

HEPSCOTT PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 19 September 2019

1. **Present:** Carolyn Reid (Chair), David Cowans (Vice Chair), Philip Ashmore, Anne Colver, County Councillor Glen Sanderson, Sylvia Johnson (Clerk) - In attendance: PC Andrea Teasdale

Apologies: Malcolm Paton, Fred Dye, John Sadler

Declarations of interest: None

2. **Report from Neighbourhood Policing Team:**

Action

AT reported that the main issue over the summer months had been the anti-social behaviour of youths at the new playpark on South Fields. She stated that the issue had been driven forward to Northumbria Police by South Fields' resident, Rachael Hogg and the current Mayor of Morpeth, Alison Byard. AT was asked to ensure that Northumbria Police were made aware that Councillor Rachael Hogg as a member of Morpeth Town Council was purely a concerned resident of South Fields and is not a Hepscoth Parish Councillor.

Door to door sellers have been in the vicinity again, best advice is not to answer the door to them or if worried to phone the police. If the sellers claim to be collecting for charity then they must be able to produce a licence. There had also been a suspicious car in Field House Lane recently and speeding in that area had also been a problem.

AT agreed that her mobile number could be published on a poster outside the Parish Hall.

3. **Minutes of the meetings held on 25 July 2019 and matters arising:**

DC stated that he had received written quotes for work on the drain, not verbal as was recorded in the minutes.

Minutes from the last meeting were then agreed and signed as a true record.

4. **Update from County Councillors:**

GS reported that work was to start on the car park at Morpeth Railway Station, and NCC is also hoping to obtain land on the opposite side from Northern Rail for further parking. Once the old school buildings at Goosehill are demolished that will also be turned into car parking. GS stated that there are still no charges for parking in town centres in Northumberland, but that parking is charged for at tourist spots in the county. He agreed that this was at cross purposes with the issue of climate change, but hopes that a possible bus strategy and the Alnmouth railway for visiting Alnwick may help with this. He stated that NCC is not putting in too many electric charging points at present, until there is more need.

DC mentioned that footpath work is required between Four Winds and Briarlea and GS stated that this should again be put onto the submission for the Local Transport Plan, with as much information as possible. DC agreed to measure the area and give the details to SJ for inclusion in the submission.

Regarding the boundary issue, PA informed GS that Councillors had recently undertaken a door to door survey in South Fields, informing residents of the issue, and asking them to sign a petition if they wished to remain in Hepscott Parish. PA was very happy to report the following:

On Stobhill Manor East 113 properties were visited. Out of those, councillors spoke with residents at 91 properties of which 87 properties signed the petition to stay in Hepscott Parish (95.6%)

On South Fields 170 properties were visited (some are still to be occupied). Of those occupied councillors have spoken with residents of 85 properties (younger demography meant less people were in when councillors called). 80% of those spoken to signed the petition to stay in Hepscott Parish.

19 Properties remain to be visited. All others have been visited at least once and if the occupants were not at home then at least twice and on one occasion three times.

Following the petition, 96% of Stobhill Manor properties and 80% of South Fields properties wish to stay in Hepscott Parish and are opposed to the changing of the Parish Boundaries.

PA said that he believes NCC Full Council will take the final decision. He asked if it was good practice for the 2 main instigators of the boundary review to vote on its outcome?

It was agreed that we need to mount a publicity campaign, eg Facebook/Morpeth Herald and it is important that we do this as soon as possible.

GS spoke of the issue with South Fields playpark and the recent anti-social behaviour. He recommended that we publish something on South Fields Facebook page. He stated that he was working with RT on this matter as was HP Councillor, JS. AT stated that police boundaries mean she does not cover South Fields, but was aware that RH and AB had contacted the police on several occasions and had been quite demanding. AT stated that RH is planning a multi-agency meeting. PA asked AT to involve GS and CR. CCTV was discussed but it was thought that this would need to be installed by Barratt Homes. However, it appears that the problem is being caused by only about 5 youths. The last resort would be to remove the playpark, however since the beginning of September there had only been 3 issues, and it was hoped that once the schools commenced this might stop.

GS stated that the Inspector had been appointed to look at the Local Plan and dates had been agreed. Information will be on NCC's website.

5. Parish Boundary Changes:

As mentioned above visits had taken place by councillors to homes in South Fields and Stobhill Manor East. 19 properties are left to visit; all others had been visited once and sometimes twice. South Fields residents overwhelmingly want to stay in Hepscott Parish. It was agreed that PA/CR/SJ will meet to organise publicity.

Councillors had met with Democratic Services staff, Liam Henry and Lesley Bennett who took them through procedures involved, our thanks to GS for helping with this. The length of the consultation should be 4 weeks, but Stephen Ricketts of NALC had stated that this should be 3 months, with a compromise of 6 weeks. His view was that it would be around mid-October to the end of November and it would probably include 2 November, the date of Mitford Parish Council's meeting and 21 November, the date of the next meeting of Hepscott Parish Council. It was stated that MTC may put in evidence that HPC want to counter argue. All councillors agreed that it was totally unacceptable that 2 prime members of MTC's proposal may be included on the panel to decide the outcome of this issue. Stephen Rickett has written to NCC Democratic Services on various points and is awaiting their reply. It was pointed out that Democratic Services will not visit properties in South Fields and Stobhill Manor during the consultation; they only ensure that replies are in writing.

