

HEPSCOTT PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of meeting held on 20th September 2012

Present: P.Raper, A. Finlay, P.Ashmore, D.Melia, N.Barker,
D.Cowans (Acting Chairman), A.Parr (Clerk)

Apologies: J.Lewis, D.Towns (County Councillor)

Members of Public - see below.

2. Minutes of meeting held on 19th July:

There were two small alterations under Item 20 AOB regarding Philip Ashmore. He met with Peter Kerr of the Environment Agency (para 1) and was not the Monitoring Officer for the National Parks Authority (Para.2). The minutes were altered by hand and signed as an accurate record of the meeting.

Before Matters arising, the matter of Roseden Planning Application(s) (Item 7) was brought forward as 4 interested parties were present at the meeting. These were: Helen Carr, Dave Crowther, Frank Johnson and Julia McPhail who introduced the subject on behalf of the group.

DM declared an interest at this point.

The Parish Clerk explained the information she had received from J.McPhail who then detailed the various planning applications regarding Roseden and the problems associated with these.

The Parish Clerk had not received any new application for Roseden to date and had checked with the Planning Department and information had not been sent to the Parish Council as of the date of the meeting. DC explained our system for dealing with Planning Applications and that would be adhered to once the Application was received by the Parish Council.

The four people mentioned above then left the meeting.

3. Matters Arising:

Item 17 - the drain collapse had been fixed very quickly by the contractor for the car park.

Item 7 - cladding at 9 Fieldhouse Close was underway. Owners of a neighbouring property were concerned that dust was affecting their son.

3a Additional Item:

John Lewis's letter of resignation was read out. Because of illness following an operation he felt he could no longer be Chairman or be a Parish Councillor. DC said he would continue as Acting Chairman but only until the elections in May 2013.

It was pointed out that we need more councillors. We have one specific vacancy at the moment, but any one interested could be co-opted onto the committee. AF would put information in the Hepscott Herald asking for more volunteers. This was particularly important as there could be changes in the forthcoming elections (May 2013)

John Lewis was thanked by the committee for all his hard work over the years and a get-well card and an official thank-you letter would be sent.

4. Northumberland Core Strategy:

Dates were given out for the workshops and councillors asked to attend where possible. It was important that we keep up to date with all developments. PA and DC would attend the meeting at Stannington.

5. Morpeth Neighbourhood Plan:

A letter had been received from Morpeth Town Council with an Invitation to the public launch of the plan. This would take place on 18th October at 6.30pm. There would also be displays in Morpeth Market Place on 19th and 20th October. Councillors would try to attend where possible.

AP had asked Morpeth Town Council about payment for our role in the plan (3 equal instalments as agreed previously). Invoices would be sent out in due course.

6. Code of Conduct:

Copies of all documentation received from Mr.Thom the Monitoring Officer were handed out to and the completed forms should be returned to AP by 18th October **at the latest**. She would then complete the Register and forward to Mr.Thom. Any queries on these should be addressed to David Francis at NALC.

DM would contact DF to find out if the forms applied solely to business in Hepscott and let AP know the outcome.

7. Planning Applications:

Cladding of 9 Fieldhouse Close and Garden shed at 3A Hepscoth Manor Farm had been granted.

Planning Application for Roseden (see above).

8. Stobhill Play Park:

All remedial work had been completed and paid for. DM reported that the 2012 Safety Inspection (through Digley) was still to take place. DM would keep chasing this.

9. Financial Issues:

RFO (AP) stated that the 2011/12 External Audit had been completed and that there were no issues arising from this. There would also be no change in external auditing firm (BDO) following notification from the Audit Commission.

AP distributed handouts showing the current situation regarding both bank accounts/expenditure etc.

10. Hours/Salary for Parish Clerk - Review:

The Parish Clerk left the room whilst discussion took place. She had previously presented a handout showing the current situation regarding hours worked/salary/expenses to form a basis for discussion.

It was agreed that the hours for the PC would be increased from 10 per month to 15 per month to represent the changes to the workload over the past 5 years of tenure. She would be paid at SCP19 on the hourly rate scale for Part-time clerks which is £9.253 per hour.

Her expenses for petrol/use of home for work etc., would remain the same.

11. HPC Website:

It was decided that the website sub-committee (AP, AF, NB and MD) would meet again to 'put meat on the bones' and let the website provider know of their decisions.

12. Barmoor Bank Footpath

PR asked that pressure be kept on Highways to ensure footpath is cleared as it can be dangerous because of people having to step into the (very fast) road. She presented photographs of the overgrown footpath and this would be sent to Highways for their attention.

Action: A.Parr

13: WI - request regarding Jubilee Bench:

Letter received from WI saying how disappointed they were that we could not adopt the proposed seat as WI did not have Public Liability insurance. The Parish Council would put the seat under their Public Liability insurance in case there was an accident involving the seat. It was however essential that the seat was fixed securely in case of theft. In the case of vandalism, we would consider repair or replacement if appropriate.

14: Meetings Attended by Councillors: There were no specific meetings for reports however dates were available for forthcoming meetings.

15: Correspondence: No specific items of correspondence had been received by post. All items sent by e-mail had been forwarded to Councillors.

16: AOB:

(a) DC stated that the signpost was still missing - AP to write again to Highways.

(b) Dorothy Cowans wanted a Jubilee tree to be planted in the Orchard - it is the right time of year.
Agreed to purchase and PC to plant.

17: Date of next meeting: 8th November 2012

Meeting closed at approximately 8.30pm.