

HEPSCOTT PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 15 September 2016

1. Present

Philip Ashmore (Chair), David Cowans (Vice Chair), Fred Dye, Malcolm Paton, Ken Reed, Carolyn Reid, Sylvia Johnson (Clerk), County Councillor Glen Sanderson, PC Andrea Taylor

Apologies: County Councillor Ian Lindley

Declarations of interest

None

2. Report from Neighbourhood Policing Team

The meeting welcomed PC Andrea Taylor, who informed us that there are two police officers now covering our area, herself and Andy Brown. There are also two community beat officers, Simon Beavers and Holly Wendt, who attended the previous meeting. PA asked if it would be possible for the purpose of continuity to have the same person attend meetings.

Andrea stated that Simon Beavers had made enquiries regarding the deployment of the speed camera van on the A192. He had been told that a risk assessment had been completed but that there was no feasible place to site the van. Andrea was asked if someone could contact FD to arrange a site meeting to look at other sites on that road.

There had been no reported crimes since the last meeting. There had however been a complaint about motorbikes on land near the railway crossing, but the land owner had given permission.

It was reported that the bus shelter on the A192 northbound near Stobhill roundabout had been vandalised. SJ has arranged for repair.

PA had sent a letter to Andrea Teasdale thanking her for all her hard work. The letter was copied to Inspector Elizabeth Hall.

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

DC stated that an omission had occurred in the minutes from 21 July. In Section 12 – Correspondence, he had requested that the footpath through the village (Four Winds to Briarlea) be submitted as one of our priorities in the Local Transport Programme for 2016/2017. SJ will write to NCC to ensure they receive this omission.

Action

AT

SJ

Matters arising:

MP stated that he was still waiting to hear from Aaron McNeil about the topographical survey near the bridge re flooding.

Bins: SJ/KR had looked at the bins; they agreed that the dog bin be moved and a new litter bin be purchased. SJ will action.

SJ

Resurfacing of the footpath was being undertaken.

The balance of money donated by GS for the speed signs has now been reimbursed to him.

Donation to CAN: It was agreed to make a donation of £80.00 at present, in recognition of the training they provide. PA stated that the situation with NALC/CAN and other agencies was somewhat complicated and agreed to seek to clarify the situation.

PA

Street light initiative: It was agreed that DC should speak with GS to investigate this matter for Hepscoth Parish.

DC

4. Update from County Councillors:

GS had met with a residents' group elsewhere in his constituency two months ago to look at broadband problems but no problems have been reported in Hepscoth.

GS stated that he was informed that 52% of non-strategic grass verges in Northumberland have been cut, but that a decision not to cut others had been taken to save money.

GS informed us that the hours of the NCC call centre were to be cut, but he felt that it was probably not the best time to do this.

BT plan to remove phone boxes in some rural areas of the county, which will undoubtedly cause problems as mobile coverage is unreliable in some areas.

GS stated that the pavement work in the village was currently being undertaken, and had been quite a large piece of work. PA again thanked him for making funds available, it was appreciated.

5. Barratt/Stobhill:

Another meeting will be held on 23 September. PA/MP are to meet with Alison Byard re a SUDS management plan. Most of the complaints regarding the building site have been from Stobhill Manor residents and a joint approach with Alison would appear to be a good working option.

PA/MP

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

MNP: Very little to report at this point in time. Two planning applications that HPC were opposed to were refused planning permission or turned down at appeal, largely due to the Neighbourhood Plan.

NCC Core Strategy (Major Modifications): This has been out for consultation. One detail that NCC has changed in the latest version of the Core Strategy is the use of land at Fairmoor allocated for employment has now been swapped with land at Lancaster Park, very disappointing for the residents. A planning application at Lancaster Park by Mitford Estates has been approved, but Morpeth Town Council has asked for the Secretary of State to call the application in.

Better news, PA stated, was that "Triangle" (i.e. south of Coopies Lane) had been changed to proposed Green Belt status (from Safeguarded Employment land), a more preferable situation. He had not therefore returned objections to the major modifications.

7. Planning Applications:

- a. **Hepscott Hall Cottage:** Permission refused
- b. **Burnside, Hepscott:** Still awaiting decision.
- c. **Shadfen Park Farm:** Permission granted.
- d. **Rear of Meadow View:** No application received by NCC to date following the Pre-App stage.
- e. **The Gate House, Stobhill Gate:** Awaiting decision – HPC raised no objections.

It was noted that the hedgerows at No 3 Field House Close are very unkempt. FD was asked to submit a query online to NCC regarding this.

8. Hepscott Parish Hall:

KR reported that:

- There have been some improvements to the hall, noticeably the installation of broadband.
- The hall is making around £8k per year.
- There are still questions regarding extending the hall.
- The Parish Council website has been changed to incorporate information regarding the hall, eg, details of events, hire of hall, details of facilities available, etc. SJ will produce an invoice for the Hall Management Committee detailing the costs from mh-p internet for the changes. As HPC is able to reclaim VAT this will not be included in the figures.
- KR had received information from MP regarding the car parking problems.

9. Financial Matters:

Monthly financial statements had been circulated to councillors with the agenda and were approved. Six items were above £100 and these were all approved, one of which was the repayment of £3,235.22 which had been made to GS for the balance from the speed signs.

10. Website:

As mentioned in 8 above, new pages have been added to the website for the Parish Hall. KR agreed to put any news items onto the website.

KR

11. Flood Sub Group

The Flood Group have met with Aaron McNeil (Floods and Coastal Erosion Manager) from NCC, Anna Hetterley from the Environment Agency and contacted Northumbrian Water. Elaine Smith of NWL is to lead a NWL/EA/NCC team to undertake a study of flooding issues in Hepscott; the study has been funded from November to March 2017.

The group has had 3 meetings with Aaron McNeil over the last few months. Maintenance of the leaky ponds has been carried out. NCC has also sent a letter to Croft Park residents advising them of their 'riparian' responsibilities. The next meeting has been arranged with Aaron, and an engineering Manager, Chris Westerby on 27 September at 1.00 pm at the village bridge.

A sediment trap has been proposed upstream of the bridge to take out the sediment which will reduce silting up under the bridge. NCC apparently has dredged gravel under the bridge. DC had also suggested using the redundant reservoir at Hazeldean and Aaron McNeil has written to the land owner regarding this.

NCC stated they are prepared to do flood risk inspections on a biennial basis, and we should look at putting a Community Flood Plan together. Volunteers would be needed to act as flood wardens.

Our MP, Ian Lavery had visited, following a letter to him from Otto Meth-Cohn. IL stated that he had raised the question of Hepscott flooding with Steve Mason, Chief Executive of NCC. A rough figure was given to him of possible costs of removing the parapet and he said he'd speak with Steve Mason again as they were due to meet quite soon.

The next meeting of the sub-group is on 19 October 2016.

12. Correspondence:

Nothing to report.

13. Meetings and training attended:

Nothing to report.

14. Any other business:

- *Speeding in the village:* FD had asked GS to have plans produced regarding the limitation of speed through the village. The plans were looked at and it was decided that more time was required for discussion. It was agreed to hold a special meeting to look at the plans in more detail on 29 September (subsequently rearranged to 3 October).

GS agreed to enquire about repair of the speed sign outside the Parish Hall.

FD produced a draft article from the Speed Watch Team for the Hepscott Herald regarding speeding in the village. Amendments were suggested.

FD

- *Fly tipping:* Several instances of fly tipping have been noted, especially at the top of Redhouse Farm Lane. Members were asked to notify SJ of any instances; she will notify NCC and keep details of dates of occurrences.

SJ

15. Date and Time of next Meeting:

The next meeting of HPC will be held on Thursday 17 November at 6.30 pm.

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

Signed as a true copy: