

HEIGHINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

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

MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 18th JULY 2019 AT 7.00 PM

PRESENT

Cllr G Blenkinsopp (Chairman)	Cllr E Thompson
Cllr L Teare	Cllr M Woodward
Cllr M French	

IN ATTENDANCE

L Dunn	L Garner
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001.2019 APOLOGIES

Cllr A Holmes	Cllr G Lee
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051.2019 RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN AGENDA ITEMS

None

There then followed a presentation on a Neighbourhood Plan by Mr Shaun Hanson of Planning Advice Plus.

Cllr Teare left the meeting

052.2019 APPROVE MINUTES OF MEETING ON 20th JUNE 2019

The minutes of the meeting on 20th June 2019 were approved and signed by the Chairman accordingly.

053.2019 MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

Cllr Blenkinsopp updated the meeting on the meeting held with representatives from DBC regarding the planning permission at The Dog Inn, Walworth. As far as DBC are concerned the permission was granted for holiday homes and not residential, but this is contrary to the land owners website. DBC are therefore to investigate.

There was also an issue raised on the presence of newts in the pond. This had not been addressed previously as the pond was not registered with Natural England. Newts have since been found and evidence of this has been passed to Natural England for action.

Contact has been received from two potential Councillors.

As one of the applications was from a former Councillor their application was discussed and Cllr French proposed that they be elected back onto the Parish Council. Cllr Woodward seconded the proposal and it was UNANIMOUSLY AGREED that Mr. Garner be appointed. Mr. Garner completed the Acceptance of Office form and then was invited to join the meeting by the Chairman.

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Cllr Garner joined the meeting

The second application was discussed but it was agreed that new applications should be discussed when all members are present, therefore it was agreed to defer the consideration of the application until the next meeting and invite the applicant to come to the meeting to present their application in person.

ACTION: Parish Clerk

054.2019 HEALTH AND SAFETY

Cllr Blenkinsopp discussed the Play Area Inspection Report which had been circulated by the Clerk. There were small areas needing attention but nothing urgent. He would work through each of the points and welcomed help by any other Councillors.

ACTION: Cllr Blenkinsopp

055.2019 SPORTSFIELD

Cllr Blenkinsopp has investigated new picnic benches and had details of some made from heavy duty plastic which he felt would last longer than wooden ones. The prices vary between £650 - £750 each depending on if wheelchair friendly ones are purchased. Normal heavy-duty wooden ones cost in the region of £250 but require more maintenance. Cllr Garner informed the meeting that he was aware of a supplier in Northallerton and agreed to contact them for some prices.

The Clerk advised that for any spend over £300 three quotes would be required. It was therefore agreed for other quotes to be obtained ready for the next meeting.

ACTION: Cllr Blenkinsopp / Cllr Garner

The Clerk has contacted DBC regarding the dog signs erected at the sports field as they are in a state of disrepair.

Cllr Blenkinsopp informed the meeting of some incidents which have taken place in the playing field car park where people dropping children off at the car park have acted aggressively to members of Heighington boys football team and the Environmental Warden.

On the first occasion on Wednesday 10th July the car park was full due to an event in the School and there were no parking places available for people wanting to use the sports field. (A member of Heighington Boys FC was a witness to the incident). This ended up with a parent / carer damaging a vehicle of one of the coaching team of Heighington Boys FC.

On Thursday 11th July the Environmental Warden was verbally abused by a parent (with a child). He was polite and very restrained under the circumstances but the matter could have escalated very quickly.

Further, today, Thursday 18th July a member of Heighington Boys FC drove his white van into the car park sometime after 9am in order to do some maintenance work on the field in preparation of the new football season starting. He was verbally abused by a parent from the school using the car park in view of the vehicle he was driving.

This is completely unacceptable behaviour and The Parish Council need to work to get this stopped very quickly. If necessary, measures will have to be taken to either ban certain vehicles from using the car park, or the car park be locked to prevent use by school users and the police be contacted if Parish Council staff are threatened or are verbally abused.

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It was agreed that an urgent meeting would be requested with the Head of Heighington School, bearing in mind that the only date for a meeting would be Friday 19th July which was the last day of the summer term. If no meeting could be arranged then a letter would be sent.

ACTION: Parish Clerk / Cllr Blenkinsopp

056.2019 FUNDING AND FUNDRAISING

None

057.2019 REDWORTH & HEIGHINGTON

Existing flower tubs at both Heighington and Redworth have been emptied and filled with new compost. The WI are to put the new planters they are purchasing on the corner of the Green opposite the Village Hall in Heighington. It was noted that they had agreed to maintain the tubs for 5 years.

Cllr Thompson informed the meeting that he had been approached by some residents of Hopelands asking whether the tubs there could be repaired. Cllr Woodward suggested that new ones be purchased as the old ones were not in good condition. It was agreed that Cllr Woodward would speak to the residents at Hopelands to determine whether they would be willing to continue to maintain tubs.

Cllr Blenkinsopp suggested that when the budget for the next financial year is prepared consideration needs to be given to employing a part time gardener / handyman in the summer months in order to carry out tasks such as this. This was agreed.

ACTION: Cllr Woodward

Cllr Blenkinsopp informed the meeting that the ladies toilets had a leak behind the panel which was investigated by a local plumber. The work to repair them has now been completed. The Parish Clerk informed the meeting that the cost of the repair was £198 and asked for approval to pay the invoice. This was agreed. Cllr Blenkinsopp further explained that due to leaks the floor of the gentlemen's toilets was starting to erode. He will speak to Brian Anderson about what repairs had been done previously.

ACTION: Parish Clerk / Cllr Blenkinsopp

058.2019 THE CHESTNUTS / OAKLANDS

None

059.2019 PLANNING

Application Ref: 19/00551/FUL – demolition of existing bungalow and erection of replacement chalet style bungalow, 15 Garthlands

Agreed a No comment reply to be given.

ACTION: Parish Clerk

A Neighbourhood Plan was discussed and it was agreed that it would be discussed further when all Councillors were present.

060.2019 FINANCE

The bank reconciliation for May and June had been circulated prior to the meeting and balanced.

The AGAR had been sent to the External Auditors.

Despite the form for telephone banking being completed and sent to the Band no response has been received. The Clerk has found a bank mandate form on the HSBC website which has been completed with the

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details of the new signatories. This was signed by the Chairman and Vice Chairman and will be sent to the bank to see if they will update the signatories on the account.

ACTION: Parish Clerk

061.2019 REPORTS/CORRESPONDENCE

Cllr Woodward informed the meeting that there was some fly tipping in New Lane which needed reporting to DBC.

ACTION: Parish Clerk

062.2019 ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED ON NEXT AGENDA

There being no further items, the meeting concluded at 9:03pm