

HEIGHINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

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

MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 17th OCTOBER 2019 AT 7.00 PM

PRESENT

Cllr G Blenkinsopp (Chairman)	Cllr E Thompson
Cllr M French	Cllr L Garner
Cllr L Teare	Cllr G Lee
Cllr A Holmes	Cllr M Woodward
Cllr S Bremner	

IN ATTENDANCE

L Dunn	
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APOLOGIES

None	
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075.2019 RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN AGENDA ITEMS

None

076.2019 APPROVE MINUTES OF MEETING ON 19th SEPTEMBER 2019

The minutes of the meeting on 19th September 2019 were approved and signed by the Chairman accordingly.

077.2019 MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

The Clerk had contacted the Land Registry but they could not provide details of the solicitor who dealt with the purchase. They looked through the title documents and advised that the documents referred to in the title documents should be checked. One of these documents is the one dated 1982 which Cllr Lee has the original. The Clerk had contacted Cllr Lee to ask him to supply the said document which would be scanned in its entirety and then forwarded to CDALC.

ACTION: Parish Clerk

The appointment of Cllr Bremer is now complete with the Acceptance of Office and Declaration of Interest forms sent to DBC. A letter had been received from the unsuccessful candidate requesting a meeting with the Clerk and Chairman but the request had been refused.

078.2019 HEALTH AND SAFETY

Cllr Holmes continues to obtain quotes for the electrical work required at the changing rooms. To date two quotes have been received and a third is to carry out a site visit in order to quote tomorrow. Cllr Blenkinsopp asked if this contractor could also be asked to look at the hand dryer in the gent's toilet which has stopped working.

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ACTION: Cllr Holmes

079.2019 SPORTSFIELD

Three quotes for replacement picnic tables have been obtained. It was agreed that they would be reviewed once the cost of the work in the changing rooms was known

Cllr Blenkinsopp has contacted Heighington FC regarding fees for the use of the football pitches and has received details of the number of teams, the work carried out by the Club and their corresponding expenditure.

It was agreed that the information would be circulated to all in order for the contents to be considered and then discussed at the next meeting.

ACTION: Parish Clerk

Cllr Teare informed the meeting that the new fence would be installed on Monday 11th November. Cllr Blenkinsopp asked if the contractor could be asked to clear the weeds around the MUGA.

ACTION: Cllr Teare

Cllr Lee asked for permission to plant some apple trees in the far corner of the field. This was agreed.

ACTION: Cllr Lee

Cllr Garner asked the position on the car park and the School following requests to the school for a levy for their use of the said car park. Cllr Lee had intended on speaking to representatives at the school but has not had the opportunity. It was therefore agreed that a letter would be sent to the school requesting a meeting be held with Cllr Lee and the Chairman in order to discuss this and the issues of verbal abuse which have occurred.

ACTION: Parish Clerk

Further discussion was had on the car park and unsocial behavior late at night. Cllr Holmes expressed the opinion that the gates should be locked on an evening. It was agreed that a notice would be put on the website asking for residents to take notes of behavior and report it to the Parish Council so that requests can be made to the police to patrol. Cllr Woodward will also contact Darlington Enforcement to see if they could help / advise.

ACTION: Cllr Woodward

080.2019 FUNDING AND FUNDRAISING

None

081.2019 REDWORTH & HEIGHINGTON

Cllr Teare will remove the notice board in Redworth.

ACTION: Cllr Teare

The boulders in Heighington would be moved this weekend.

ACTION: Cllrs Teare / Garner

Cllr Lee informed the meeting that the defibrillator had been purchased. It is to be checked before being installed on the public toilet wall.

ACTION: Cllr Lee

Details of the insurance and risk assessment for the bonfire had been received from the Bay Horse. The documents were inspected and approved.

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ACTION: Parish Clerk

Cllr Holmes had assessed all of the flower tubs and planters around the Parish and identified some which were beyond repair. It was agreed that these would be removed.

Cllr Lee suggested that the waste bin outside the school which is open topped should be swapped with the hooded one at the entrance to Hopelands. This was agreed.

ACTION: Cllr Teare

Cllr Blenkinsopp informed the meeting that the public toilets had to be unblocked again and there is an ongoing issue with them getting blocked. The Clerk had contacted Northumbrian Water to request that they come and unblock and put a camera down to try to identify the problem but was informed that it was not their responsibility and that a contractor would have to be contacted. Cllr Garner felt that this was incorrect information as the drain is on a public highway. It was agreed that Northumbrian Water be contacted again.

ACTION: Parish Clerk

082.2019 THE CHESTNUTS / OAKLANDS

None

083.2019 PLANNING

Application Ref: 19/00852/FUL – erection of a triple garage, Broom Dykes Lodge, Houghton Bank, Heighington

Agreed a “no comment due to insufficient information being supplied” reply given.

ACTION: Parish Clerk

Cllr Lee informed the meeting that there had been two changes in policy at DBC in relation to planning:

1. They had turned down a planning application as the site was outside the development area.
2. Developers now have to supply information on comments received on consultation events and their actions on those comments.

084.2019 FINANCE

The bank reconciliation for September had been circulated prior to the meeting and balanced.

The Parish Clerk gave detail of the current projected position for the financial year which is projected to be an in-year deficit of just under £3,000. Reserves are projected to stay healthy at around £8,500.

ACTION: Parish Clerk

Cllr Blenkinsopp reminded the meeting of the Community Fund and its purpose and it was agreed that details of the fund would be included on the website.

ACTION: Parish Clerk

085.2019 REPORTS/CORRESPONDENCE

Cllr Lee provided the meeting with a copy of some Parish Council documents which the Chairman took away to peruse.

The Clerk informed the meeting that Heighington Village Hall Association had asked if a member of the Parish Council would like to represent the Council at their meetings. Following discussion, it was determined that most people had other commitments on the night of the village hall meetings and it was agreed that someone

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would attend wherever possible. It was also suggested that the minutes from the Parish Council meetings be circulated to the Village Hall committee for those occasions when there was no representative.

ACTION: Parish Clerk

Cllr Blenkinsopp stated that Remembrance Sunday would occur before the next meeting and traditionally the Parish Council laid a wreath. He was informed that the wreath was obtained from a resident in the village.

Cllr Teare informed the meeting that a high-hop would be required in order to put up the Christmas tree lights on the tree due to the height of the tree now. Cllr Thompson proposed that a high-top be hired and Cllr Holmes seconded the proposal and it was UNANIMOUSLY AGREED.

ACTION: Cllr Teare

086.2019 ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED ON NEXT AGENDA

Christmas Tree lights

There being no further items, the meeting concluded at 8:30pm