

HEIGHINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

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

MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 19th MARCH 2015 AT 7.00 PM

PRESENT: Cllr C Teare (Chairman)
Cllr E Thompson
Cllr K Wilkinson
Cllr M Woodward
Cllr M French
Cllr C Lawrence

S Lenegan

APOLOGIES: Cllr B Anderson (Chairman)
Cllr G Lee
Cllr G Blenkinsopp

031.2015 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies had been received from Cllr Anderson and Cllr Lee.

032.2015 RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

None.

033.2015 APPROVE MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING ON 19 FEBRUARY 2015

The minutes of the meeting held on 19th February 2015 were approved as an accurate record of the meeting and signed by the Chairman accordingly.

034.2015 MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

The Parish Clerk had written to Barrier Energy regarding the performance of the solar panels. Barrier had been in contact by phone and had advised that the winter season had produced very poor generation results for customers generally due to dark conditions. However, to be sure that the installation was operating correctly, they offered to send an engineer to inspect the panels and controls. The Clerk was to contact Barrier to arrange this inspection once Cllr Anderson returned from holiday.

CLERK

ACTION: PARISH

Regarding revenue generation from the panels, it appeared that Barrier had used a slightly higher feed in tariff to formulate the financial projections than the tariff that applied to the installation. This was to be discussed with Cllr Anderson.

ACTION: PARISH CLERK

035.2015 HEALTH AND SAFETY

Cllr Anderson completed the Parish inspections prior to his holiday and no issues were reported.

036.2015 SPORTSFIELD

The Clerk reported that Cllr Anderson had replaced the downpipe on the changing rooms following the recent vandalism. Cllr Teare felt that the remaining downpipes should be strengthened to reduce the risk of similar damage occurring in future and was to discuss this with Cllr Anderson.

ACTION: CLLR TEARE

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The replacement swing had now been delivered and was to be installed on Cllr Anderson's return. Cllr Teare would help if needed.

Cllr Lawrence was to chase up Rhino Ramps for the post installation inspection report for the new ramps. **ACTION: CLLR LAWRENCE**

Cllr Lawrence reported that a bump had appeared in the tarmac on the skate park between one of the new ramps and one of the main ramps. It was in an awkward place and needed attention. The Clerk was to discuss this with Cllr Anderson to see whether the repair was straightforward or whether the tarmac supplier would need to be contacted. **ACTION:**

PARISH CLERK

037.2015 FUNDING AND FUNDRAISING

Nothing to report.

038.2015 REDWORTH

Cllr Wilkinson advised that the branches had now been cleared from the green on Grangeside.

The damage to the kerb/verge by the junction to Mill Lane had been reported to highways by the Clerk, but had not been repaired to date. The clerk was to chase this up. **ACTION: PARISH CLERK**

Cllr Wilkinson reported that the notice boards in Redworth needed to be repaired. Neither could be closed properly, or lock. Cllr Teare was to have a look at them. **ACTION: CLLR TEARE**

The hedge outside 16 High Row had now been cut back.

Cllr Wilkinson reported that at least 2 elderly residents of Redworth would benefit from the bus service that operated from Heighington to take older residents to do their shopping and wondered whether they could be included in this service. Cllr Teare understood that there was a service operated by Durham CC, but that could be used by residents of Heighington and Redworth provided certain conditions were met. For just a £1 joining fee, residents could make travel arrangements within the service. Cllr Teare was to provide details of this service to the Clerk prior to the next meeting. **ACTION:**

CLLR TEARE

039.2015 THE CHESTNUTS

Following the Parish Council's submission in reply to Lightsource Renewable Energy's application for a solar farm at School Aycliffe, Lightsource had confirmed that they were to include enhanced screening from the road in their proposals.

040.2015 PLANNING

Planning Application **ref: 15/00153/FUL** relating to the restoration of 2 existing dwellings to 3 dwellings with carparking and garages (Kings Head Cottages Royal Oak) had been received. Following a discussion it was agreed that the application be APPROVED. **ACTION: PARISH CLERK**

Planning Application **Ref: 15/00136/FUL** had been received. It related to the removal of a condition applicable to the original planning for 5 wind turbine units at Royal Oak farm. The condition was relevant to primary radar cover. Following consideration of the accompanying documents, the application was APPROVED. **ACTION: PARISH CLERK**

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Planning Application **Ref: 15/00113/LBC** was considered. It related to listed building consent for the replacement of windows and re-roofing works at the Old Hall, 43 Church View, Heighington DL5 6PN. Following consideration of the information provided, it was agreed that the application be APPROVED.

ACTION: PARISH

CLERK

041.2015 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING UPDATE

Cllr Anderson and the Parish Clerk had attended the Neighbourhood Planning workshop on 25 February. It was a very informative session. Working around a draft local plan was a common problem faced by Parish Councils in their Neighbourhood planning processes and it was understandable that Parish Councils were reluctant in these circumstances to put significant funding and time into a process that could be superseded by the local authority (LA) imminently. However, if the Parish worked closely with the LA and understood the LA's evidence base and intentions for the area, the likelihood of each body working on the same principles was much higher. It was intended to hold further discussion with the LA and to seek up to date advice on available funding over the coming weeks. The Parish Council was to be kept informed.

ACTION: PARISH

CLERK

042.2015 FINANCE

The Clerk circulated the latest monthly report. The transactions that had occurred during the month were noted. Cash flow was better than anticipated as the CTC grant had been paid early and football fees had been paid.

The audit pack had arrived and the details were to be given at the April meeting.

ACTION: PARISH CLERK

043.2015 ELECTIONS UPDATE

The Clerk reported that the nominations packs for the forthcoming election would be available next week and **needed to be returned to Darlington Borough Council's offices by 4pm on Thursday 9 April 2015**. Anyone wishing the Clerk to return the forms on their behalf was to let her know asap as she was to attend at the offices on Thursday 2 April.

ACTION:

ALL

044.2015 REPORTS/CORRESPONDENCE

A letter had been received from Heighington Village Hall Association regarding hire arrangements and extended an invitation for a Councillor to attend the AGM. Cllr Teare attended and found the meeting very informative.

The VHA had suggested that a Councillor attends each monthly meeting (second Tuesday of the month). Whilst it may not always be possible for a councillor to attend each month, it was agreed that it was important to try to attend periodically and the Clerk was to write to the VHA confirming this, and to ensure that availability of a councillor was decided at each PC meeting.

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ACTION: PARISH CLERK

Cllr Woodward informed the meeting about a safer homes strategy operated by the Police and Fire brigade that had received funding to help with home safety and security for vulnerable people in the community. He was to bring the details to the next meeting.

ACTION: CLLR WOODWARD

Cllr Lawrence needed a key for the changing rooms. The Clerk was to arrange this with Cllr Anderson.

ACTION: PARISH CLERK

OTHER MATTERS

Cllr Thompson noted that litter bags had been left on the green following the recent litter pick, in contravention of the new disposal arrangements that had been made. The Clerk advised that this was due to Cllr Anderson's holiday and that the arrangements would be reviewed to deal with such eventualities in future.

ACTION: PARISH CLERK

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 7.55 pm.