a new Secretary with lots of new ideas.

The Highlights show had been very good and the Quiz Night had been packed out. The Committee is still undecided about the purchase of a new carpet.

12. Correspondence/Meetings and training attended

SJ had attended Audit Training provided by NALC, which was held in Hepscoth Parish Hall.

FD had attended Speed Watch training

Councillors were asked to inform the Clerk of any other training/meetings attended.

13. Any other business

- Standing Orders: PA stated that he has a newer edition of the Standing Orders to the document circulated to HPC members earlier in the year. To leave on Agenda for next meeting.
- Website: PA/JS have discussed the website, but at the present time this is not a high priority. JS stated that he has looked at several website providers, some of which are too high spec for our needs, but that he will continue looking into this for us.
- PA informed Councillors that an article is being written for the Hepscoth Herald about the private nature reserve at Clarks Bog, which is located within the parish. PA had met with the owner, Peter Matthewson, who would be keen to see members of the council and show them around the site

PA

14. Date and Time of next Meeting

The next meeting of HPC will be held on Thursday 25 July 2019 in the Parish Hall, at 6.30 pm – **please note change of date from 18 July due to use of parish hall for elections.**

Minutes taken and prepared by:

Sylvia Johnson, Parish Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer

Signed as a true copy:

HEPSCOTT PARISH COUNCIL

FLOOD SUB GROUP REPORT

16th May 2019

1. Meetings:

The last HPC Sub Group meetings were held on the 17th April and 15th May and the next will be the 25th June 2019.

A meeting was held with Aaron McNeil NCC Floods Officer on the 17th April 2019. Issues discussed were:

Further more extensive surveys are being carried out in the parish by Mott McDonald Bentley (MMB)

- i. Topographical Survey covering the Hepscoth burn, Redhouse burn, Catch burn and Coal burn started on the 2nd May and scheduled to complete on the 5th June.
- ii. A flood map will then be prepared covering these areas/parish.
- iii. CCTV survey of the culvert running under the Orchard to determine its condition.
- iv. Investigate the route of Redhouse burn with the use of dye at the Stobhill end where Barratts development enters the burn and follow it to determine its route through the village. This is of necessity in conjunction with Network Rail as Redhouse passes through their land.
- v. Quarterly meetings are to be held with Aaron in conjunction with a reduced "Position Statement"; the next being 25th June 2019.

2. NCC Position Statement:

- a. The latest statement was issued on the 4th February 2019
- b. The next will be June 2019 prior to our 25th June meeting
- c. It will be in a reduced format highlighting new information.

3. Joint Flood Study:

- a. Report of findings put back to August 2019
- b. Update is being made available for the 25th June
- c. If the study identifies a need for flood management works it would be scheduled for 2024.

4. Gully Cleansing:

- a. We understand from NCC that the last cleansing was October 2018
- b. Local problem gullies have also been attended to, as and when reported.

5. Hepscott Flood Plan:

Further amendments regarding telephone numbers to be issued

6. Barratts Stobhill:

This will be added to our inspection list.

7. Private Consultant:

Discussion with a Private Consultant about flood risk reduction in Hepscott is being considered.

