

HEPSCOTT PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 19 November 2015

1. Present

Philip Ashmore (Chair), David Cowans (Vice Chair), Fred Dye, Sylvia Johnson (Clerk), County Councillor Glen Sanderson, PC Andrea Teasdale.

Apologies:

Malcolm Paton, Ken Reed, Carolyn Reid, Philippa Raper, County Councillor Ian Lindley,

In attendance: John Lewis, Hepscott resident

Declarations of interest

None

2. PC Andrea Teasdale

PC Teasdale stated that there have been several thefts of diesel from horse trailers in the Gubeon and Pegasus Centres, and the nurseries on Station Road, all in Stannington. She urges people to report anything suspicious they may see to catch the thieves. She stated that poachers are about at present. Community Speedwatch is running well; Mrs Dye is now up and running on the system. Thanks to PC Teasdale for her help with this.

3. Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 17 September 2015 and matters arising:

The minutes from the last meeting were agreed as a true record. Matters arising were covered by the Agenda items.

4. Update from County Councillor Glen Sanderson:

GS stated that it had been a long drawn out saga regarding the SIDs signs, but it is hoped that they will be installed this year. PA stated that the cheque is ready to go with the order and that he had been quoted 4-6 weeks for installation.

Barratt's Development: Work is now underway on the site, but several conditions have not yet been discharged. GS stated that if the developer doesn't comply with issues of surface drainage/maintenance of SUDS, then NCC could take action against them.

Planning: There have been several issues regarding the new planning protocols, especially concerning delegation, and a review is to be held. GS stated that Karen Ledger has now retired.

GS stated that leisure centres and libraries are now run by Active Northumberland, which has a new board now.

Grass verges: There were issues regarding the cutting of grass verges in the County this year, with many miles of verges not being cut at all. This will be reviewed.

County Hall: The move of County Hall to Ashington was due to be debated at a meeting in December, but this has been cancelled and may be held in February. The original cost was stated as being £27m, but this has now risen to £36m. There are possible plans to move several Morpeth schools onto the vacated site.

Action

GS stated that he had tabled two formal questions recently; the first was regarding the speed camera van. This has been parked on the A697 on some occasions, but not often enough. The highest numbers of deployment had been recorded at Clifton and Fairmoor. GS had met with Alex Bennett and Margaret Robinson and asked for a review of the sites again. The second question was regarding the centenary of the Battle of the Somme, which will be on 1 July 2016. As many Northumberland Fusiliers were lost at the battle GS had asked if NCC planned to commemorate this event. It has been agreed that a commemoration will take place; however, this may not be on 1 July.

5. Barratt/Stobhill:

PA stated that the meeting planned for 18 November to meet Barratt has now been postponed to 25 November. PA and MP had met with the planning officer, Judith Murphy recently. She said that the discharge of conditions has still not been completed. Some of the issues are down to the Highways Department and Judith has agreed to go back to them. The bus shelter is currently at the entrance to the site and we have been asked if this can be moved. It had been agreed that Barratt would move this at their expense, to a location to be agreed with the parish council. It was noted that the A196 is very muddy at the moment, although the site is supposed to have wheel washing facilities.

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

MNP: There had been issues with the Examiner's workload, but these have been resolved and the report completed. It was satisfactory and passed examination with a few minor modifications. NCC have made these changes and signed the plan off to go forward to a referendum, which is good news. This is the final stage in the process, with the MNP now already receiving appreciable weight in planning terms.

NCC Core Strategy: Consultation for this ends on 25 November. PA stated that HPC will reply to the consultation, but only to a few specific points, as it is a massive document. He stated that a triangle of land between the two railway lines south of Coopies Lane has been designated as "safeguarded for economic use". This was disappointing and HPC would object to this, preferring it to be Green Belt, albeit that safeguarding would exist until 2031.

PA

7. Planning Applications:

- a. **Land west of Dunces Houses:** Application refused, with the MNP given significant weight. It would be development outside settlement boundaries and in the proposed green belt.
- b. **Westgarth:** Application permitted by delegated authority.
- c. **5 Dunces Houses:** Application refused (see comments for (a) above).
- d. **Land east of Turner Square:** No decision to date
- e. **Land east of Stobhill Roundabout (Barratt discharge of conditions):** No decision to date. HPC continued to ask NCC to enforce the conditions, but progress was very slow.
- f. **Land east of Stobhill Roundabout (Barratt variation of condition 2):** No decision to date (see comments in (e) above).

- g. **Shadfen Farm (Riding Arena/Menage):** This has been removed from NCC website, as the application was invalid, but may return.
- h. **Land south east of Roseden Cottage:** To be heard at Planning Committee meeting on 8 December. DC to attend on behalf of HPC
- i. **1 Chatton Close, Stobhill Manor:** Application permitted; delegated authority.
- j. **Fairlawn, Shadfen:** application permitted.
- k. **South Lodge, South Lodge Wood (TPO):** Application permitted.
- l. **The Barn, 2 Hepscott Manor Farm (chimney):** Application permitted; delegated authority.
- m. **The Barn, 2 Hepscott Manor Farm (greenhouse):** Response from HPC due to NCC by 25 November.

8. **Hepscott Parish Hall:**

KR was not at the meeting, however DC reported that he thought the installation of broadband was going ahead.

9. **Financial Matters:**

- Monthly financial statements had been emailed to councillors and were approved. It was noted that nine items were above £100, and as per new rules these were all examined, noted and approved. A significant item was the 30% cost down-payment to the suppliers of the speed signs (the signs are paid for by County Councillor Sanderson from his NCC Members Scheme).
- **Precept:** A report had been emailed to councillors showing expenditure over the past year on which to base the precept for the new financial year. It was agreed that some funding may be needed to explore a flood alleviation scheme after the Neighbourhood Plan is adopted. PA recommended that a slight increase of £200.00 be requested, taking the precept to £11,000 pa from April 2016. This was seconded by DC and agreed unanimously. SJ to complete form and return to NCC.

SJ

10. **Website:**

KR had reported to SJ stating he is no longer receiving reports from Mike Henson about hits on the website and therefore could not report on the average numbers of hits. SJ agreed to contact Mike Henson and request KR be copied into all information sent to her.

SJ

11. **Correspondence:**

Due to work commitments SJ/KR had been unable to meet up in daylight hours to look at the litter bin. They will attempt to meet up as soon as possible with a view to move/replace the bin.

SJ/KR

12. **Meetings and training attended:**

PA/DC attended meetings of MNP/Plan Preparation Group and Steering Group.

PA attended the Planning Committee meeting regarding the application for Dunces Houses.

13. Any other business:

The annual safety inspection of the playpark at Stobhill Manor had recently taken place and the report circulated. PA asked for any comments on the report to be forwarded to him/SJ.

HPC

SJ had contacted Northumbrian Water regarding the rut in the road to the West of Parkside where the dog litter bin is situated. A reply has been received stating that as a gesture of goodwill the rut will be repaired on a one off basis.

14. Date and Time of next Meeting:

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 21 January 2016 at 6.30 pm. Dates of HPC meetings for next year were distributed and are as follows:

21 January, 17 March, 19 May, 21 July, 15 September, and 17 November. Would all HPC Councillors please put them into their 2016 diaries and try to avoid clashes wherever possible.

HPC

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

Signed as a true copy: