

HEIGHINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

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

MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 19TH OCTOBER 2017 AT 7.00PM

PRESENT. Cllr C Teare (Chairman)

Cllr E Thompson

Cllr L Bedocs

Cllr L Garner

Cllr G Blenkinsopp

Cllr M French

L Dunn

115.2017 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr B Anderson (on holiday), Cllr G Lee, Cllr M Woodward

116.2017 RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN AGENDA ITEMS

None

117.2017 APPROVE MINUTES OF MEETING ON 21ST SEPTEMBER 2017

The minutes of the meeting on 21st September 2017 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

118.2017 MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

The response to planning application 17/00535/LBC was sent to DBC on 29th September.

Letters to residents identified as parking on the Village Green were sent on 30th September.

The insurance company were contacted regarding what evidence they required, if any, of training of those personnel authorised to use the sit on mower. They have confirmed that as long as a list of those trained is maintained they are satisfied. The Clerk asked if there was a list and it was determined that Cllr Anderson would know and that he would be asked on his return from holiday. Cllr Teare suggested that a list could be kept in the front of the safety check book which is kept in the Changing Rooms.

ACTION: Parish Clerk

The response regarding a possible agreement between HPC and DBC on the use of the car park was sent on 29th September.

Fiona McCall at DBC was contacted on 29th September requesting that the Clerk be included on her distribution list for planning consultation meetings. This has been confirmed.

The guides referred to by Cllr Bedocs at the last meeting following his Councillor training were circulated by email and a request made to Cllr Bedocs to print out some hard copies, which he had done and were distributed at the meeting.

119.2017 HEALTH AND SAFETY

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Cllr Anderson had carried out the H&S inspections prior to his holiday. There were no issues to report.

120.2017 SPORTSFIELD

The tap in the changing rooms had been left on one night this week which had resulted in a flood in the building.

The hose pipe at the back door had been shut off but the water was still on, meaning the pressure from the water had pushed the pipe off the connector. The football team cleared up the water as best they could and they have put a new procedure in place in that everyone has been informed that from now on the pipe must be disconnected from the tap once they have finished with it to ensure the issue does not happen again.

121.2017 FUNDING AND FUNDRAISING

None

122.2017 REDWORTH

None

123.2017 THE CHESTNUTS

None

124.2017 PLANNING

Application notification received regarding erection of an attached double garage at 9 Pinewood Crescent (Ref: 17/00891/FUL).

Retrospective application regarding erection of a single storey side extension at 68 Westwood Avenue (Ref: 17/000934/FUL)

Application notification received regarding extension of an existing garage at 8 St Michael's Crescent (Ref: 17/00959/FUL).

Application notification received regarding erection of a detached single storey building to form sales office including 4 No. car parking spaces at School Aycliffe Lane (Ref: 17/00954/FUL).

The Clerk was instructed to give a no comment response as inadequate information was available to assess the proposals.

ACTION: Parish Clerk

Cllr Bedocs informed the meeting that he had attended the Skerningham Garden Village consultation event in Darlington. The proposal for the development is that it will be a self-contained village with 4,500 dwellings. Depending on what route the new A66 link road takes would mean that the road would either go straight through or e on the outskirts of the new development. DBC have now deferred the consultation on the Development Plan until November.

125.2017 FINANCE

Conclusion of 2016/17 audit

The audit was now complete and approved. The Clerk read out the conclusions to the meeting. The report by BDO was available for each Councilors review outside of the meeting. The annual return and certificate

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were proposed to be accepted by Cllr Bedocs, seconded by Cllr French and was UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED and ACCEPTED.

126.2017 REPORTS/CORRESPONDENCE

Clerks Report

The bank reconciliation for September was circulated and balanced.

The claim to DBC for their contribution towards the Environmental Wardens salary has been submitted.

The website is taking shape and the Clerk informed the meeting that its designer, LJ Digital Media would like to come to the next meeting to show what had been produced. This was agreed and general discussion was had on other items which could be included on the website. These things included:

- Reference to / photographs of The Chestnuts
- Adverts?
- Other local groups and users of the village facilities such as Pre School, Scouts etc.

The laptop and scanner purchased for the Transparency Code have been added to the Asset Register and included on the insurance policy (at no extra cost).

127.2017 OTHER MATTERS

Data Protection changes and training

The Clerk informed the meeting about the introduction of the General Data Protection Regulations from 25 May 2018 which will have an impact on every parish council and parish meeting.

The purpose of the GDPR is to increase (i) the obligations on organisations when acting as data controllers and (ii) the rights of individuals to ensure that their personal data is respected and only used for legitimate purposes. It also imposes new obligations on data processors.

The County Training Partnership has organised a training session for clerks and any interested councillors on the 1 November 2017 at Spennymoor Town Hall and the Clerk would like to attend, along with any interested Councillor. It was agreed that the Clerk should attend and Cllr Thompson will also attend.

ACTION: Parish Clerk

Cllr Bedocs informed the meeting that he had been approached by a village resident and informed that they considered that the Parish Council should look at cars which are left in front of right of way access to houses rather than vehicles parking on the Village Green. Cllr Blenkinsopp stated that HPC were being consistent in their approach to the issue and Cllr French said the Parish Council is duty bound to protect the Greens. The Council have accepted residents have access across the Green in order to access their properties. Cllr Blenkinsopp informed the meeting that it is possible for them to set their own Bylaws and if they are broken action can be taken. It was agreed this was an option but would not be pursued at this point in time. Discussion was also had on erecting more "No parking or encroachment on the Village Greens" signs and it was suggested that one be erected on the grass opposite the Church.

Cllr Bedocs informed the meeting that a member of the Village Hall Committee has had discussion with DBC regarding the tarmacked area to the front of the village hall and is suggesting that the state of the area where it joins the main highway needs repair and asked what extent is the area HPC responsibility. It was determined that both the small car park outside the entrance to the Church and the tarmacked area at the

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front of the Village Hall was the responsibility of HPC. The footpaths were DBC responsibility. Following these comments, it was agreed that the tarmac would be inspected and if deemed in need of repair quotes would be collected and considered.

ACTION: All

Cllr Bedocs had attended a recent PACT meeting and stated that he was the only Councilor who attended. The next one is to be held at Summerhouses and Cllr Bedocs will inform everyone of the date.

Cllr French commented on the old chestnut tree stump on the green next to The George and Dragon and that it seemed to be surrounded by weeds which were not being cut by DBC when doing the rest of the grass. Cllr Garner questioned whether rather than weeds they were saplings and it was agreed that everyone would check and report back to the next meeting.

ACTION: All

Cllr Garner informed the meeting that he had received complaints regarding restricted footpath access along Station Road. It was acknowledged that the conifers in question had recently been cut back they were still exceeding the property boundary and causing some obstruction. It was therefore agreed to contact DBC and request they ask the owner to cut them back further.

ACTION: Parish Clerk

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.05pm.