6. Planning Applications/NCC Draft Local Plan: (A detailed schedule of all recent planning applications is attached to these minutes as Addendum 1)

6.1 Burnside: Problems had been expressed by Highways, who have requested a block plan; they have objected to the application as have the Flood Authority.

6.2 Westfield: PA had discussed with Case Officer, Richard Laughton who advised that the application was not being taken any further. NCC will be writing to HPC and it is expected that the application will be refused.

6.3 Greenfield House: PA stated that following a request from a resident, JS, he had visited the site to find there had been a landslip and the water had swirled around the wear and raised the level of the burn, which had washed downstream and built up an island. The Environment Agency had stated that this was the responsibility of JS. JS had again contacted the EA and MP also wrote to them stating that if work had to be done on the bank the EA would need to supervise this and that the washout could have been contributed to by work on Greenfield House site.

6.4 Four Winds: Chris Stocks, the applicant. attended the beginning of the meeting to inform councillors of his plans. He reported that he had spoken to several neighbours. One neighbour had asked if the height could be lowered, another had an issue with the terrace and that has since been removed. PA asked for the height of the existing property but CS could not give an accurate height, only that it was around 7 metres. A letter to NCC planning department will be compiled and sent by HPC as soon as possible.

6.5 Land west of Field House: HPC response is due at NCC by 1 October. DC/CR/PA are to visit the site then respond. DC stated that the Historians Group are to visit mid-afternoon on Sunday.

7. Flood Sub Group:

Minutes of the last Flood Group meeting are attached to these minutes as Addendum 2

8. Financial Matters:

Monthly financial statements had been circulated to Councillors with the agenda and were approved. All items over £100.00 were approved.

Task and Finish Group: The group is going through finances for the last 6 years. They will meet again on 2 October and hope to report their findings to the council members at the January meeting

9. South Fields/Stobhill Manor update:

This item was covered above in item 4 - County Councillor Update and item 5 - Parish Boundary changes.

10. Speeding and Parking issues:

FD was unable to attend but submitted a report as follows:

Speed Survey

NCC carried out a 'Traffic Speed Survey', for seven days commencing Fri 16th Aug. This was a 24hr recording. In order to compare our CSW data from the same location the period 17:00 – 18:00hrs was analysed. The NCC data confirmed what we had seen during June:

CSW data June 2019

Vehicles checked: 249, No. of speeders: 76 (30.5%). Average speed of speeders: 29.5mph

NCC data August 2019

Vehicles recorded: 633, No. of speeders: 176 (21.3%). Average speed of speeders: 29.4mph

The NCC data shows significantly fewer vehicles 'speeding' as convoys are recorded, against our criteria were convoys are not recorded. The 'average speed of speeders' to all purposes are identical.

Parking

This continues to be a very emotive issue with residents. Last Friday I saw a Police Van turning from FHC into FHL at about 18:00hs, however it appears this was not a parking issue

CSW Event at Bedlington 5th Sept 2019

This was held at Bedlington Police station and well attended by CSW volunteers across the county. The session was led by Emma Little and four Police Officers including PC Peter Burke who is in charge of the Police Camera vans. The important points are:

Community Speed Watch warning signs were handed out (2 per location), I am awaiting permission from NCC to place one at either end of the village – GS is chasing this up for me.

The wearing of a 'bodycam' was given the 'thumbs up' and others are likely to follow suit.

The CSW volunteers unanimously would like, say, every three months to be accompanied on deployment by their neighbourhood Police Officer. It was felt by all that we – as a group – are losing credibility and the attendance of a Police Officer who could stop speeders for ‘a quiet word’ – would enhance the work we do – I think that would be Andrea, who has accompanied us on one occasion previously – our first deployment, I will be in touch!!

I discussed with PC Peter Burke the siting of a Police Camera van in Hepscott; this has already been looked at and is not possible for two reasons:

- No safe standing for the van
- Due to limited resources 20mph areas are not policed.

11. Hepscott Parish Hall:

AC had missed the last meeting but stated, as everyone had noticed, that a new carpet had been fitted in the Parish Hall.

12. Correspondence/Meetings and training attended:

Correspondence:

- 12.1 Email from NCC inviting councillors to visit the local recycling plant – CR/AC to attend.
- 12.2 Letter from NCC re Local Transport Programme – our three top priorities for this are: (1) Footpath on the C132, (2) Entrance to Crofts Park, NE61 6LJ, (3) Exit of public footpath from Barmoor to Hepscott, on the bend of the C132. CR/SJ will draft response letter and forward to NCC.

