

HEPSCOTT PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 20 September 2018

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

Apologies: Malcolm Paton, Fred Dye, David Cowans (Vice Chair)

Declarations of interest: None

Action

2. Report from Neighbourhood Policing Team

PC Andrea Teasdale was welcomed back as our police representative. She reminded us that as we have no Neighbourhood Watch in place we need to be vigilant and make sure that all doors, outbuildings, etc are locked and secure. She mentioned that door-to-door sellers have been back in the vicinity. A complaint has been made about speeding motorbikes on the A192; it is hoped again that the camera speed van will be made available on that road. Andrea stated that our Councillor, Fred Dye is still doing a very good job on Community Speed Watch.

3. Minutes of the meeting held on 19 July 2018 and matters arising

The minutes were agreed as a true record.

Matters arising:

- CR stated that the new play area at Druridge Bay Country Park was excellent.
- Road Surface Dressing had taken place and our thanks go to NCC and GS for their work on this.
- The statue of Emily Davison had been situated in Carlisle Park.

4. Update from County Councillors:

GS stated that budget setting had been taking place at NCC; £38M savings have to be found in the next 3 years. New initiatives aimed at generating money are being considered.

Verge cutting and weed spraying had been completed in-house and had worked well. NCC operatives had been extremely busy over the last 24 hours due to the strong winds that had caused problems throughout the county.

Pot hole repairs are ongoing and operatives are now digging out patches of road instead of single holes. It is hoped that this will be better than having to repair pot holes repeatedly.

60 miles of surface dressing had been completed by the in-house team. PA stated that road surface dressing must be a nightmare on C roads; the road from Shadfen to Bothal is really bad at present, along with potholes on Bothal Bridge. GS urged everyone to report potholes as soon as spotted.

Salt has now been ordered for the winter months.

Barratt Homes had stated that the bus shelter at South Fields was not their responsibility, but GS had contacted them and they had agreed to replace it.

Money is still being invested in Country Parks at Druridge, Bolam and Plessey Woods. A new car park and play area are planned for Plessey Woods and a forest school is being discussed.

GS stated that erection of crash barriers at the bank down to Bothal from Shadfen will not be possible, but signs will be erected as a warning.

5. Planning Applications/NCC Draft Local Plan:

Current Planning Application update:

See document sent out with Agenda. There was one recent change:

- 14 Thornlea, Hepscott - Convert existing detached garage to a Granny Annex
Ref: 18/02751/FUL - permission granted

NCC Draft Local Plan:

PA has responded to NCC regarding the Draft Local Plan. He stated that this mainly concerned our objection regarding the Triangle. PA has sent a copy of his response to all Councillors.

6. Local Transport Plan:

A letter had been received from NCC regarding our items for inclusion in the next year's Local Transport Plan. It was agreed that we respond as follows:

1. Bridge on C132 (village bridge) (C132/Crofts Park junction):

The Bridge parapet requires replacing as it is in a very poor condition; the bricks concrete base are spalling and it is a safety hazard to pedestrians and motorists, which is a great concern to the Parish Council.

2. Exit of Public Footpath from Coalville Terrace to Hepscoth Village

The public footpath from Coalville Terrace to Hepscoth Village joins the C132 on the apex of a blind bend. We request that an extra length of footpath is put in from the apex to the bridge (approximately 10m).

3. Footpath on the C132 between Burnbrae and Briarlea:

The footpath requires work to be done in two places:

- A new footpath needs to be created on the east side of the C132 between "Four Winds" and end of "Marburg", drive to prevent pedestrians and pushchairs having to cross the road unnecessarily.
- The pavement requires levelling outside "The Willows" where an old driveway entrance causes an uneven pavement and a trip hazard.

SJ will write to NCC with our requests.

SJ

7. Standing Orders:

It was agreed that this item should be brought to the next meeting on 15 November for discussion. PA asked if everyone could read through HPC's Standing Orders which he had forwarded by email some weeks ago.

All

8. Flood Alleviation Sub Group

Carolyn Reid reported on the work of the Flood Group over the last couple of months. CR/MP/AY had met on 15 August. MP had been unimpressed by the FOI information from the Environmental Agency, and had felt it was more like a works statement. AY had agreed to contact Northern Rail regarding their views on diverting water from Red House Burn.

AY has also agreed to request a current report from Elaine Smith (EA). NCC was to have published their position statement by the end of August, but this had not happened at the time of the meeting. Aaron McNeil from NCC has stated that the sediment under the bridge did not contribute to the flooding issues.

The Community Flood Plan will be discussed when the next Flood Wardens' meeting is held on 9 October.

9. Financial Matters:

- **Statement of Finances:** Monthly financial statements had been circulated to Councillors with the agenda and were approved. There were 10 items above £100 and these were all approved.

The balance of accounts showed a positive sum, but it was noted that the Parish Council wished to look at possible contingencies for large projects, such as professional help regarding major issues in the parish, (eg flooding and the boundary changes recently proposed by Morpeth Town Council).

- **Parish Clerk's Salary:** SJ left the room whilst discussion took place regarding the Parish Clerk's salary increase. It was agreed that PA should write to SJ confirming the discussion/increase in salary. The Parish Council expressed their warm thanks and appreciation for the hard work of the Clerk

PA

10. Website:

The Parish Council expressed their great thanks to Ken Reed for all his hard work and leadership on the website.

11. Speeding and Parking Issues:

- Speed sign for A196 – This project is to be funded by County Councillors Glen Sanderson's and John Beynon's small projects funds and the Parish Council's appreciation for this was recorded.
- Barmoor Bank – It had been reported that traffic is exiting Morpeth on this road at speeds in excess of the 40 mph restriction. A resident of Barmoor had requested police speed cameras be sited and this was being investigated.
- FD had completed 3 speed watch deployments in the last month. PA asked for thanks to FD to be noted in the minutes.
- FD had reported parking is still a problem at the junction of Field House Close and Field House Lane. FD had submitted a short report regarding this as follows:

FD has had conversations with five households on Field House Close, listened to their concerns and what they have experienced. The problem is two-fold:

- 1. Obstruction of line of sight when turning right from FHC onto FHL*
- 2. Obstruction of access to drives from vehicles parked on FHC*

Two residents were recently involved in what could have been a three vehicle collision.

We need to give this some thought and maybe place an article in the Hepscoth Herald explaining the concerns of all concerned and calling for some common sense and understanding.

FD will continue to monitor this problem.

FD

12. Parish Hall

Nothing to report.

13. Correspondence

PA had received a letter of resignation from Councillor Ken Reed, who has unfortunately had to stand down from the Parish Council due to work commitments. PA gave thanks to Ken for his hard work over the last 5/6 years. He has been a great asset, especially with the website as previously mentioned, and SJ was much appreciative of his help with that project. Due to his resignation we will place a "Notice of Vacancy" on the website and notice boards, which will remain for at least 14 days. After 14 days NCC will inform us if there are any requests from residents for an election. If an election is not requested then we will co-opt a replacement. This was agreed.

14. Meetings and training attended

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

15. Any other business

- PA stated that a tour of the Barratt Estate at South Fields had been proposed for 24 September.
- Disclosable Pecuniary Interest Forms: Councillors who had not yet completed and sent these to SJ were reminded to do so as soon as possible.

All

16. Date and Time of next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 15 November 2018 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: