

HEPSCOTT PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 15 November 2018

1. **Present:** Philip Ashmore (Chair), David Cowans (Vice Chair), Anne Colver, County Councillor Glen Sanderson, Sylvia Johnson (Clerk)

Apologies: Malcolm Paton, Fred Dye, Carolyn Reid, County Councillor Gen Sanderson

In attendance: PC Andrea Teasdale, John Sadler and one member of the public attended

Declarations of interest: None

A member of the public who attended the meeting discussed the possibility of setting up a group for older residents, to meet maybe once or twice a month in the Parish Hall, to combat loneliness.

Action

2. **Report from Neighbourhood Policing Team**

PC Andrea Teasdale reported that telephone scams are in operation locally, with some people being scammed out of money. DC reported that he had received a call supposed to be from the police. Andrea said that any hoax calls should be reported to the police and no bank details should be given over the phone. She also reminded everyone to keep their property secure and car doors locked.

3. **Minutes of the meeting held on 20 September 2018 and matters arising**

The minutes were agreed as a true record.

Matters arising:

Neighbourhood Watch: SJ will contact Andrea Teasdale regarding setting up Neighbourhood Watch in the Parish

SJ

4. **Co-option of Parish Councillor:**

John Sadler left the room while this item was discussed.

HPC had published the required notice regarding the vacancy left by Ken Reed's resignation. No-one had requested an election which left HPC free to co-opt a replacement. PA had written to everyone who contacted him and expressed an interest earlier in the year; 2 were prevented from applying due to work commitments and 3 did not reply. One person, John Sadler, was interested. PA had talked prior to the meeting to all HPC councillors and PA/DC were happy to recommend his co-option. John lives in South Fields, works full-time and had already been very supportive. A unanimous decision was made to co-opt John and he was welcomed as a Parish Councillor with immediate effect.

5. Update from County Councillors:

A report from GS was received by email as follows:

The 50mph sign removal and the signage on the Bothal Sawmill bank is out to tender and will be completed early 2019.

NCC is gearing up for winter with salt bins filled up and grit piles topped up.

Advance Northumberland has taken over from Arch with a different philosophy and the County Hall repairs are taking shape.

6. Planning Applications/NCC Draft Local Plan:

Current Planning Application update: See document sent out with Agenda.

Draft Local Plan: PA stated that he will speak with GS regarding progress on this

PA

7. Standing Orders:

It was agreed that PA/SJ would meet up regarding this item

PA/SJ

8. Flood Alleviation Sub Group:

A report from the group is attached.

PA stated that anyone living on South Fields who has an interest in flooding is more than welcome to join the group.

9. Financial Matters:

- Statement of Finances: Monthly financial statements had been circulated to Councillors with the agenda and were approved. There were 9 items above £100 and these were all approved.
- PA asked for volunteers to form a Task and Finish group to look at income/expenditure over recent years. This will be discussed at the meeting in January.
- 2019/2020 Precept: After discussion it was agreed that HPC will not request any increase in the precept, currently £11,500, for next year, subject to the Tax Base being confirmed by NCC.

10. South Fields/Stobhill Manor update:

- A further Barratt's Liaison meeting will be held on 16 November.
- Boundary Issues – things have gone quiet, however MTC are aware that HPC are opposed to any changes.

11. Website:

An invoice for the next year's website charges has been paid. JS agreed to help with website issues.

JS

12. Speeding and Parking Issues:

Parking problems still exist in Field House Close. Motorists are unable to see clearly when cars are parked on the junction, with the problem getting worse recently. FD will continue to monitor this issue.

FD

The Morpeth Herald recently featured an article with a photograph showing the new electronic speed sign on the A196. Thanks go to Glen Sanderson and John Beynon for the funding of this sign. It becomes our asset and HPC maintain it.

13. Parish Hall

The management committee are still looking at the possibility of an extension to the Parish Hall.

A new carpet is to be fitted, with a wooden laminate centre for dancing. Black out blinds are required to use when showing films. A new tap is needed in the gents' toilet.

Coffee mornings are well attended. A Family History Research evening is to be held. A Mulled Wine Get-together will be held on Saturday 22 December at 4.00pm.

14. Correspondence

A letter has been received from CAN, requesting a donation. It was agreed that we send a donation of £100.00.

15. Meetings and training attended

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

16. Any other business

- **Fly tipping:** There has been a spate of fly tipping recently, especially in Redhouse Farm Lane. PA suggested we liaise with other parish councils to find out what measures they take, ie, information on costs, advantages and disadvantages. He will raise it at the January meeting
- **Dates for meetings in 2019:** SJ gave councillors dates for meetings to be held in 2019 as follows:

PBA

- 17 January
- 21st March
- 16th May
- 18th July
- 19th September
- 21st November

Please give apologies for any meetings in advance.

17. Date and Time of next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 17 January 2019 in the Parish Hall at 6:30 pm.

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

Signed as a true copy:

**HEPSCOTT PARISH COUNCIL
FLOOD SUB GROUP REPORT
15th November 2018**

1. Meetings:
 - a. Last Sub Group meeting was the 3rd October
 - b. Flood Wardens meeting held on the 9th October
 - c. Next Sub Group meeting is the 5th December
2. NCC quarterly Position Statement issued for September referred to:
 - a. Silt and gravel build up under the bridge is stable and is not adding to flood risk in Crofts Park. *(MP questions this, if there was 225mm more free space under the bridge then more flood water would pass before it was backed up by the bridge structure).*
 - b. Gully Cleansing in village. Gullies cleaned on the 27th July
 - c. Flood water storage in 8 Crofts Park has been satisfactorily completed.
3. Joint Flood Study: Report of findings put back to March 2019. If the study identifies a need for flood management work it would be scheduled for 2022 and 2023.
4. HPC have requested a meeting with Martin Kings team to discuss their forward gully cleansing regime, request has not been responded to.
5. Flood Plan:
 - a. Flood Plan has been updated by Andrew Youngs and reissued.
 - b. One EA dedicated telephone now in place.
 - c. EA ability to identify a flood potential in Hepscott still exists.
6. Freedom of information request to EA has had a response, PA and MP to discuss.
7. We have had a meeting with Barratt on site and inspected the SUDS work. All looked to be in order and well advanced.
8. Network Rail being contacted regarding Redhouse Burn.
9. Annual inspection of Flood Assets to be scheduled
10. To investigate the outfall of Redhouse Burn by use of coloured dyes.
11. Discussions with Private Consultant about flood risk reduction still to be progressed.