

# HEIGHINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

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

## MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 17<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2021 AT 7.00 PM

### PRESENT

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

### IN ATTENDANCE

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### 044.2021 APOLOGIES

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### 045.2021 RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN AGENDA ITEMS

None

### 046.2021 APPROVE MINUTES OF MEETING ON 9<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2021

The minutes of the meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> June 2021 were approved and signed by the Chairman accordingly.

### 047.2021 MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

Another possible location is being considered for the parking bays at Hopelands but a utility pole is current in the area. The Parish Clerk has contacted both Openreach and NEDL to ask that the pole be relocated due to the proposed development.

Some of the play equipment repairs have been completed but further damage had occurred to a horizontal rope which also needs repairing. Authorisation had been received from the Chairman and so the further repair had been ordered on 1<sup>st</sup> June. Cllr Lee has been contacted by a resident of Hopelands asking if it could be considered to having some disabled bays. It was agreed that this was a good suggestion and that DBC would be contacted in order to find out what the necessary arrangements for this was.

**ACTION: Parish Clerk**

Cllr Holmes had investigated the rules regarding putting bins out for refuse collection. According to the DBC website bins had to be out by 7am on the morning of collection and must not be put out before 8pm the previous evening. Following discussion, it was agreed that Cllr Holmes would produce a notice reminding residents of this which would be put in the Noticeboard and in the Spar shop. Discussion then was had on the small area of grass adjacent to Heighington Takeaway as this was used for bin storage by the occupiers. It was agreed that investigations would be taken to find out if the grassed area was village green.

**ACTION: Cllr Holmes / Cllr Lee**

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DBC had been contacted regarding the on-way system. They had explained that the measures had been put in place due to the school operating a one way system as part of imposed Covid restrictions which meant that the pedestrian exit from the school was onto Redworth Road and parents and pupils were walking along Millbank with no available footway. DBC are currently liaising with the school to understand when they might be lifting their restrictions and allowing full access from Hopelands at which point they will review the one way system as to when it will be removed as no consultation or information has been given to the Parish Council.

Two meetings regarding the incinerator plant at School Aycliffe have occurred on 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> June. Aycliffe Town Council also had a meeting to discuss the matter on 16<sup>th</sup> June and are to employ an independent consultant to investigate on their behalf before submitting an objection to the proposal. Cllr Blenkinsopp asked if the Parish Council wished to submit comments and following discussion it was agreed that as representatives of the residents of the Parish the Council should comment appropriate to the views of the residents. It was agreed that Cllr Blenkinsopp would speak to a resident of the Parish who has experience in planning matters to help draft an appropriate letter to Durham County Council.

**ACTION: Cllr Blenkinsopp**

## **048.2021 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN**

Cllr Blenkinsopp confirmed that he was happy to remain as Chairman following his appointment at the AGM.

## **049.2021 PARISH COUNCIL VACANCY**

Resignation from office has been received from Cllr French. It was agreed that CDALC would be contacted to confirm what procedure should be followed in the circumstances.

**ACTION: Parish Clerk**

## **050.2021 HEALTH AND SAFETY**

None

## **051.2021 SPORTSFIELD**

Contact has been received from a resident wanting to use the sports field for fitness classes. Following discussion it was agreed that Cllr Holmes would contact them to obtain further information.

**ACTION: Cllr Holmes**

Cllr Holmes has met with a contractor to look at installing CCTV. The contractor discussed various options and will submit a quote. Another contractor is due to visit the site next week.

One of the options is to have a camera installed on a nearby streetlight but permission from DBC would be required for this. It was agreed that Cllr Holmes would contact Dave Coates at DBC to ask about using the streetlight and also about accessing the S106 monies which can be used for this purpose.

Cllr Lee asked what legislation might cover the CCTV once installed and it was agreed that advice would be sought from the successful supplier but it was expected that notices would need to be erected and possibly registration with the Information Commissioners Office (ICO).

