

HEIGHINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

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

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

PRESENT. Cllr B Anderson (Chairman)

Cllr C Teare

Cllr E Thompson

Cllr L Garner

Cllr L Bedocs

Cllr G Lee

L Dunn

Mr K Houghton (Heighington Village Hall Association)

Mstr A Carr

001.2018 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr G Blenkinsopp, Cllr M Woodward

002.2018 RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN AGENDA ITEMS

None

003.2018 APPROVE MINUTES OF MEETING ON 15th FEBRUARY 2018

The minutes of the meeting on 15th March 2018 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

004.2018 MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

- Freedom of Information request regarding Section 106 monies – further question was raised and the reply from DBC distributed. Cllr Bedocs considered that the response received was inadequate and this was unanimously agreed. He stated that all of the monies were being allocated to County Durham. Cllr Lee informed the meeting that that monies have to go towards the development and in mitigating problems relating to the same. He said that the money from the development has now been allocated. Cllr Bedocs suggested that the DBC Cabinet Member responsible for planning should be challenged and Cllr Lee advised that this was Mr. Ian Williams

ACTION: Parish Clerk

- Salary changes approved at last meeting have been implemented
- Cllr Lee informed the meeting that residents of the Chestnuts were informed of the reasons for the loud noise which came from INEOS.
- Cllr Lee met with the Site Manager from the Chestnuts development two weeks ago and the list of concerns were dealt with.
- Comments on planning applications were sent to DBC.
- Both bus shelters have now been painted by DBC

The Chairman then introduced Mr Keith Houghton from Heighington Village Hall Association who had attended the meeting in order to present a request for funding on behalf of the Village Hall.

Mr Houghton stated that the Chairman of HVHA, Mr Stuart Allison had attended a previous HPC meeting and had had some dialogue regarding the replacement of windows in the Village Hall. Mr Houghton informed the meeting that following discussions he has had with a DBC officer (who he was not at liberty to name) of DBC they

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had indicated that some S106 monies from the proposed Walworth Road development would be made available to HVHA towards the cost of the replacement windows.

He then went on to introduce Alexander Carr who, as part of his Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award had been helping Mr Houghton in compiling the request for funds for a project for the Village Hall. He explained that the Village Hall had been running at a loss for the last few years and was looking at new ways in which to increase income, particularly in view of the possible closure of Heighington Pre School. The project presented was to introduce a Cinema Night which would run once a month. In order to get the project up and running there were a number of items which required purchase, including new, more comfortable chairs, a projector and the appropriate license. Donations have already been secured from the Village Halls Consortia (£250) and a private individual (£1,000). The Association were looking for a donation from the Parish Council which would cover the cost of the projector (which is expected to be in the region of £580). The total cost of the project was estimated to be in the region of £3,200.

Cllr Teare commented that he considered the idea to be good. Cllr Garner asked if any enquiries / research had been made regarding the demand for such an event and Mr Houghton advised that within the proposal documentation was a case study of a similar project which has been implemented elsewhere. Cllr Teare commented that the said document stated that the idea had worked in a number of other Village Halls.

Cllr French asked if any enquiries had been made regarding the resale of the existing chairs and Mr Houghton said that a potential buyer had been sourced.

The Chairman thanked Mr Houghton and Mstr Carr for their time and informed them that their proposal would be discussed and they would be contacted in due course.

Cllr Bedocs stated that he considered the proposal would be beneficial for the Village, increasing the use of the Village Hall and that monies in the Community Fund could be used to form a donation. Cllr Anderson replied in that the Community Fund for 2017/18 had operated at a loss due to the large donation given to Redworth for the purchase of the speed sign. The Parish Clerk informed the meeting that although operating at a loss for the 2017/18 financial year, there was a balance of £772.89 in the Fund.

Discussion was then had on the comments Mr Houghton had made regarding HVHA receiving S106 monies from the proposed Walworth Road development. The general consensus was that before any further discussion took place on the request for funding towards the cinema night, Mr Houghton be asked who from DBC had offered HVHA the S106 monies, how much they were to receive and whether the funds were for a specific item, or to be used as HVHA saw fit. Cllr Teare proposed this action and Cllr Garner seconded it.

ACTION: Parish Clerk

005.2018 HEALTH AND SAFETY

None

006.2018 SPORTSFIELD

Cllr Teare requested help from fellow Councillors in removing the weeds and soil which was encroaching onto the MUGA. He suggested installing a board around the edge to prevent the soil from falling in the future. Cllr Anderson stated that he was to have a meeting with Heighington FC (Parish Clerk to organise) in the near future and would also ask for their help.

ACTION: Parish Clerk, Cllrs Teare & Anderson

007.2018 FUNDING AND FUNDRAISING

Cllr Anderson asked the Parish Clerk to obtain an "Awards for All" application form which would be used to apply for funding towards the cost of the extension of the changing rooms.

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ACTION: Parish Clerk

008.2018 REDWORTH

Cllr Teare informed the meeting that the plaque for the bench had been ordered and that the slats would be repaired in the near future.

Damage to the barrier on the island on the A6072 had been reported to DBC and Cllr Lee informed the meeting that an order had been placed for its replacement.

Clarification is required on the responsibility of maintenance of the speed signs. The Parish Clerk was asked to contact the people who requested funding from HPC for the signs.

ACTION: Parish Clerk

Cllr Lee reported that the meetings with Oakwood School were being changed to once every four months. He also stated that the owners of the Fish Farm had complained about the school's security lights being too bright. The school had listened and were now switching them off more frequently.

009.2018 THE CHESTNUTS

None

110.2018 PLANNING

Planning application notices received as follows:

- 18/00191/OUT – Outline application for erection of detached dormer bungalow (with all matters except access reserved), 16 Snackgate Lane, Heighington
- 18/00151/LBC – Listed building consent to replace or restore external rendering, repairing of flash band on roof and chimney stacks, reinstatement of missing water table, all windows to be repaired or replaced and creation of single doorway from window opening on rear elevation, Eldon House, 7 East Green, Heighington
- 18/00035/FUL – Demolition of existing barn and erection of 75 dwellings and associated access, landscaping and engineering works (as amended by plans received 1 February 2018 and amended and additional plans received 23 March 2018), Field 6500, Walworth Road, Heighington
- 18/000279/FUL – Erection of general purpose agricultural shed, East Newbiggin Farm, Newbiggin Lane, Heighington
- 18/00278/FUL – Erection of extension to agricultural building for the housing of beef cattle, East Newbiggin Farm, Newbiggin Lane, Heighington
- 18/00300/FUL – Erection of a single storey extension to the front elevation, new porch to the side elevation and removal of existing conservatory at the rear, reconfiguration of doors and windows and exterior to be clad with re-constituted stone slips, 10 Hall Lane, Heighington

It was agreed a "No Comment" response would be made to all applications, except 18/00035/FUL for which an objection response had already been sent on 19th April 2018.

ACTION: Parish Clerk

Further discussion took place on S106 monies. Cllr Bedocs stated that S106 was being handled through the planning committee at DBC and he was concerned that HPC do not seem to have involvement in any formal consultation. Cllr Lee informed that meeting that he has had discussions on the need for additional parking spaces in Hopelands and whether some S106 monies could be used for this purpose. He also informed the meeting that potential recipients of S106 monies from the Beech Road development are the school, bus shelters and cycleways. Cllr Anderson stated that DBC are making these decisions and the least they could do is to consult with HPC. Cllr Teare suggested they be contacted and informed that HPC want to be involved in the decision-making process.

It was agreed to request a copy of the 5 Year Plan from DBC.

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Cllr French informed the meeting that the road leading into the village from the A68 has a large pot hole which is approximately 3 inches deep and needs reporting to DBC.

ACTION: Parish Clerk

011.2018 FINANCE

Clerks Report

The bank reconciliation for March had been circulated and balanced.

Accounts for the 2017/18 financial year had also been circulated along with explanations of variances between the 16/17 and 17/18 actuals over 15%. The draft position (before any audit) was showing a net deficit for the year of £498.21. This is made up of a General Fund surplus of £692.00 and a Community Fund deficit of £1,190.21. Reserves are healthy at just over £8.5k.

All relevant documentation has been sent to the Internal Auditor and they have confirmed that they should complete the IA by mid-May. Once completed the documentation will come to the Parish Council meeting before being sent to the External Auditors, Mazarrs.

The current electricity contract for the changing rooms expires on 31st August 2018. Enquiries have been made with an energy consultant who has obtained a competitive quote from SWALEC. The Chairman signed the DD mandate for the new contract.

Membership of the County Durham Association of Local Councils (CDALC) is due for renewal. Estimations on the cost (if no increase from last year) would be £311.35 (based on 1,861 electors @ 16.73p). Cllr Garner proposed that membership be maintained and Cllr Bedocs seconded. It was also agreed that advice would be sought from CDALC regarding the Parish Councils position with regards to having a say over S106 monies.

The insurance is also due for renewal. It is currently in a long-term agreement and the renewal price is £1,416.27. Cllr Teare proposed that the policy be renewed and Cllr Bedocs seconded.

ACTION: Parish Clerk

012.2018 REPORTS/CORRESPONDENCE

Cllr Teare had been approached by a village resident regarding the state of the ground in Bucks Square. The surface has been ground down due to vehicles driving over it. Cllr Thompson advised the meeting that chippings had previously been put down by HPC on two occasions, however Cllr Garner considered this not to be the best solution as in heavy rain the chippings are washed away and can block the gully / drains. The area cannot be tarmacked as it is technically Village Green. Following discussion, it was agreed that the current state is due to general wear and tear and that the preferred solution is to leave it as it is.

013.2018 OTHER MATTERS

Cllr Lee informed the meeting that:

1. Fly tipping had been removed from Walworth Road and had been replaced by a dead horse. This had been removed on Monday.
2. There is inadequate fencing around the field on Walworth Road. The PCSO is to video it for evidence and the owners are to be approached.
3. Sheep have been found wandering on School Aycliffe Lane. Temporary fixes to the fence have been made by the police with policy tape.

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4. The village sign needs washing and to access it some scaffolding is required. Cllr Teare offered to provide a scaffold tower.

ACTION: Cllrs Teare & Lee

Cllr Teare informed the meeting that new street lights had been erected and a check was required to see if the wire for the Christmas Lights had been connected. It was suggested the lights be plugged in to see if they work.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.25pm.