

HEPSCOTT PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting held on 8th November 2012

Present: Norma Barker, Derrick Melia, Philip Ashmore, Anne Finlay, Phillipa Raper, David Cowans (Chair), Angela Parr (clerk).
David Towns, County Councillor.

Absences: None.

2. Minutes of Last Meeting:

These were signed as an accurate account of the meeting on 20th September 2012.

3. Matters Arising:

- (i) There had been no contact from residents thinking of becoming Parish Councillors (had been on front page of Hepscoth Herald)
- (ii) DC had been to the launch of the Morpeth Neighbourhood Plan.
- (iii) The Digley Safety inspection of Stobhill Play Park had been carried out and we had a 'clean bill of health' this year.
- (iv) A letter had been received re. red squirrels and the problems of grey squirrels.
- (v) Barmoor Bank Footpath - another reminder was needed. David Towns said that the path had been reviewed this week. Whilst not a priority for the NCC, they will cut back the vegetation.
- (vi) No response from WI about us agreeing to provide Public Liability insurance for the Jubilee seat they want to provide.

4. Code of Conduct:

The Parish Clerk had received all the Declaration of Pecuniary Interest forms from Councillors and they had been sent off to the Monitoring Officer.

5. Planning Applications:

- (i) Roseden - the objections from the Parish Council had been sent to Planning. Since the meeting on 20th September, DT, DC and Mr and Mrs. McPhail had been to a site meeting. DT had sent in his own views in which he strongly objected to the proposals. He read out his email to the committee. DC commented that both ourselves and DT had raised very similar points. A site visit would probably be recommended by the planners and we would wish to be part of that.
- (ii) Retrospective Planning consent for 4 free standing signs at Stobhill Roundabout - there were no objections to this.

(iii) With regard to the Morpeth Northern Bypass, PR had a booklet which had been published by the NCC and this would be passed around for comments. There was a CD from the NCC which contained all the plans etc. The new road may attract through traffic taking a short-cut North through Hepscott, via Bothal Bank and Pegswood Bypass, to avoid Morpeth's traffic.

6. Stobhill Play Park:

There is a hedge that needs a trim across the footpath and DM would ask Brian Parker to do this. Already mentioned - safety inspection all in order.

7. Financial Issues:

The Parish Clerk produced an estimated budget for 2013/14 in order to determine the Precept required. She emphasised that it could only be a rough estimate as we are only half-way through the 2012/13 financial year.

It was agreed to increase the precept to £9960 (DM proposed, PA seconded) to allow for increased costs and increases in responsibilities from NCC.

Handouts were given to show the current financial situation (ongoing income and expenditure for 2012/13.)

8. Website:

Development of the website is well underway and text and photographs have been forwarded to the website designer (Mike Henson). We now have a website address (although it is not active as yet) and it is hoped to have it up and running in the New Year.

9. Meetings attended by Councillors:

Four meetings had been attended by different councillors. PA had attended four, 2 of which were with DC and one with AF.

> Meeting on 30th October (at Stannington) referred to the Local Development plan for Northumberland based on the 'Core Strategy Issues and Options' documentation, to which some Parish Councillors had responded when a meeting was chaired by John Lewis. Because of the amount of information received (12,000 comments), it was not possible to put the key issues that affect Hepscott (eg. Greenbelt and flood control) to the meeting. It was also not clear where the Morpeth Neighbourhood Plan fitted into their Core Strategy. There would be further consultations during 2013.

> Meetings on 18th and 31st October to discuss the Morpeth Neighbourhood plan

was launched at the meeting on the 18th (at Morpeth Town Hall). At the meeting on 31st October it was stated that a plan of action was emerging and evidence would be gathered from November 12 to March 13. The plan submission was due in March 2014.

> 6th November - training session for new councillors run by NALC was very useful in showing the role of Parish Councillors and it was felt that any new councillors should go on future sessions and would even be useful for existing councillors as a refresher.

PA was thanked for attending these meetings (he has presented more detailed notes since the committee meeting)

10. Correspondence:

- (i) Catherine Weightman regarding red squirrels. It was agreed to make a donation in order to purchase two traps for grey squirrels.
- (ii) Request for a donation from Great North Air Ambulance - no decision taken.
- (iii) Letter from NCC describing the new Public Access Live facility.
- (iv) Details for Tree Preservation orders from NCC - PA took documentation to peruse.

11. Any Other Business:

- (i) AF had an invoice for the fruit tree to be planted in the orchard. The RFO would raise a cheque for this. It was decided to get a plaque to mark the Diamond Jubilee. There would be a tree-planting 'ceremony' on Saturday 1st December at 11 o'clock. **Action DC.**
- (ii) There's a new dog bin situated in a field that no-one knows anything about. DM will ask Brian Parker about this.
- (iii) PR commented that the Flood notice was still at Barmoor Bank, despite the flooding having receded.
- (iv) The sign for the bend has been re-instated, but is now facing the wrong way.

12. Date of Next Meeting - 17th January 2013.

Meeting closed at approx. 8.30pm.