

HEIGHINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

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

MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 18th APRIL 2019 AT 7.00 PM

Before the meeting Trish Pemberton, Chair of the Friends of the Stockton and Darlington Railway gave a very interesting presentation on the heritage work and preparations for the 200th Anniversary of the railway in 2025.

PRESENT

Cllr B Anderson (Chairman)	Cllr G Blenkinsopp
Cllr G Lee	Cllr E Thompson
Cllr L Garner	
Cllr M French	

IN ATTENDANCE

L Dunn	
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001.2019 APOLOGIES

Cllr C Teare	
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002.2019 RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN AGENDA ITEMS

None

003.2019 APPROVE MINUTES OF MEETING ON 21ST MARCH 2019

The minutes of the meeting on 21ST March 2019 were approved and signed by the Chairman accordingly.

004.2019 MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

Cllr Lee spoke to Governors of Heighington School regarding the use of the car park. Directors felt that they were unable to pay such a levy as all of their funds were in trust for the provision of education. The Chairman agreed to take the matter back to the Board to discuss further and Cllr Lee will chase up following the meeting.

ACTION: Cllr Lee

Following Nominations for Parish Councillors three current members have been re-elected following an uncontested election. Discussion was had on other existing members and them being co-opted onto the Parish Council. The Parish Clerk will issue appropriate forms to those interested. There will still remain two vacancies and it was agreed that a notice would be issued during the co-option period which is 35 days from what would have been polling day, 2nd May.

ACTION: Parish Clerk

A response from DBC has been received on Swan House roundabout. They are the registered owner but the person currently using the land has applied to the Land Registry for adverse possession to which the Council has objected. DBC have been advised not to take any further action until the ownership issue is resolved. The matter has been referred to the Lands Tribunal for a decision and DBC are waiting to hear if a decision can be made or if the matter has to go to a hearing.

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Notices at the sports field have been replaced by DBC.

The salaries of the Environmental Warden and Parish Clerk have been adjusted and the standing order at the bank amended accordingly.

The donation was sent to the Church and the Church was informed that they could use the parking bays during their renovation works.

Cllr Anderson checked with Heighington FC and they confirmed that they have a maintenance plan in place for the defibrillator located at the sports field.

The response from NALC regarding the Right of Access query had been distributed and was read out at the meeting. Further documentation was discovered at the meeting and it was agreed to forward this to NALC for further consideration.

ACTION: Parish Clerk

005.2019 HEALTH AND SAFETY

The Parish Clerk has received notice regarding the booking of the annual inspection of play equipment. The inspector will be in the Durham area in June and if advance notice is given the cost is £68.50 + VAT for up to 5 items with any additional item charged at £3.50 + VAT. Cllr Thompson PROPOSED that the inspection should be booked, Cllr Garner SECONDED the proposal and it was UNANIMOUSLY AGREED.

ACTION: Parish Clerk

Cllr Anderson reported that all H&S inspections were up to date and that following his resignation from Office he is happy to assist the Councillor who takes over responsibility for this area until they are comfortable with the task. He will however do the inspection for the next month.

006.2019 SPORTSFIELD

Cllr Anderson informed the meeting that the communal garden previously used by Heighington Pre School was in need of attention and he proposed to remove the fence surrounding the area and relocate it to behind one of the goal mouths in order to stop footballs from going into the long grass. It was agreed that Heighington FC would be asked to relocate the fence.

ACTION: Cllr Anderson

Cllr French left the meeting

007.2019 FUNDING AND FUNDRAISING

None

008.2019 REDWORTH

Cllr Lee had been contacted regarding rotting posts of the notice board. Cllr Anderson informed the meeting that this would be repaired within the next week.

Cllr Anderson / Cllr Teare

009.2019 THE CHESTNUTS / OAKLANDS

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A request has been received from a resident in Oaklands as to whether a dog waste bin could be sited within the development.

ACTION: Parish Clerk

010.2019 PLANNING

Application Ref: 19/00307/FUL – erection of two storey side and rear extension and single storey rear extension with balcony above, 36 Highside Road, Heighington

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

ACTION: Parish Clerk

Cllr Lee informed the meeting that an application has been submitted by the owners of The Dog to site over 50's caravans, however the registered owners address is in Wiltshire. Residents of Walworth Parish have asked if HPC will be having a consultation on the application in order to put forward objectives to DBC. Cllr Garner suggested that it be made clear that occupants could only stay for 10 months out of 12 meaning that they could not be permanent. Cllr Lee will keep everyone up to date with developments.

011.2019 FINANCE

The bank reconciliation for March had been circulated and balanced along with a comparison of budget and actual figures for the 2018/19 financial year. The Clerk informed the meeting that the year end analysis showed a surplus of £4,654 which was made up of £3,772 for the General Fund and £882 for the Community Fund. She did advise however that the payment for the repair works to the play equipment had been paid in April and amounted to £4,700 against a budget for 219/10 of £700 so the surplus made in 18/19 would help pay for this cost.

All information has been sent to the Internal Auditor and he estimates that his audit will be completed by 30th April. The cost for the IA will be £100.

The insurance renewal is due on 1st June and the Council is just coming to the end of a Long Term Agreement (LTA). Costs have been provided by the current insurer as follows:

Agreement duration	Cost
1 Year	1,571.54
2 Years	1,509.06
3 Years	1,446.59

The Clerk proposes to go to more suppliers for a comparison and will bring those estimates to the next meeting.

ACTION: Parish Clerk

Cllr Woodward who had been present for the presentation but then had to leave now re-joined the meeting

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012.2019 REPORTS/CORRESPONDENCE

Cllr Lee reported:

1. A resident of Church View has asked if the Parish Council would allow them to put stepping stones across the Village Green to the entrance to their property. Discussion was had and it was thought that such stones used to exist. It was agreed that the owner be contacted and asked to investigate under the grass as to whether the original stones still existed. If they did then the Council were happy for them to re-expose them, if they were no longer there then they were happy for some to be laid on the condition that they sat below the grass level to enable the grass to be cut.

ACTION: Cllr Lee

2. Reports of a smell of sewerage have been received from Church View. Northumbrian Water are to do an inspection of the drains before 1st May.

013.2019 ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED ON NEXT AGENDA

Cllr Lee, on behalf of all present thanked Cllr Anderson for all his hard work and dedication during his tenure on Heighington Parish Council, and particularly during his time as Chairman.

There being no further items, the meeting concluded at 8.44pm