

HEIGHINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

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

MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 16TH NOVEMBER 2017 AT 6.30PM

PRESENT. Cllr B Anderson (Chairman)

Cllr C Teare

Cllr E Thompson

Cllr L Bedocs

Cllr L Garner

Cllr M French

Cllr G Lee

Cllr M Woodward

L Dunn

L Johnstone

Before the meeting Mrs L Johnstone from LJ Digital Media gave a presentation on the Heighington Parish Council website which she has constructed.

128.2017 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr G Blenkinsopp

129.2017 RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN AGENDA ITEMS

None

130.2017 APPROVE MINUTES OF MEETING ON 19TH OCTOBER 2017

The minutes of the meeting on 19th October 2017 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

131.2017 MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

Cllr Anderson has a list of those people who have been trained on the mower and has put it in the front of the log book.

The response to the planning applications were sent to DBC on 24th October.

DBC were chased for a response to the Parish Councils reply regarding a possible agreement on the use of the car park and have replied as follows. "Should there be further housing development within the village which requires an extension to the school alternative provision for car parking will have to be sought. Unfortunately, otherwise there will be further congestion outside the school which we were seeking to avoid".

DBC were contacted over the restricted footpath access and they have confirmed that the matter has been inspected by their Highways Department and a letter sent to the resident asking them to cut back the trees.

Two letters have been received from residents regarding the parking on the Village Green. One was sent to all members of the Council, the other was read out by the Clerk. After discussion it was agreed that the Parish

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Council had done all it could in restricting parking on the Village Green by writing letters to those residents identified as doing so. It was agreed that a further letter would be sent to one resident in response to their letter explaining that they have no exclusive right.

ACTION: Parish Clerk

The Clerk and Cllr Thompson attended the General Data Protection Regulation training at Spennymoor Town Hall on 1st November. The new legislation is due to be implemented on 28th May 2018 and will require all Councils to have a Data Protection Officer. Unfortunately, this cannot be the Clerk as the appointed person must be completely independent. CDALC are still investigating the impact the legislation will have and are looking at the possibility of recruiting a person who can work across all County Durham Councils for a small charge.

The Clerk was contacted by the Bookings Secretary of Heighington Village Hall Association as she was informed that a member of the Ramblers had fallen when leaving the Village Hall, tripping on the worn-out tarmac. Cllr Teare has inspected the tarmac and feels that it does require some attention, however part of the damaged area is between what is the responsibility of the Parish Council and DBC. Cllr Teare proposed that he and Cllr Anderson liaise with Steve Brannan from DBC regarding the damage and this was seconded by Cllr Bedocs. It was agreed that the matter needed to be addressed urgently in consideration of the number of events scheduled to take place in the village hall before Christmas.

ACTION: Parish Clerk to arrange site meeting between DBC and Cllrs Teare & Anderson

132.2017 HEALTH AND SAFETY

None

133.2017 SPORTSFIELD

Cllr Anderson informed the meeting that moles have appeared at the bottom of the field and are encroaching onto the playing fields. A specialist pest control is attending site on Monday.

Cllr Bedocs reported that at the PACT meeting it was confirmed that the package found in the car park was nothing to do with the footballers.

134.2017 FUNDING AND FUNDRAISING

None

135.2017 REDWORTH

Cllr Lee had been contacted by a resident complaining of the damaged bench in the village. The matter is already being addressed and is due to be repaired.

136.2017 THE CHESTNUTS

None

137.2017 PLANNING

Application notification received regarding the display of 2 non-illuminated triangular panel and post display boards at Residential Development, School Aycliffe (Ref: 17/00951/ADV). There were no objections to the application.

Application notification received regarding the proposed residential development of 43 dwellings and associated access (additional and amended plans received 18 October 2017) (Ref: 16/00820/FUL). Following Cllr

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Bedocs comments via email and confirmation by the Chairman, the same response as given to the Heighington Development Workshop was submitted to DBC.

Application notification received regarding change of use of land to create extension to approved holiday caravan site including new access at the Field adjacent to the Dog Inn (Ref: 17/00999/CU). The Clerk was instructed to give the following response "Great concern regarding the access to the site at a dangerous junction on the A68/Walworth Road"

ACTION: Parish Clerk

Cllr Bedocs informed the meeting that a consultation meeting has been scheduled by a developer hoping to build houses behind Snackgate Lane for 24th November in the village hall. He suggested that all Councilors attend and inform the developer of the Parish Councils decision over non-use of the car park should the development go ahead.

Cllr Bedocs informed the meeting that a presentation by DBC on the Heighington Development Plan will take place on 4th December in the village hall.

138.2017 FINANCE

Clerks Report

The bank reconciliation for October was circulated and balanced.

