

HEIGHINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

c/o 17 East Green, Heighington, Co Durham. DL5 6PP

MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 20 APRIL 2017 AT 7.00 PM

PRESENT: Cllr B Anderson (Chairman)
Cllr C Teare
Cllr E Thompson (joined the meeting at 7.50pm)
Cllr G Blenkinsopp
Cllr M Woodward
Cllr L Garner
Cllr M French
Cllr L Bedocs

L Dunn

Prior to the meeting Mr John Anderson and Mr David Coates from Darlington Borough Council gave a presentation on the Darlington Local Plan 2016-2036 and its impact on Heighington Parish.

APOLOGIES: Cllr G Lee

040:2017 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Lee had given apologies.

041.2017 RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN AGENDA ITEMS

None

The meeting was adjourned at 8pm in order for Mr Routledge to present his plans for his potential planning application for houses to be built on land behind East Green. He informed the meeting that he had been advised that the access over the Village Green was not wide enough for anything more than two properties and wanted Councillors views on whether it was possible to widen the access road. He was informed that the Parish Council is custodian of the Village Green and not in a position to allow a reduction. Cllr Woodward also advised that there would need to be sufficient access to any new properties for emergency vehicles to be able to turn. He was advised to investigate his plans further and get appropriate advice.

042:2017 APPROVE MINUTES OF MEETING ON 16 FEBRUARY 2017

The minutes of the meeting on 16 March 2017 were approved and signed by the Chairman accordingly.

043:2017 MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

Mr Elliott passed on his thanks for his recent pay rise.

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Notification has been received from DBC on the payment of the 2017-18 precept.

Cllr Anderson and the Parish Clerk met with representatives from Heighington AFC on 6th April where the condition of the sports field was discussed. The Parish Clerk has made contact with a local Grounds maintenance company who is going to attend a site meeting to advise on the best course of action. A cheque was also received for football fees for 16-17.

A letter has been sent to Mrs Gibson regarding her request to erect a bench in which she has been asked to liaise with Cllr Woodward. A general discussion was had on completing a survey of the village to identify plots for benches and maintaining uniformity of equipment and it was agreed that a detailed discussion was required on the subject.

ACTION: PARISH CLERK

044.2017 HEALTH AND SAFETY

Nothing to report

045.2017 SPORTSFIELD

A quote has been received for the new sea horse seesaw of £1,469 plus £455 delivery. In addition to this the cost of the replacement spring will be £248 (including delivery). The Parish Clerk has enquired whether this is the best price they can offer and is currently waiting a response.

Discussion was had on the drainage of the sports field and the situation regarding the DBC drain. When DBC installed the main drain on Redworth Road to alleviate standing surface water it didn't lead anywhere. It was therefore connected to a land drain by HPC which runs to the bottom of the land. There is concern that this water, which may contain salt, is now draining onto the fields of the adjacent farm. It was agreed that a meeting with DBC is required to discuss.

ACTION: PARISH CLERK

Cllr Anderson informed the meeting that he had met with Mr Pearson who was starting the drawings for the extension of the car park and changing rooms. He had quoted a price of £300 for his work.

046:2017 FUNDING AND FUNDRAISING

Ongoing – nothing to report.

047:2017 REDWORTH

The speed signs have now been installed and an invoice to the value of £2,400 has been received.

Cllr Teare commented on the height of the new fence at the boundary of the newly built house in Redworth which is sitting on top of the wall and it was agreed that Cllr Anderson would contact Mr David Coates at DBC to enquire about whether it fits with the planning application submitted and approved.

ACTION: CLLR ANDERSON

048:2017 THE CHESTNUTS

There are issues with a lack of dog waste bins in the Chestnuts and it was agreed to write to DBC requesting that more be installed.

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ACTION: PARISH CLERK

049:2017 PLANNING

Application Ref **17/00283/FUL** related to the proposed residential development of 101 dwellings with associated parking, access and landscaping at the field adjacent to the Chestnuts development. Cllr Garner proposed to OBJECT to the application and this was unanimously agreed (Cllr Thompson abstained) due to school capacity concerns and a lack of sufficient infrastructure.

Application ref **17/00146/FUL** was tabled. It related to the erection of a balcony and staircase to the rear elevation of 12A South View. The Clerk was instructed to give a no comment response as inadequate information was available to assess the proposal.

ACTION: PARISH CLERK

Comments were made on the lack of provision of information on planning applications and Cllr Anderson agreed to contact Mr John Anderson at DBC regarding this.

ACTION: CLLR ANDERSON

050:2017 FINANCE

The Parish Clerk informed the meeting that there were three cheques which required signatures, one for the Bedworth speed signs, one for expenses for the previous Parish Clerk and the final one for room hire in the village hall.

The bank mandate was discussed and a new form completed in order for the new Parish Clerk to be added as a signatory. Once completed this will need to be forwarded to the Bank.

The bank reconciliation as at 31st March 2017 had been prepared and now balanced. Latest indications of year end position was that a surplus of £955.88 had been made in the year with a year end bank balance of just under £9,000. From this however the payment for the speed signs need to be deducted (£2,400) but there will also be a VAT claim made at the end of April which is expected to be in the region of £984.

The Clerk had also prepared two letters for the bank which required signature. These were to amend existing standing orders for salary payments following changes in personnel and the increase in salaries from 1st April.

ACTION: PARISH CLERK

051:2017 REPORTS/CORRESPONDENCE

None

052.2017 OTHER MATTERS

Cllr Thompson is concerned about cars parking on the Village Green, particularly on the small area of grass opposite the entrance to the Church. Cllr Teare informed the meeting that he had previously spoken to the residents concerned and they had shown him a copy of a letter which gave them permission for right of way. Discussion was had on the detrimental impact to the grass inconsiderate parking was having and it was agreed that the Parish Clerk would contact the residents and request a copy of any permissions they have.

ACTION: PARISH CLERK

Cllr Bedocs informed the meeting that as part of Heighington Fair there was to be an Open Gardens. No-one from the Chestnuts or Bedworth have volunteered to take part so the event is to be named Heighington Open Gardens.

Cllr Anderson gave his apologies for the next meeting and put himself forward for re-election as Chairman.

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There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.05pm.