

HEPSCOTT PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 20 November 2014

1. Present

Philip Ashmore (Chair), David Cowans (Vice Chair), Fred Dye, Merle Heppell, Philippa Raper, Ken Reed, Sylvia Johnson (Parish Clerk), Glen Sanderson (County Councillor)

Apologies

Hollie Ross, Ian Lindley (County Councillor)

In attendance

PC Andrea Teasdale, Neighbourhood Beat Manager, Morpeth Neighbourhood Policing Team
Julia McPhail, Hepscott Neighbourhood Watch who attended to discuss the planning appeal for 3 Fieldhouse Close.

2. PC Andrea Teasdale

PC Teasdale informed the meeting that the speed camera training had been held up due to vetting applications. Door to door sellers have been operating once again, several have licences. Hepscott Park is being emptied, only the Referral Unit and the Café are to remain open after the end of November. FD expressed thanks for help with the speed gun applications.

3. Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 7 October and matters arising

Action by

The minutes of the last meeting were accepted as true records and signed by the Chairman.

- (a) SHLAAs: HPC were asked to comment on Hepscott areas, which had been done.
- (b) NALC Fees: There will be an increase of about £46.00 in fees for HPC due to the new formula for calculating membership subscriptions. Everyone agreed this was worth the money.
- (c) Mobile Camera at Barmoor: GS stated that he had tabled a question regarding this at Council, asking what criteria were used to decide where the camera would be deployed. He is still awaiting an update but will keep chasing this up. It was noted that speed measures have slowed traffic down; the speed limit of 40 has been painted on the road/red gravel.

4. Update from County Councillors

GS asked if any more objections had been received regarding the Planning Application for Langdale. He stated that there were a few supporting views for the proposal on the NCC website and wished to know the views of HPC and locals. The application is due to be heard at Committee meeting on 4 December, where GS and DC will both attend and speak (PA on holidays).

SHLAAs – GS had sent comments to NCC. He was unaware of any Parish Council that had been consulted before SHLAAs were assessed.

GS stated he was not in agreement with IL regarding the County Hall move to Ashington. He informed the meeting that the building was only 35 years old and he was not aware that any surveyors report had been undertaken. GS was opposed to the move which would be a waste of public money.

GS stated that resurfacing of roads in Hepscoth was to be done in December and repainting of road signs has probably been left due to this work. PR stated that if no mobile cameras were to be deployed on Barmoor Bank could light up signs be installed, as in Longhorsley? GS stated he would happily ask if that was what HPC requested. Mention was made of the pole outside the Parish Hall, which was supposed to have a mobile sign erected on a regular basis, but has only been used once in the last 4 years. GS will chase this up as this should have been in use much more often.

5. **Barratt/Stobhill update**

No official news to date. The Secretary of State's decision will be available on or before 15 December.

6. **Morpeth Neighbourhood Plan update**

The MNP is going to be finalised as far as possible by 31 March 2015 and the work done presented to NCC. This would form, we were told, a "material consideration" at any planning inquiry, but not have full statutory weight. After that we have to wait for the Core Strategy to "catch up", and it seems likely to be early 2017 before the Core Strategy is finalised.

7. **NCC Core Strategy**

As above, this is running way behind schedule. The consultation will run between 12 December 2014 and 11 February 2015, and everyone is urged to respond. Originally housing numbers were estimated at 1700 in Morpeth, this has now increased to 2100. Information on the green belt will show the southern boundary to be drawn around the Barratt's field. This is shown as being Safeguarded land in draft Core Strategy until 2031.

8. **Planning applications**

- **Shadfen Park** – No further information – to check on website
- **Clifton Caravan Centre** – Will not be heard until 8 January 2015 at the earliest.
- **Langdale** – To be heard at committee meeting on 4 December. DC will attend and state the case for HPC. A letter has been received from the applicant, Mr Huntley.
- **Land east of Roseden Cottage** – PA informed this would not be heard before 8 January, due to discussion regarding contaminated land.
- **26 Norham Drive** – HPC had no objections but would comment on the flat roof.
- **Land east of Turner Square, Stobhill** – Overall objection from HPC, letter to be sent to NCC setting out our objections.
- **The Nynes** – Application for swimming pool extension. Only comments were regarding flat roof again.
- **3 Fieldhouse Close** – Gone to appeal, letter due to Planning Inspectorate by 8 December.

SJ

9.	Financial matters	Action by
	Monthly statement of finances was agreed.	
	Report for estimation of next year's precept was considered. PA recommended a slight increase of £300 (2.9%) from £10,500 to £10,800. This was proposed by FD and seconded by KR and agreed. SJ to complete form from NCC and return.	SJ
	Playpark Stock Evaluation by The Play Inspection Company: The meeting was informed that the estimation of stock at Stobhill Manor Playpark was £22,677.50. This will be added to the Asset Register by SJ	SJ
10.	Website	
	The website has now been in use for 24 months and is reviewed annually. PA stated he was pleased to note that when he viewed it, everything was being kept up to date. KR stated that on average the site received around 16 hits per month in 2013, which has increased to 19 in 2014. It was stated that the most popular page is the Minutes page. It is a small site used by a small number of people. It was agreed to continue with the website for the present time, with a 6 month review on costs and an annual review in November 2015. It was agreed that PA add the website address to his LERTs emails.	PA
11.	Correspondence	
	Public Transport review: MH stated that there were no changes in bus timetables in our area, just in the north of the county. It was agreed that MH put details of the review and bus timetables in the Parish Hall, and she agreed to become the HPC bus correspondent!	MH
12.	Meetings and training attended by Councillors	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KR stated that to date there has been no link between HPC and the Parish Hall Management Committee (PHMC). He has therefore agreed to become HPC's representative on that committee. He stated that a bid was in place for lottery money to fund an extension to the Hall. This is now at stage two of the application process. A procurement exercise is being undertaken regarding green matting for an additional parking area. It was agreed to keep the PHMC as a standing item on HPC's agenda. Minutes from the meetings will be sent to SJ on a regular basis and circulate to HPC. • DC attended the recent Northern Gas meeting, which was attended by lots of Parish Council and Borough Council representatives. DC stated that to get funding through this was a very long winded and selective process. • PA and DC attended the Morpeth Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group meetings and PA the Plan Preparation Group meetings. • DC attended a meeting at Stannington Parish Council regarding their own Neighbourhood Plan. It was noted that HPC has good relations with Stannington PC/Karen Carins. • PR attended the recent scrutiny meeting at NCC regarding the proposed move of County Hall to Ashington. 	KR/SJ
13.	Any other business	
	Councillors agreed to meet up for a "Christmas" meal and drink. KR agreed to arrange this for a date in January.	KR

15. Date and time of next meeting:

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 15 January 2015 at 6.30 pm.

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

Signed as a true copy:

Action by