

HEIGHINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

c/o 7 The Garth, School Aycliffe, Newton Aycliffe, Co Durham. DL5 6QL

MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 16th APRIL 2015 AT 7.00 PM

PRESENT: Cllr B Anderson (Chairman)
Cllr C Teare
Cllr E Thompson
Cllr K Wilkinson
Cllr M Woodward
Cllr M French
Cllr C Lawrence
Cllr G Blenkinsopp

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APOLOGIES: Cllr G Lee

046.2015 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies had been received from Cllr Lee.

047.2015 RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

None.

048.2015 APPROVE MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING ON 19 MARCH 2015

The minutes of the meeting held on 19th March 2015 were approved as an accurate record of the meeting and signed by the Chairman accordingly.

049.2015 MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

A representative of Barrier Energy had visited the sportsfield to inspect the solar panels. They had found that everything was operating correctly. They were to feed back the Parish Council's request for a monitoring device to be fitted. The Clerk was to chase this up. **ACTION: PARISH CLERK**

The next feed in tariff reading was to be taken on 30 April and it was hoped that the improved weather would result in a much higher payment.

050.2015 HEALTH AND SAFETY

Cllr Anderson had completed the latest Parish Inspections on 31 March and no problems were identified. As part of the risk assessment process, the inspection forms had been reviewed and updated by Cllr Anderson and the Clerk. They now included the new picnic tables on the skate park and the solar panels.

051.2015 SPORTSFIELD

Cllr Anderson reported that DBC had done such a good job of cutting the sportsfield that a letter of thanks had been sent to them. About 85% of the field had been cut, including the area between the MUGA and the hedge and the area around the skatepark. It was Cllr Anderson's intention to work on the area behind the changing rooms soon, so that it would also be suitable for cutting.

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Cllr Anderson had made 4 picnic tables for the skatepark. There had been a huge amount of positive feedback about them and they significantly improved the area. The cost was £185 for all of the materials and was to be paid from the skatepark fund. The Clerk was to raise an invoice for Cllr Lawrence.

ACTION: PARISH CLERK

The replacement swing had been installed by Cllr Anderson. A problem with the connecting chain had been resolved with some help from the supplier, who sent some smaller u-bolts.

Rhino Ramps had arranged for the final inspection of the skate park to be undertaken. It was understood that four points for rectification had been identified during the inspection and that Rhino Ramps had sent one of their representatives to carry out this work. A final certificate had now been issued, making the project complete. Cllr Lawrence was congratulated for bringing this important project to fruition.

052.2015 FUNDING AND FUNDRAISING

Cllr Anderson estimated that the car park extension grant would be submitted by the end of May.

053.2015 REDWORTH

Cllr Wilkinson advised that he was still having problems with the notice boards. Cllr Teare was making a replacement.

ACTION: CLLR

TEARE

The resident of No 16 High Road had cut the bushes that had been impeding parking and had done an excellent job. It was hoped that they would continue to do this. The Clerk was to send a letter of thanks.

ACTION: PARISH CLERK

Cllr Wilkinson was keen to find out more about the current arrangements for a bus service for elderly residents. Cllr Lee was dealing with this and Cllr Wilkinson was to discuss this with him.

ACTION: CLLR

WILKINSON

054.2015 THE CHESTNUTS

Nothing to report.

055.2015 PLANNING

Lightsource, the developer of the proposed solar farm at School Aycliffe, had provided a formal offer of a community benefit package in a letter dated 16 April 2015. The Clerk tabled the letter at the meeting. The offer was for an annual payment of approximately £1375 for 20 years (the figure was dependent upon the final megawatt capacity of the development) to be applied towards a project or projects for the local community at the discretion of the Parish Council. The offer was subject to the developer securing planning for the project and was not dependent on the council's planning decision relating to the development – though it was noted that the council had already approved the application. The details of the accompanying information sheet were raised and discussed. Following a debate IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY AGREED THAT the conditional offer be accepted.

