

HEIGHINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

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

MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 15th JUNE 2017 AT 6.30PM

PRESENT. Cllr B Anderson (Chairman)

Cllr C Teare

Cllr E Thompson

Cllr M Woodward

Cllr M French

Cllr L Bedocs

Cllr L Garner

Cllr G Blenkinsopp

Cllr G Lee

L Dunn

APOLOGIES. None

076.2017 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None

077.2017 RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN AGENDA ITEMS

None

078.2017 APPROVE MINUTES OF MEETING ON 18TH MAY 2017

The minutes of the meeting on 18th May 2017 were approved and signed by the Chairman accordingly.

079.2017 MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

Responses to all planning application notifications had been sent to Darlington Borough Council on 25th May.

A letter regarding Right of Access across the Village Greens was sent to 22 East Green on 25th May. To date the only response received has been from Mr & Mrs Harrop of 18 East Green.

The new seesaw was fitted at the Park yesterday. Unfortunately the wrong spring was brought for the repair of the other piece of equipment so it has had to be re-ordered. Cllr Anderson was informed that there would be no charge for the additional visit required and that the Clerk would receive an email to this effect from the company confirming this and a discount.

Enquiries are ongoing with Zurich regarding the addition of the Litter Pickers onto the insurance policy. The insurers have asked for information on numbers which has been provided to them.

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Mr Parnaby has been in contact with the Clerk and Cllrs Lee and Anderson regarding the letter received concerning the damaged bench from the sports field. Cllr Teare explained

that he had spoken to Cllr Lee following last months meeting in order to gain further information and then contacted the Clerk instructing her to send the letter accordingly. Mr Parnaby contacted the Clerk before the meeting to say that he was too upset to attend but wanted the following:

1. Details of the evidence which shows it is his child who was responsible for the damage
2. The reasons why parents of the other children who were also at the Park have not been contacted.
3. An apology for his son

Cllr Anderson stated that it is not a Parish Council matter and any damage should have been reported to the Police. After further discussion it was agreed that no apology would be forthcoming and that should Mr Parnaby wish to discuss the matter further he will be informed to contact the Chairman.

Cllr Lee informed the meeting that:

- He recently attended a meeting at Oakwood School and the outcome of such meeting was that he would attend the School every 5/6 weeks for a review meeting.
- Batts Lane is still ongoing
- An arborist is currently looking at the drawings of the trees and the intention is that it goes back to planning for reinstatement of the TPO's

080.2017 HEALTH AND SAFETY

None

081.2017 SPORTSFIELD

Cllr Anderson advised the meeting that Clover Landscapes will be on site on Monday to seed the goal mouths. The main drainage is also to be cleared.

Contact has still not been received from Highways regarding the drainage. Cllr Lee advised the Clerk to email Steve Brannan (steve.brannan@darlington.gov.uk)

ACTION Parish Clerk

Cllr Anderson informed the meeting that the Village Greens were cut earlier in the week but the sports field was missed. He contacted DBC and so today the workmen were back out but have only cut the playing field and not any of the surrounding areas. It was agreed that Cllr Lee would contact DBC to ask why these other areas had been left.

ACTION Cllr Lee

The damaged burglar alarm cover is yet to be fixed Cllr Anderson will chase up the Electrician. Cllr Teare will fit the mesh guard once the cover has been renewed.

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ACTION Cllrs Anderson & Teare

082.2017 FUNDING AND FUNDRAISING

None

083.2017 REDWORTH

Feedback following the speed sign installation had been received from Redworth and circulated before the meeting.

084.2017 THE CHESTNUTS

None

085.2017 PLANNING

Cllr Lee informed the meeting that there is a Heighington Development Workshop planned for Wednesday 21st June at the Dolphin Centre from 2pm until 4.30pm and that it would be beneficial for any submission to be ready before this meeting. Cllr Bedocs confirmed that he was attending. Cllr Lee asked that the Clerk contact the organiser of the workshop, Fiona McCall to request that all members of the Parish Council attend

In depth discussion was then had on the proposed development sites in the Parish, exploring the pros and cons of each site suggestions from the PC regarding alternative sites. It was agreed that the Clerk would draft the proposal which would be then sent by letter to the Planning Department and could also be taken to the Workshop on Wednesday.

ACTION Parish Clerk & All

Application Ref 17/00345/FUL related to the retrospective application for the siting of 3 no. temporary storage containers and 1 no. portal at Field No 7071 Heighington Lane. The Clerk was instructed to give an "AGREE" response but to also comment that complaints had been received over the noise created by the clay pigeon shooters.

Application Ref 17/00389/FUL related to the proposed erection of a dormer extension to include Juliet balcony to rear roof elevation at 6 Darlington Road. The Clerk was instructed to give a no comment response as inadequate information was available to access the proposal.

