

HEIGHINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

c/o 7 The Garth, School Aycliffe, Newton Aycliffe, Co Durham. DL5 6QL

MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 16 FEBRUARY 2017 AT 7.00 PM

PRESENT: Cllr B Anderson (Chairman)
Cllr C Teare
Cllr E Thompson
Cllr G Blenkinsopp
Cllr M Woodward
Cllr G Lee
Cllr L Garner
Cllr M French
Cllr L Bedocs

S Lenegan

APOLOGIES: None

014:2017 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None

015:2017 RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN AGENDA ITEMS

None

016:2017 APPROVE MINUTES OF MEETING ON 19 JANUARY 2017

The minutes of the meeting on 19 January 2017 were approved and signed by the Chairman accordingly.

017:2017 MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

The Clerk had provided a year's supply of inspection sheets to Cllr Anderson along with emergency lighting and smoke alarm testing records for the changing rooms. These were to be discussed with the football team managers at the next football meeting.

The repaired MUGA gate had been returned by DBC and a note of thanks had been sent.

With regard to the number of incidents of escaped horses in Heighington, Cllr Lee reported that 101 now held contact numbers for the owners, so should be notified if this occurs again.

The Clerk had invited John Anderson, Head of Strategic planning, to the next meeting, but had not received a reply. She was to chase this up. **ACTION: PARISH CLERK**

Cllr Thompson had delivered a letter to Mr Dobinson regarding the Village Orchard.

The Clerk had contacted a website designer for an initial discussion regarding a website for the PC. The designer's thoughts were that a suitable site could be designed for within a £1,000 budget. He had sent the Clerk some examples of other websites for ideas. He was also experienced in obtaining grant funding. This would be revisited at a later date.

HEIGHINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

c/o 7 The Garth, School Aycliffe, Newton Aycliffe, Co Durham. DL5 6QL

018.2017 HEALTH AND SAFETY

Cllr Anderson had carried out the Health and Safety inspections for the month and there was nothing further to report.

019.2017 SPORTSFIELD

Cllr Anderson had investigated the cost of a seesaw for the younger child's part of the play area. He circulated the details of the one he considered most suitable. It could be used by children up to the age of 6. The price was £1,437 plus £500 for installation. A discussion took place as to whether this should be purchased. There were sufficient funds and the community payment from Lightsource would be paid soon. Whilst it was expensive, it was noted that it was very important to refresh the play area and ensure that new equipment is phased in over time to replace older equipment. Rubber matting and insurance cover would be needed in addition, but there is likely to be sufficient spare matting for what will be required that was left over from the original installation. **IT WAS AGREED THAT** the Clerk was to obtain another price from an alternative supplier and Cllr Anderson would make a final decision when a further quote is available. The clerk was also to order a replacement spring for the Elephant at the same time. **ACTION: PARISH**

CLERK/CLLR ANDERSON

With regard to the extension to the sports pavilion and carpark, Cllr Anderson ask for permission to obtain some professionally drawn plans. DBC had commented that these would be needed when they looked at the initial plans. It was agreed that Cllr Anderson was to contact Mr Pearson to see whether he would be able to do this work. **ACTION: CLLR**

ANDERSON

Cllr Lee reported that children were continuing to enter and leave the sportsfield by the bottom corner, climbing into Hall lane. This was very dangerous and must be discouraged. Cllr Anderson was to look into the possibility of erecting further fencing in this area. **ACTION: CLLR ANDERSON**

Cllr Anderson reported that two roof tiles had been damaged on the sports pavilion. It appeared that someone had been throwing bricks onto the roof. The tiles would be repaired. It is a concern that the solar panels could be damaged, but there is nothing further that can be done to tackle this vandalism.

020:2017 FUNDING AND FUNDRAISING

Ongoing – nothing to report.

021:2017 REDWORTH

The Traffic Committee had contacted the Clerk and requested that an order be submitted for one speed visor. The Clerk explained that the committee was to progress the order but they were authorised to have a bill for £2000 plus VAT to be made out to HPC. It was therefore hoped that the order was now progressing.

022:2017 THE CHESTNUTS

It was noted that there had been some further rumours about housing development in the area, but nothing had been formally tabled. There had also been concerns raised about increased dog fouling on the estate which were to be monitored as this has not previously been an issue there.

HEIGHINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

c/o 7 The Garth, School Aycliffe, Newton Aycliffe, Co Durham. DL5 6QL

023:2017 PLANNING

Application Ref **17/00047/FUL** related to the erection of a conservatory, dormer window and wood burner flue to 24 West Green, DL5 6PE. This application had been reviewed the previous month in respect of its LBC application and was consequently **APPROVED**.

Application ref **17/00043/FUL** was tabled. It related to an extension to an existing grain store at Coatsay Moor Farm. Cllr Blenkinsopp had printed the plans from the DBC website. The plans were considered and reviewed and it was agreed that the proposal be **APPROVED**.

Application **16/00952/OUT** was tabled. It related to outline permission for the development of land adjacent to 2 main road, Redworth. The details could not be located on the DBC website so it was agreed that the Clerk was to provide a **NO COMMENT** response. **ACTION: PARISH CLERK**

024:2017 ACCOUNTS

The monthly bank statement was read out to the meeting and all transactions noted. The community benefit fund payment had not been made by Lightsource yet and the Clerk was in contact with Lightsource regarding this.

It was reported that the electricity bill for the changing rooms had been much higher than normal this month. Cllr Anderson suspected that this was down to the footballers leaving the water heater on. He was regularly checking this but less so recently. **IT WAS AGREED THAT** Cllr Anderson would look into the cost of having a timer fitted to the water heater and also the heating. This would also be raised with the football managers at the next football meeting. **ACTION: CLLR ANDERSON/PARISH CLERK**

025:2017 REPORTS/CORRESPONDENCE

Cllr Lee reported that there had been a major setback in the campaign to improve broadband in local rural areas including Redworth. Only a year ago, the cost of an upgrade had been estimated by Openreach at £1m, but had now increased to £3m without any explanation which Cllr Lee was now trying to obtain. This will gravely jeopardise the progress that has been made so far. Boosters are being looked at as an interim alternative.

A resident of Heighington had reported inconsiderate parking by the South Durham Hunt recently. Their vehicles were blocking pavements, forcing pedestrians onto the road. The Clerk was to contact the hunt and ask that this is not repeated. **ACTION: PARISH CLERK**

026.2017 OTHER MATTERS

It had been reported that parking on the corner of Hopelands from Highside Road was becoming an increasing problem, with the grass being badly churned up. This was DBC land and the Clerk was to report it to them. **ACTION: PARISH CLERK**

The applications for the Parish Clerk vacancy had been circulated to all councillors. A confidential discussion took place regarding the candidates and 5 were selected for interview which most closely appeared to have the experience and qualifications necessary for the role. Shortlisted candidates

HEIGHINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

c/o 7 The Garth, School Aycliffe, Newton Aycliffe, Co Durham. DL5 6QL

were to be invited to interviews to take place on 23 February 2017. All Councillors hoped to be available to attend.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.45 pm.