ACTION: PARISH CLERK

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056.2015 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING UPDATE

Nothing to report

057.2015 FINANCE

The Clerk circulated the year end accounts. The current position showed a year end balance of £1,600. The transactions were reviewed and noted and the document was APPROVED for audit.

The internal auditor was no longer doing audit work so a replacement needed to be found. The Clerk was making enquiries and was also to contact a local accountant. **ACTION: PARISH CLERK**

The external audit documents had arrived and had been reviewed. The timescale was:

- Display notice of accounts: 27 April
- Make records publically available: 11 May – 8 June
- Send completed annual return to external auditor – 9 June.

Given that a new internal auditor needed to be appointed, the Clerk had obtained an extension to the final submission date until 22 June.

The budgeted salary increases for the Clerk and the Environmental Warden of 3.5% were tabled and APPROVED. A change to the standing order mandate was signed by Cllr Anderson and Cllr French for submission to the bank. **ACTION: PARISH CLERK**

058.2015 ELECTIONS UPDATE

A Parish election was to be held on 7 May. Cllr Anderson was to attend the count and the Clerk was to arrange this. **ACTION: PARISH CLERK**

059.2015 REPORTS/CORRESPONDENCE

The Clerk had written to Heighington Village Hall Association regarding attendance at future meetings. This was to be placed on the agenda so that a councillor could be nominated where possible to attend the next VHA meeting.

ACTION: PARISH CLERK

The Clerk had received a reminder from the Friends of Stockton & Darlington Railway regarding their conference on 17 June. It was a full day event to be held at Shildon Railway Museum to discuss preserving and promoting the line. A dinner was also to be held at Redworth Hall that evening.

IT WAS AGREED that Cllr French and Cllr Thompson would attend to represent the Parish Council. The Clerk was to provide them with all of the details. **ACTION: PARISH CLERK**

Correspondence had been received from a resident in Church View who was experiencing escalating problems with access to their property due to another resident blocking the access point with their vehicle. It was noted that Durham CC and Darlington Borough Council had been contacted by the resident affected and the Parish Council was to be kept informed.

There had been correspondence with Cllr Lee during the month regarding the defibrillator that had been offered recently and where it was to be sited – on the sportsfield or in the village itself. It was clarified by Cllr Anderson that the offer had been made via a charity to the football teams and the

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Parish Council was involved due to the proposal to site the defibrillator on the changing rooms. It was however agreed that the possibility of having a defibrillator for the Parish should be investigated

further. Cllr Woodward explained that there were extremely important health and safety/ training / liability considerations that were not to be overlooked. It WAS AGREED THAT the footballers were to progress with their own defibrillator and Cllr Woodward/the Clerk were to obtain some further information to be considered at a future meeting.

ACTION: CLLR WOODWARD /PARISH CLERK

060.2015 OTHER MATTERS

A number of councillors had attended a very successful event held by Cllr Lee at Redworth Hall earlier in the day in honour of local service men. The Clerk was authorised to make a payment to Cllr Lee for the 3 servicemen who had attended from the parish.

CLERK

ACTION: PARISH

It was noted that Cllr Anderson had started work on the memorial garden which was much improved already. He was authorised to purchase some plants and stones from the funds that had been allocated to this project in the budget.

Cllr Teare sent the details of some flytipping on the road to Jubilee Trout Farm to the Clerk for reporting.

ACTION: PARISH CLERK

It was noted that Cllr Lawrence was not standing for re-election. The Parish Councillors thanked her for her contribution to the Parish during her term as Councillor and in particular her hard work in bringing the skatepark project to a successful conclusion.

It was agreed that the Annual Parish Meeting and Annual Parish Council meeting were to be brought forward to TUESDAY 12 MAY AT 7PM at Heighington Village Hall following the election on 7 May.

ACTION: ALL

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.12 pm.