

# HEPSCOTT PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 17 November 2016

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### 1. Present

Philip Ashmore (Chair), David Cowans (Vice Chair), Malcolm Paton, Sylvia Johnson (Clerk), County Councillor Glen Sanderson, PCSO Paul Moorhead

**Apologies:** Fred Dye, Ken Reed, Carolyn Reid, County Councillor Ian Lindley

### Declarations of interest

None

### 2. Report from Neighbourhood Policing Team

PCSO Paul Moorhead attended from the neighbourhood policing team. He stated that there have been several crimes in the parish since the last meeting. One property in Shadfen has been the victim of shed break-ins on 3 occasions. We were informed that in one evening 25 cars were found to be unlocked in Stobhill Manor alone. Residents were advised to remember to lock all cars and sheds.

With regards to placing speed cameras we were informed that a camera van could not be located on Barmoor Bank. PA asked if a hand held camera could be used in that location. Paul said he would ask if that would be feasible. PA stated that FD rarely hears anything back regarding the statistics he sends in from his voluntary Speedwatch. Paul agreed to pass this information on and try to get feedback in the future.

PA had previously requested that the same police officer attend meetings. However if this were not possible, we would prefer someone to attend, rather than receive the report by email. PA thanked Paul Moorhead and he left the meeting

### 3. Minutes of the meetings held on Thursday 15 September and matters arising:

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

#### Matters arising:

Bins: SJ has requested that the dog bin be relocated. This will be done as soon as possible by Andy Rochester.

Resurfacing of the footpath has been completed

Action

PM

SJ

#### 4. Update from County Councillors:

GS stated that grass verge cutting had taken place. He had asked in September if the hedge around the Barratt estate at Stobhill could be cut back, but nothing had been done about this by the joint meeting held in October. He continued to chase this and the provision of a temporary bus shelter on the A196. GS has also been informed that people moving into new houses on the Barratt's estate have been told there may not be places at Morpeth schools. PA stated that this was one of HPC's original concerns.

PA asked GS if he knew what had changed NCC's mind in the Core Strategy regarding the Triangle of land between the railway lines opposite Coopies Lane. The land was first designated in October last year as 'safeguarded for employment use' (ie expansion of Coopies Lane Industrial Estate); then after HPC's protests was changed to proposed Green Belt. However it has, in the latest version of the Core Strategy, been changed back again to 'safeguarded for employment' after 2031. NCC requires responses to the latest Core Strategy consultation before 24 December. GS said he hoped to arrange a meeting with HPC, Mark Ketley about the Triangle. PA said the proposal would severely erode the Green Belt and reduce the gap between 'Coopies Lane IE' and the village to 400 metres.

GS

GS stated that it appeared no meeting had taken place as yet between Ian Lavery, our MP and Steve Mason, NCC's Chief Executive regarding the funding for flood alleviation. Otto Meth-Cohn had written to Mr Lavery's agent and asked if there was any national money that Hepscott could tap into and Mr Lavery visited the village. However no response on funding had been received. Otto had written a second letter on 16 November, stating we had received no response.

PA thanked GS for his report and for his help and work on behalf of the Parish.

#### 5. Barratt/Stobhill:

MP reported that everything appears to be low key at present. All 22 conditions have now been discharged, the site is being kept tidy and there have been no further complaints from Stobhill Manor residents. Barratt hope to have 84 houses built by June 2017. The Green Belt group who will provide maintenance management of the SUDS will not start work until sufficient properties are built. PA/MP agreed to meet and walk around the site regarding the SUDs soon. Next meeting of the group planned for 13 January 2017.

The bus stop by the site entrance has now been moved temporarily. The bus shelter was scrapped and residents at present have to wait in the rain, but a shelter will be provided soon. Our thanks to Alison Byard of MTC and GS, both of whom had worked hard on this issue.

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

**MNP:** There were signs at Lancaster Park that NCC had overridden the MNP and this was a concern.

**NCC Core Strategy (Major Modifications):** Nothing further to report save what was discussed in Section 4, paragraph 2 above concerning "the Triangle".

**7. Planning Applications:**

- a. Burnside, Hepscoth - Outline planning application including access with all other matters reserved for three detached dwellings – PA had contacted the NCC planning officer who stated this was still awaiting determination.
- b. Rear of Meadow View, Barmoor Bank – Change of use of existing storage building to residential - no application received by NCC to date following Pre-App stage.
- c. The Gate House, Stobhill Gate – Proposed single storey extension to rear of house replacing existing conservatory - application permitted
- d. 11 Thornlea, Hepscoth - Revision to previous application - application permitted.

**8. Consultation on speeding in the village:**

FD had produced the survey flyer and delivered it to residents in the village. Residents were also invited to a drop in to the Parish Hall on Sunday 6 November to view the outline plans which had been produced. Survey flyers had been returned, along with emailed responses.

GS was asked, if we pursue the matter, would he be able to commit to some financial support. He said he supported the scheme and would look at financial support when things became clearer. As FD was unable to attend the HPC meeting and further information was needed it was agreed to hold a separate meeting to discuss progress and follow up. [This meeting was held on 28 November.] A notice on the Parish Hall notice board would follow. PA said he wished to thank FD for his hard work on this subject.

**9. Hepscoth Parish Hall:**

KR was unable to attend the meeting therefore no report available.

**10. Financial Matters:**

Monthly financial statements had been circulated to councillors with the agenda and were approved. Nine items were above £100 and these were all approved. SJ had also circulated details of the last year's expenditure to allow the members to decide upon the precept required for the next financial year. It was agreed to ask for an increase of only 2%, ie, £220.00.

**11. Website:**

As KR was unable to attend the meeting no information was available. SJ has prepared an invoice for the Parish Hall Management Committee regarding the changes to the website and will forward this to KR.

**12. Flood Sub Group:**

MP said one aim was to ensure water-courses and flooding 'hot spots' were kept well maintained and clear. MP has devised a Flood Schedule of hot spots and the Flood Group had completed 2 visits on the list to date. More visits are planned on 22 November and the schedule will be completed soon. He will then write to NCC with details. He had met with Kris Westerby of the Highways Department to look at remedial work on the bridge. There was talk of drilling core holes in the parapet and installing a sediment trap in the burn at Crofts Park.

MP has drawn up the first draft of the Community Flood Action Plan and this has been sent to NCC for comments. There is still a lot of information to pull together, not least the plan to help vulnerable residents in the event of a flood. MP stated that he had divided the village into 4 sections and that at least 6 voluntary flood wardens would be required in those areas. PA thanked MP for all the work he has put into this, with CR's and Otto's help. They have done an excellent job. The next meeting of the Flood Sub Group will be in early December.

**13. Correspondence:**

A letter of thanks had been received from CAN for the donation of £80.00 from HPC.

**14. Meetings and training attended:**

Nothing to report.

**15. Any other business:**

The annual Stobhill Manor Play Park Inspection Report has been received and was passed to DC to recommend if any remedial works should be carried out.

**DC**

**16. Date and Time of next Meeting:**

The next meeting of HPC will be held on Thursday 19 January 2017 at 6.30 pm. All Parish Councillors were asked to note the dates for subsequent meetings in 2017, as follows:

- 16 March 2017
- 18 May 2017
- 20 July 2017
- 21 September 2017
- 16 November 2017

All meetings are held on Thursdays, at 6.30 pm.

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

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

