

HEIGHINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

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

MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 17th SEPTEMBER 2020 AT 7.00 PM

PRESENT

Cllr G Blenkinsopp (Chairman)	Cllr M French
Cllr C Teare	Cllr G Lee
Cllr M Woodward	

IN ATTENDANCE

L Dunn	
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075.2020 APOLOGIES

Cllr A Holmes	Cllr E Thompson
Cllr S Bremner	Cllr L Garner

076.2020 RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN AGENDA ITEMS

None

077.2020 APPROVE MINUTES OF MEETING ON 27th August 2020

There was one amendment to the minutes of the meeting on 27th August 2020, item 073.2020 had been approved for action. The amended minutes were then approved and signed by the Chairman accordingly.

078.2020 MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

Cllr Woodward will do the fire risk assessment this weekend

ACTION: Cllr Woodward

The repair works to the tarmac outside the Village Hall has been completed but a query has been received from the Village Hall Committee asking about repairs to the paving at the entrance to the hall as it is said to be uneven and a tripping hazard. Cllr Blenkinsopp agreed to inspect the area this weekend and report back to the Council.

ACTION: Cllr Blenkinsopp

Cllr Teare informed the meeting that the manufacture of the new basketball rings were still in progress.

ACTION: Cllr Teare

The Chairman has approached the Environmental Warden regarding carrying out handyman works and he is open to the opportunity as long as it does not involve electrical work. It was agreed that the matter be progressed.

ACTION: Parish Clerk / Cllr Blenkinsopp

079.2020 HEALTH AND SAFETY

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None

080.2020 SPORTSFIELD

Signs informing users of the car park that the gates will be locked at 8pm each evening are now erected however this is not currently being enforced. Cllr Blenkinsopp stated that discussion was needed on how this could be done. The school had offered to open the gates each morning to allow parents to use the facility when dropping off their children. It was agreed that Cllr Blenkinsopp will endeavor to lock the gates on as many nights as he can and Cllr Lee agreed to confirm with the school that they can open them.

ACTION: Cllr Lee

Heighington FC have passed onto the Chairman a quote they obtained for installing CCTV on the changing rooms which was in the region of £1,200. Discussion followed and it was agreed that replacing both the back and front doors of the building was more of a priority. The Council asked Cllr Teare to provide a quote for their replacement. Two further quotes will then be sourced from alternative suppliers.

ACTION: Cllr Teare

Cllr Blenkinsopp informed the meeting that some of the lights in the changing rooms needed replacing. He also stated that the solar panel power is being directed directly into the grid and so the building is not getting any benefit. The wiring needs changing so that the power is directed into the immersion heater. As well as these two issues, the electrical safety testing is due in December. It was agreed that Cllr Blenkinsopp will approach the electrician and ask for a quote for all of the above works.

ACTION: Cllr Blenkinsopp

Cllr Blenkinsopp has spoken to Heighington FC regarding another football club using the sports field facilities to train and they have acknowledged that they could accommodate them. They raised concerns over the number of people at any one time on the pitches and also the wear and tear to the facility if training were to take place on consecutive nights. It was agreed to contact the Club to check if they were still interested, bearing in mind the facility does not have floodlights and the dark nights are setting in.

ACTION: Parish Clerk

081.2020 FUNDING AND FUNDRAISING

None

082.2020 REDWORTH & HEIGHINGTON

Winter planting was discussed and it was agreed to leave the planters as they are.

Dog fouling was discussed and Cllr Teare informed the meeting that he had stopped a resident from walking their dog in the sports field and who subsequently fouled in the play area. It was agreed that should anyone be seen letting their dog foul, the matter should be reported to DBC.

It was acknowledged that work on installing the footpath from Heighington Meadows into the village had started.

Christmas tree lights were discussed and it was agreed that Cllr Teare would look into what type and how many lights were needed if all were to be replaced on the tree this year. Funds from the Community Fund has previously been approved to be used for the purpose.

ACTION: Cllr Teare

083.2020 THE CHESTNUTS / OAKLANDS

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None

084.2020 PLANNING

It was acknowledged that the Dog Inn had been put up for sale.

085.2020 FINANCE

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

The Clerk presented a draft Asset Management Policy which was discussed and APPROVED.

Asset Register Review

The asset register was reviewed and the Clerk described how some of the assets had been revalued following the advice received from the Internal Auditors as part of their work on the 19-20 accounts. It was necessary for assets to be stated at acquisition cost and work had been done to obtain these values. The updated asset register was APPROVED.

Risk Assessment Review

The Councils Risk Assessment was reviewed and it was agreed to add Pandemic to the risks with details of how meetings would be held remotely. Following these additions, the risk assessment was APPROVED.

The Chairman explained to the meeting that a risk assessment had been done for the use of the sports field currently and that should the changing room facilities be opened then a further risk assessment would be carried out.

086.2020 REPORTS/CORRESPONDENCE

Cllr Lee informed the meeting that he had moved the litter bin as agreed at the last meeting but someone in the village had moved it back. He has therefore moved it again.

Cllr Lee provided an outline of new Government planning policy.

Cllr Blenkinsopp asked the Parish Clerk to write to Cllr Thompson to wish him a speedy recovery.

087.2020 ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED ON NEXT AGENDA

There being no further items, the meeting concluded at 8:12pm