**ACTION: Cllr Holmes**

## **052.2021 FUNDING AND FUNDRAISING**

None

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## **053.2021 REDWORTH & HEIGHINGTON**

The Parish Clerk has contacted a tree surgeon regarding the removing of the saplings at the foot of the commemorative oak tree in Redworth. The contractor has offered to do the work free of charge.

Discussion was had on the footpath which is need of repair at Redworth. It was agreed that Cllr Teare would contact the contractor who had supplied a quote for the Hopelands parking bays and ask them to quote for the footpath repairs and the Parish Clerk would also contact DBC for a quote.

**ACTION: Cllr Teare / Parish Clerk**

Cllr Bremner met with a Civil Engineering Manager from DBC regarding the erosion of the village green at Redworth. Measurements were taken and discussion had on what would be required if a kerb was to be installed. The tallest curb DBC uses is 5 inches in height, which in the Civil Engineers opinion would stop most cars and vans from mounting it to pass parked cars. However, 4x4 vehicles and tractors would still be able to mount it. The curb would also have to be on the road itself unless the Parish Council obtained permission to put it on the green, which would narrow the road further. It was agreed that there was no easy fix to the issue but that there was a number of potholes which needed attention. It was therefore agreed to ask DBC to fill the potholes.

**ACTION: Parish Clerk**

It was noted that Heighington WI had planted the flower tubs and mangers around Heighington and the Chairman asked that a note of thanks be sent. It had also been noticed that someone had planted planters at Redworth for which the Parish Council send their thanks. There are two flower tubs at the edge of Church View which are damaged and beyond repair and also one at Grangeside in Redworth all of which need removing. The Parish Clerk is liaising with a local contractor for their removal.

**ACTION: Parish Clerk**

Cllr Garner passed onto the Parish Clerk the details of a parish resident who is available to do casual handy-work for the Parish Council. An hourly rate has also been agreed.

Cllr Holmes has investigated the rules around overhanging trees and there are no laws which specify how high residents can grow a hedge. It was agreed that Cllr Holmes would make further enquiries regarding the obstruction of footpaths.

**ACTION: Cllr Holmes**

Cllr Lee informed the meeting that two trees in memory of those who have lost their lives in the pandemic are to be planted at the sportsfield, to the right of the pedestrian gate along with a bench. A further four trees are to be planted at the wetlands.

Cllr Lee brought to the meeting some speed awareness posters which have been designed by the children from Heighington School. The school held a competition which was judged by teachers and a winner has been chosen from each yeargroup. In total seven posters have been designed. Cllr Holmes PROPOSED that each winner by rewarded with £10 and this was SECONDED by Cllr Lee and UNANIMOUSLY AGREED. Following discussion, it was agreed that signs of A2 size would be produced using the designs and erected at the entrances to the Parish.

**ACTION: Parish Clerk**

## **054.2021 THE CHESTNUTS / OAKLANDS**

None

## **055.2021 PLANNING**

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Planning Ref: 21/00536/FUL – Erection of 1 no. agricultural building for storage of straw/hay – Hope House Farm, 11 Highside Road, Heighington

It was agreed that a “No comment due to insufficient information” response be submitted.

**ACTION: Parish Clerk**

## **056.2021 FINANCE**

The bank reconciliation for May had been circulated and balanced.

The Parish Clerk informed the meeting that the new laptop had been received and was a great improvement on the old one. She gave information on a support package which included virus protection which can be provided by Comtek and it was agreed that the support package could be purchased, It was also agreed that the old laptop should be wiped and disposed of.

**ACTION: Parish Clerk**

## **057.2021 REPORTS/CORRESPONDENCE**

Contact has been received from the Office of Paul Howells MP offering for the MP to visit the Council to discuss local matters and answer any questions from members. It was agreed to thank the office for the offer and for the MP’s attendance at the extraordinary meeting of the Parish Council earlier in the month but that at the moment a meeting was not required.

**ACTION: Parish Clerk**

## **058.2021 ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED ON NEXT AGENDA**

There being no further items, the meeting concluded at 8.30pm