Meetings attended:

DC had attended:
Heritage Network meeting
Anniversary of Carlisle Park

MP had attended:
Task and Finish Finance meeting
Land Grab meeting
Meeting with CR to walk through the Village re blocked footpaths
Canvassing re Land Grab
Flood Group meeting
Meeting re Weir Problem

CR had attended NALC workshop for new Chairs of Parish Councils

13. Any other business

- 13.1 Standing Orders: To discuss at a later date.
- 13.2 Website: No further action – SJ to pay the invoice for forthcoming year.
- 13.3 Hedges in village: MP/CR had recently walked through the village to inspect unkempt hedges, etc. CR was worried about No 3 Field House Close. We need to ascertain who owns this as it is not occupied at present.

- 13.4 Parish Hall Car Park Drain: This has now been completed and at a cheaper price than was quoted. Thanks to DC who arranged for this work to be done.
- 13.5 Fly tipping: SJ had received an email from a resident regarding fly tipping of garden waste on land at South Lodge Wood, which is owned by HPC. It was agreed that this issue should be brought to residents' attention in the Hepscoth Herald.
- 13.6 Photographic ID: It was agreed that as councillors had recently been conducting door to door surveys, all members should be issued with photographic ID. SJ has looked into this and approached Staits Photographers in Morpeth who have agreed to undertake this work. All members should visit Staits to have their photograph taken, inform Ken Stait that they are HPC members and an invoice will be sent out once all have been completed.

14. Date and Time of next Meeting

The next meeting of HPC will be held on Thursday 21 November 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:

ADDENDUM 1

Details of recent planning applications discussed at the meeting of Hepscott Parish Council on Thursday 19 September 2019

- **Burnside, Hepscott - Ref: 18/01421/REM**
Approval of reserved matters for appearance, landscaping, layout and scale relating to planning permission 16/01944/OUT – **Application Registered**
- **Barratt Homes, South Fields, Morpeth - Ref: 18/04368/VARYCO**
Variation of condition 2 to replace house types and relocate 2 visitor parking spaces – **Application Registered**
- **Westfield, Hepscott - Ref: 18/04418/FUL**
Proposed new single-storey dwelling adjacent to Westfield, Hepscott – amended/additional information received at NCC – **Awaiting decision**
- **Adjacent to Westfield, Hepscott - Ref: 18/04418/FUL**
Proposed new single-storey dwelling adjacent to Westfield, Hepscott (amended plans 11.7.19) – **Awaiting decision**
- **Greenfield House, Hepscott - Ref: 19/02197/OUT**
Demolition of 1 dwelling and replacement with 3 dwellings including access – **Application Registered**
- **21 Field House Close Hepscott - Ref: 19/02112/FUL**
Extension of kitchen and garage -**Application Permitted**
- **Land west of Healeywood, Hepscott – Ref: 19/02142/FUL**
Proposed demolition of existing open sided steelwork trussed portal frame building with lean to; erect a new steel portal framed secure machinery storage building – **Awaiting decision**
- **Four Winds, Hepscott – Ref: 19/03670/FUL**
Demolition of existing bungalow to create 2 private dwellings, retaining existing access and internal driveway together with retention of all trees and hedges to external boundaries – **Application Registered**

ADDENDUM 2
HEPSCOTT PARISH COUNCIL
FLOOD SUB GROUP REPORT

19th September 2019

1. Meetings:

- a. The Last Flood Group meeting was held on the 4th September.
- b. The next Flood Group meeting is scheduled for the 2nd October at County Hall.

2. At the meeting with Aaron McNeil on the 4th September, the following issues were discussed:

- a. Coloured dye to trace the route of the Redhouse burn - Network Rail would not give permission for this to be carried out.
 - i. It is agreed the HPC will carry this out during our floods asset inspection in November.*
- b. Topographical Surveys are complete.
- c. A small scale drainage layout plan has been provided by Network Rail for the railway tracks at Redhouse. Better information is being requested.
- d. Computer modelling has started and will be complete by the end of September.
- e. Flood mapping will be prepared covering the parish.
- f. The Culverts running through the Orchard and Crofts Park have been plotted onto a plan pinpointing their location.
 - i. Because of the obstructions by tree roots various options are being investigated by NCC to improve the flow.*
 - ii. NCC did not comment on who will ultimately have to pay for any work.*
- g. NCC Position Statement
 - i. The latest statement was issued on the 25th August 2019

3. Joint Flood Study -

- a. Meeting arranged with Joint Flood Study Group organised for the 2nd October to discuss their findings.
- b. If the study identifies a need for flood management works it would be scheduled for 2022 / 23.

4. Gully Cleansing

- a. Recent issues with blocked road gullies along the C132 were dealt with prior to the last heavy rain on the 10th August following discussion between MP and Martin King of NCC.

5. Hepscott Flood Plan

- a. The Plan is up-to-date.
- b. The next meeting of flood wardens is the 22nd October in the Village Hall, Andrew Youngs is organising (Lead Flood Warden)

6. Barratts Stobhill - this will be added to our annual inspection list, permission to be requested from Barratt.

7. Flood Defence Inspection is 13th November.

8. A section of the embankment upriver of the weir was washed out during the last heavy rain in early August; work is now underway to rectify the situation.