ACTION Parish Clerk

086.2017 FINANCE

Cllr Thompson congratulated the Clerk on keeping accurate accounting records.

The audit recommendation from the internal audit was read out by the Clerk which concerned obtaining three quotes for any proposed purchase over £300. This recommendation was proposed to be accepted by Cllr Thompsom and seconded by Cllr Bedocs and was therefore UNANIMOUSLY AGREED.

HSBC has been back in contact regarding internet banking and unfortunately with the facility there is only one person who can authorise payments. In view of this it was agreed not to pursue the matter further as all payments currently require two signatories

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The Clerk had circulated the bank reconciliation for April and May with the agenda and all balanced.

A number of cheques were requiring signature for the following purchases:

1. Internal Audit Fee £95
2. Strimmer repairs at Tool time £24
3. Protech pest control £78
4. J Elliott expenses (which were approved by Cllr Anderson) £32.82

087.2017 REPORTS/CORRESPONDENCE

Cllr Thompson informed the meeting that he was now unable to attend the Transparency Code workshop on Wednesday 21st June.

ACTION Parish Clerk

Cllr Bedocs informed the meeting that Heighington Fair was very successful and thanked the Parish Council on behalf of the Heighington Fair Committee for their kind donation and Cllr Teare for the HPC scarecrow. A review meeting is planned for next week.

088.2017 OTHER MATTERS

The Clerk was requested to send a letter of thanks to Mrs Garner for supplying the plants for the numerous planters around the village. Cllr Garner proposed that next year the planting be done by either the Warden or a contractor as Cllr Anderson had done all of the work alone this year. Cllr Thomson seconded the proposal and IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY AGREED that this should be done next year.

ACTION Parish Clerk

Vicki Lumb has asked if Scouts could take on the responsibility of some of the planters. This request was agreed in principal.

Cllr Lee congratulated Cllr Anderson for his recent award for Citizen of the Year as part of the Best of Darlington Awards. He informed the meeting that Cllr Woodward had also received an award on behalf of his team of fire fighters for their work done at a fire at a block of flats in Darlington last year. Both were congratulated by all attendees.

The grass outside the George and Dragon public house was discussed as due to tables not being removed when the grass cutters are in the village it is not getting cut. Cllr Bedocs informed the meeting that they have previously been written to regarding this and it was only agreed that the benches could be placed on the grass if they were removed for it to be cut. Following discussion it was agreed that a letter should be written to both the landlord and Enterprise Inns.

ACTION Parish Clerk

Cllr Bedocs raised the issue of the condition of the grass and greens around Hopelands. Cars have driven over the green and damaged it. The greens are the responsibility of DBC and they have previously been written to about the matter. It was agreed that DBC should be contacted to ask what progress has been made since the last contact. Cllr Lee advised the best person to contact was Mr Ian Thompson (ian.thompson@darlington.gov.uk)

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Cllr Woodward informed the meeting that he had been in touch with Mrs Gibson regarding her bench and it was nearly ready to erect. A decision was required on where it should go. Cllr Anderson asked for volunteers to draw up bench plots and Cllrs Bedocs and Woodward put their names forward which was agreed.

ACTION Cllrs Bedocs & Woodward

Cllr Garner informed the meeting that he was in possession of three old plaques from benches which have previously been removed from the Village Green and suggested they be re-erected on empty seats. Following discussion Cllr Thompson proposed that all three plaques be positioned on the bench outside the Village Hall and this was agreed.

ACTION Cllr Garner

Cllr Anderson has been approached by Mrs Lyon, the Head of Heighington Pre School to ask if there would be any objection to her erecting a notice in the Memorial Garden advertising the Pre School. Cllr Garner said the facility might have issues following the Governments introduction of the free 30 hours childcare which is due to come into force from September 2017 and might lose pupils as a result of this if they cannot accommodate the extra hours. Cllr Bedocs objected to a notice board solely for the Pre School purpose but would like to see a "Village Notice Board" as the current one on the wall of the Village Hall is for Parish Council use only. Cllr Anderson agreed to discuss the request further with Mrs Lyon and it was agreed that he had the authority to agree to a suitable proposal.

ACTION Cllr Anderson

Cllr Bedocs informed the meeting that Heighington Village Hall Committee are wanting to refurbish the committee room and remove any filing cabinets etc to the lower committee room. It would be necessary for the Parish Council filing cabinet to be moved accordingly. Any archive material could be stored above the Pre School cupboard. Cllr Anderson agreed that the filing cabinet could be moved and that the boxes next to the filing cabinet were to go above the Pre School cupboard.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.55pm.