

## HEPSCOTT PARISH COUNCIL

### Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 7 October 2014 (postponed from 18 September 2014)

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#### 1. Present

Philip Ashmore (Chair), David Cowans (Vice Chair), Fred Dye, Merle Heppell, Hollie Ross, Philippa Raper (Minutes), Ian Lindley (County Councillor)

#### Apologies

Sylvia Johnson (Parish Clerk), Glen Sanderson (County Councillor), Ken Reed

#### In attendance

PC Andrea Teasdale, Neighbourhood Beat Manager, Morpeth Neighbourhood Policing Team  
David Parker, Morpeth Town Councillor, and NALC representative

#### 2. PC Andrea Teasdale

PC Teasdale informed the meeting that there will be further speed camera training coming up. Fred Dye is prepared to coordinate this. There have been a number of garden ornaments etc stolen in the area, and a cat from the Orchard has been poisoned, as have a number of others in the Stakeford area. There was an attempted break in at 1 Barmoor Bank, and reports of anti-social behaviour at Stobhill roundabout.

#### 3. Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 17 July

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

#### 4. Update from County Councillors

Councillor Ian Lindley said that the decision had just been made to go ahead with the movement of County Hall away from Morpeth, and he was in favour of that move towards decentralisation.

PA replied that whilst wanting to remain non-political, it was felt that as a member of the Morpeth Neighbourhood Plan, HPC and MNP should have been consulted, as, if the site is sold for housing, run off will enter the upper reaches of Hepscoth Burn and will have flooding implications for the village. HPC wishes its opposition to the move of County Hall to be recognised.

Councillor Lindley also gave updates of projects in Stobhill.

#### 5. Barratt/Stobhill update

The Secretary of State's decision will be available on or before 15 December.

#### 6. Morpeth Neighbourhood Plan update

As much work as possible on the MNP will be completed by 31 March 2015, pending the finalisation of the NCC Core Strategy. The MNP document will be submitted so that it can at least be used in the meantime in planning applications as a 'material consideration.' When the Core Strategy is finalised, we can pick up the task of ensuring that the MNP document is in general conformity with it.

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**7. NCC Core Strategy**

See update above. The latest draft will be in the public domain on 20 November and is due to go out for consultation before Christmas, but it could be another 12 months before the final strategy is published.

**8. Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA)**

As yet there has been no response from NCC re points raised by HPC that the map:

- takes no account of flooding issues
- is not a policy document and the general public may find it confusing
- should have been made public earlier in a more transparent process
- the chosen colours gave the impression that some areas were a 'done deal'

**9. Planning applications**

- **8 Crofts Park (TPO)** - approved
- **16 Thornlea** - approved
- **Shadfen Park** - awaiting specialist report
- **3 Fieldhouse Close** - refused at September Planning Committee
- **9 Crofts Park** - approved at September Planning Committee
- **Clifton Caravan Centre** - HPC has objected. Waiting for it to go to Committee
- **Ingram House, 3 South Lodge Wood (TPO)** - approved
- **7 Crofts Park (TPO)** - approved

New applications received for Roseden (outside village boundary) and Langdale are likely to face opposition, but the letters from HPC are not yet due.

**10. Financial matters**

Monthly statement of finances - no issues

Councillor David Parker as Hepscott's representative on the National Association of Local Council's (NALC) explained the role and worth of NALC. An increase in fees is expected.

NALC is the member association for all town and parish councils in the country, and is the bridge between councils and government.

Its role is:

- Lobbying (especially the government) on local needs; liaising with Local Government Associations; and networking with different influential organisations.
- To disseminate information on new laws and regulations and provide advice to Parish Councils.
- Provide information on funding streams for Parish Councils
- NALC works closely with Community Action Northumberland (CAN), an organisation that provides advice and training, etc, to Parish Councils.

**11. Website**

This report has been postponed until the next meeting.

**12. Correspondence**

The flood questionnaire was completed by PA

**13. Meetings and training attended by Councillors**

PA attended an event for NCC to meet town and parish councils, as well as attending the usual MNP meetings.

DC attended the MNP Steering Group and a meeting on Clifton Caravan Park (with Stannington PC).

**14. Any other business**

There have been no further issues arising from the requested litter bin on Shields Road.

The meeting closed at 8.10pm

**15. Date and time of next meeting:**

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 20 November at 6.30 pm

**Minutes taken and prepared by Philippa Raper, Parish Councillor**

**Minutes edited by Sylvia Johnson, Parish Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer**

**1 November 2014**

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

**Action by**