Transparency Code

The Clerk reported that the Heighington Parish Council website, www.heighingtonparishcouncil.org.uk was now complete and live. An invoice had been submitted by LJ Digital Media for the cost of setting up the website and this was authorised for payment. The next step is to apply for funding for the costs incurred in getting the website set up from the Transparency Fund. The total cost is £1,975.48 which includes ongoing additional expenditure up to and including March 2018. The Transparency Claim form was UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED and ACCEPTED and the Clerk was authorised to submit it accordingly.

The Clerk informed the meeting that an estimate of an additional 3 hours per month for the additional time spent in administering the website was proposed and costs for these additional hours had been included in the claim from the Transparency Fund. Cllr Garner proposed that 3 hours be accepted up to the end of March when the amount of time can be reviewed for the new financial year.

ACTION: Parish Clerk

Further to the question raised at last month's meeting, investigations have taken place as to whether it would be possible to have adverts on the website. The Clerk had previously circulated a response from CDALC and unfortunately this is not possible as under the provisions of the Local Authorities (Goods and Services) Act 1970 a local council has no power to trade so the operating of any publication for profit would be unlawful.

2018/19 Draft Budget

The Clerk had distributed a draft budget for the 2018/19 financial year with a number of proposals. She explained that it was to stimulate discussion as the budget does not have to be approved until January 2018. There was a general discussion and it was agreed that each line of expenditure would be looked at individually. Cllr Anderson explained that funds would be required to fund the capital works planned for the car park and changing rooms but he was intending on submitting an application for match funding from Sport England for some of the cost and his intention would be to aim to keep the same level of expenditure in 2018/19 as set in the 2017/18 budget.

ACTION: All

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The Clerk requested that the cheques for village hall assistance be written for the current financial year as they had not yet been done. Cllr Anderson asked if all Councilors were happy for this to be done and it was UN-AMINOUSLY AGREED.

ACTION: Parish Clerk

139.2017 REPORTS/CORRESPONDENCE

The Clerk had been contacted by the President of Heighington WI asking if, following the planting of daffodils at the north and south entrances to the village, would it be possible for them to plant further plants around the village greens next autumn. An in-depth discussion followed and concerns were raised on the planting of bulbs on the village green as the grass is not cut where flowers are which can lead to the greens looking untidy. Cllr Thompson informed the meeting that the Council had previously considered allowing planting on the triangular piece of Green opposite the Church on East Green and he moved that this area should be allowed for planting by the WI, which was agreed.

ACTION: Parish Clerk

Cllr Lee reported that at further to the claims by DBC that they need to build 10,000 dwellings over the next 10 years and that Tees Valley were dictating this, Tees Valley said this is not the case. He therefore considers that DBC are trying to increase the number of dwellings in the Borough in order to receive increased funding and to make the Authority more viable.

140.2017 OTHER MATTERS

Cllr Bedocs informed the meeting that the next PACT meeting was scheduled for 17th November @ 7.30pm in Heighington Village Hall. He said that the key tasks for the police are currently monitoring fly tipping and parking.

Cllr Bedocs informed the meeting that the Village Hall Committee had asked if the Parish Council filing cabinet and other documents stored in the Committee Room could be sorted and were asking whether the Council were happy for them to be moved elsewhere. Cllr Anderson agreed to sort through the documents and said he would empty the cabinet in order for it to be moved whilst the room was decorated, however he would prefer for the cabinet to remain in the room for the longer term so that it was easily accessible should something be required from it during a meeting.

ACTION: Cllr Anderson

Cllr Lee reported that:

- Horses are still occasionally running about
- He had received a complaint from a resident regarding speeding vehicles leaving the village. It was agreed that DBC would need to survey the road.
- He was aware that another event was planned for the Light up Heighington for Kieran but was unsure of the date. Pending further information Cllr Anderson moved to accept the event and Cllr Thompson seconded the proposal and it was UNAMINOUSLY AGREED that the event could take place.

Cllr Garner informed the meeting that some residents of Hopelands had been cutting the grass areas and he considered that a note of thank you was appropriate. Cllr Woodward agreed to make enquiries to confirm who had been doing it and send the details onto the Clerk to enable a letter to be sent.

ACTION: Cllr Woodward / Parish Clerk

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Cllr Teare stated that he would be putting up the Christmas Tree lights over the next couple of weeks in preparation of the Christmas Light Switch On event on 1st December and asked permission to purchase more lights should they be required. This was agreed.

ACTION: Cllr Teare

The area around the chestnut tree stump on East Green has been inspected and is it weeds that are growing around it and not saplings. Cllr Anderson agreed to cut them down.

ACTION: Cllr Anderson

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.35pm.