

HEIGHINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

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

MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 15TH NOVEMBER 2018 AT 7.00 PM

PRESENT. Cllr B Anderson (Chairman)

Cllr M French

Cllr E Thompson

Cllr M Woodward

Cllr G Lee

Cllr G Blenkinsopp

Cllr C Teare

L Dunn

089.2018 APOLOGIES.

Cllr L Bedocs, Cllr L Garner

090.2018 RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN AGENDA ITEMS

None

091.2018 APPROVE MINUTES OF MEETING ON 18TH OCTOBER 2018

The minutes of the meeting on 18th October 2018 were approved and signed by the Chairman accordingly.

092.2018 MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

There has still been no response from Heighington School following the issue of the invoice for use of the car park.

Planning responses were sent to DBC on 18th October.

An email was sent to Dave Coates at DBC asking for more details on how the S106 monies from the Walworth Road development were to be spent and the response circulated.

The contribution towards the cost of the Environmental Warden has been received from DBC.

Royal Mail has been contacted regarding the possibility of starting a mobile Post Office in the village.

Cllr Lee has searched through old documentation and found a copy of the legal document relating to HPC's purchase of the sports field. The working in the document is difficult to understand so Cllr Teare offered to ask a contact to look at it and to advise.

ACTION: Cllr Teare

A letter was sent to the residents of Heighcroft House (i.e. the former Cumby Arms) requesting that the gate leading onto the sports field be unlocked.

093.2018 HEALTH AND SAFETY

None

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094.2018 SPORTSFIELD

Playdale have visited the Play Area and have looked at the equipment which needs repairing. They will be forwarding a report with their recommendations. The equipment is under a 12-year warranty and so under the said warranty Playdale will supply replacement wooden supports and all supporting nuts and bolts. Labour will need to be paid for. Cllr Blenkinsopp mentioned the S106 monies specifically for the sports field from the Walworth development and asked whether these should be used towards the cost and that the Council should look at replacing some of the equipment rather than just repairing it. It was agreed that a request for both options be sought from Playdale.

ACTION: Parish Clerk

Cllr Anderson informed the meeting that Heighington FC, throughout the season have been cutting the grass of both the sports field and the play area due to the infrequency of the cuts by DBC. He suggested that they should be compensated for their work and proposed to waive the fees charged for the use of the facilities for the current season. The fees are based on the teams as follows:

Senior Team @ £300

Junior Team @ £170

There are currently two senior teams and two junior teams which would realise fees of £940.

Cllr Blenkinsopp asked what rates are charged for other teams using other local facilities and suggested that a comparison should be first obtained. It was agreed that Cllr Blenkinsopp would get details of the charges at Oak Leaf Sports Centre by Newton Aycliffe FC and the Parish Clerk would get details from Bishop Auckland St Marys usage at the Technical College. It was therefore decided to defer the decision on the waiving of the fees until the next meeting.

ACTION: Cllr Blenkinsopp / Parish Clerk

095.2018 FUNDING AND FUNDRAISING

None

096.2018 REDWORTH

Cllr Lee informed the meeting that there had been a couple of accidents at the junction of High Road and Surtees Road in the village and that a SLOW marking was to be put on the road.

097.2018 THE CHESTNUTS

There has been a number of instances of fly tipping around the area, particularly near the solar panel field.

098.2018 PLANNING

Planning Application Refs:

- 18/00963/FUL – Garage conversion to provide habitable accommodation at Westwood Avenue.
- 18/00974/FUL – Demolition of existing garage and erection of two storey side elevation and single storey extension to the rear (resubmission), Snackgate Lane.

Agreed a No comment reply given for all due to insufficient information provided.

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ACTION: Parish Clerk

Cllr French informed the meeting that the planning application for the conversion of the former joiners shop had been approved.

099.2018 FINANCE

The bank reconciliation for October had been circulated and balanced.

CDALC Membership

The Clerk informed the meeting that notification had been received that NALC were increasing their charge from 6.86p per elector to 6.99p per elector resulting in an estimated charge for CDALC membership in 19/20 of £316.18, based on 1,861 electors. It was agreed that the benefits of membership were good and IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY AGREED that it should continue.

ACTION: Parish Clerk

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 Councillors were happy for this to be done and it was UNANIMOUSLY AGREED.

ACTION: Parish Clerk

2019/20 Draft Budget

The Clerk had distributed a draft budget for the 2019/20 financial year with a number of proposals. She explained that it required to be approved at this meeting as notification of the precept was required to be sent to DBC by 11th January 2019 and HPC do not meet again until after this date. There was a general discussion and each line of expenditure was looked at individually. Cllr Blenkinsopp informed the meeting that previously HPC had deferred producing a Local Plan for Heighington, and that following DBC preparing the Planning Policy Framework he suggested that provision should be made in the budget to start the process for Heighington's Local Plan. He explained that the last quote sourced indicated that the cost would be in the region of £15,000, but funding for up to 50% was available. He suggested that the process be done over two years, thus costing HPC approximately £3,500 per year. The Clerk explained that should the precept be increased from the current £16,770 to £20,270 this would approximately increase the cost per household by £3.90.

Discussion followed and then Cllr Lee proposed that the budget should be set with the additional £3,500 included. Cllr Blenkinsopp seconded the proposal and it was UNANIMOUSLY AGREED.

ACTION: Parish Clerk

Cllr Anderson informed the meeting that invoices would be forthcoming from L Garner for the purchase of compost and DBC for plants.

100.2018 REPORTS/CORRESPONDENCE

Cllr Woodward commented on the state of the roads around the three housing developments and informed the meeting that he had caught a labourer scraping mud from the road and throwing it onto the footpath / grassed area. There was also an issue with lorries driving through the village to get to the Walworth Road development. Cllr Lee said this practice should have stopped and that he will speak to the three builders to ask them to clean the roads more often.

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ACTION: Cllr Lee

ACTION: Parish Clerk

Cllr Anderson informed the meeting that the toilets were recently blocked. He is to add a check of these onto the regular Health and Safety Checks that he does.

Cllr Teare has had a report from a resident regarding overhanging trees on Redworth Road. Details have been passed to the Parish Clerk to pass onto DBC.

ACTION: Parish Clerk

101.2018 ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED ON NEXT AGENDA

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8:04pm.