

HEIGHINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

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

MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 15th MARCH AT 7.00PM

PRESENT. Cllr B Anderson (Chairman)

Cllr E Thompson

Cllr L Garner

Cllr L Bedocs

Cllr G Lee

Cllr M Woodward

L Dunn

Mr S Allison (Heighington Village Hall Association)

167.2017 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr C Teare, Cllr M Blenkinsopp, Cllr M French

168.2017 RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN AGENDA ITEMS

None

169.2017 APPROVE MINUTES OF MEETING ON 15th FEBRUARY 2018

The minutes of the meeting on 15th February 2018 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

170.2017 MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

- Mr. Parker, Executive Head of the Federation of Heighington and Bishopton CE Primary Schools was sent a letter inviting him to attend a Parish Council meeting. He has responded to state he will attend the May meeting.
- Comments on planning applications were sent to DBC.
- Cllr Lee received details from INEOS of the reasons for the loud noise which occurred. It was due to venting D plant polymeriser after a pressure test (safety check) prior to returning to service. It was not dangerous or a safety threat as it was the venting of compressed air and was carried out before 10pm which was within INEOS's operational window.
- The interior of the bus shelter reported to DBC has now been painted. Cllr Lee informed the meeting that he has submitted a request to DBC that they also paint the inside of the other bus shelter.
- Cllr Lee has not yet been to the Chestnuts to thank the developer on the cleanliness of the roads as since the last HPC meeting issues have been brought to his attention by residents regarding concerns over tree cutting, road cleaning and the parking of lorries. He is to meet with Dave Coates from DBC and then go to see the Site Manager.

ACTION: Cllr Lee

171.2017 HEALTH AND SAFETY

None

172.2017 SPORTSFIELD

Cllr Anderson informed the meeting there was a lot of water on the football pitches due to the recent weather.

Cllr Woodward has noticed that the fence at the bottom of the field is down and children are using the gap as an exit from the field. The exit is steep and leads directly onto the road with him having a near miss with two

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children recently. He stated that he would investigate and erect a new fence post if necessary in order to close off the gap. Discussion was had on whether a sign should be erected advising that it was a dangerous exit and Cllr Anderson agreed to speak to Cllr Teare.

ACTION: Cllrs Anderson & Woodward

173.2017 FUNDING AND FUNDRAISING

None

174.2017 REDWORTH

The new owner of the property which had a pedestrian gate leading onto the footpath of the A6072 runs a salad leaf business and has widened the entrance and using it as a vehicular access, crossing the footpath with his vehicles. Cllr Lee informed the meeting that discussions are taking place with DBC regarding the matter.

175.2017 THE CHESTNUTS

None

176.2017 PLANNING

Lengthy discussion was had on the response received from DBC on the questions raised by HPC in relation to the Section 106 monies from the Chestnuts development. It was felt that DBC's response was inadequate and therefore Cllr Bedocs proposed that the following questions be submitted to DBC:

1. How are DBC able to decide on the allocation of S106 monies without consultation with Heighington Parish Council?
2. There is no current bus service between The Chestnuts and Heighington. If S106 monies have been allocated to enhance the bus service, will the bus come into Heighington Village, linking the Parish settlements?
3. The population of the Parish will increase as a result of the development and funds will be required in order to enhance the Parish facilities, such as the playground. What monies will be made available for this to be done?

Cllr Garner seconded the proposal and it was UNANIMOUSLY AGREED that the questions should be put to DBC.

ACTION: Parish Clerk

177.2017 FINANCE

Clerks Report

The bank reconciliation for February had been circulated and balanced.

The VAT claim of £1,154.83 has been received from HMRC.

The annual salary reviews of the Clerk and Warden were due. Following discussion, Cllr Anderson proposed, Cllr Bedocs seconded and it was UNANIMOUSLY AGREED to increase the salary of the Parish Clerk by 3% with the increase in hours of one per week in order to accommodate the Transparency Code. Cllr Garner proposed that the salary of the Environmental Warden be increased by 6.25%, this was seconded by Cllr Bedocs and UNANIMOUSLY AGREED.

ACTION: Parish Clerk

178.2017 REPORTS/CORRESPONDENCE

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Cllr Lee informed the meeting that there had been instances of fly tipping around the village. He advised that should any person become aware of fly tipping DBC should be informed and the rubbish should be left for DBC to take photographs, investigate and then remove.

Cllr Lee informed the meeting of areas of land which DBC have registered as owners being interested in selling for development. These include plots at Trafalgar House, Shepherds, Spinks Farm and the field adjacent to the granted development at beech Crescent. Some registrations were done a number of years ago and current owners (such as that of Spinks Farm) have indicated that they are not interested in selling land for development.

179.2017 OTHER MATTERS

Cllr Bedocs informed the meeting that he had completed his year as HPC representative for Heighington Village Hall Association. Cllr Garner proposed that Cllr Bedocs continue in this role for the next year and Cllr Anderson seconded his proposal.

Discussion was had on where the orange bags, filled by the Litter Pickers were stored waiting for transportation to the tip. Currently those which are filled by the road side are left in situ and collected by Cllr Anderson. Bags filled with litter in the village are stacked on the Green until removed and this month the bags remained on the Green for a couple of days waiting removal. Cllr Anderson explained to the meeting that there were too many bags for him to transport at one time and so some were left for two days until they could be moved. He assured the meeting that this delay would not occur again.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.15pm.