

HEIGHINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

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

MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 21ST NOVEMBER 2019 AT 7.00 PM

PRESENT

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

IN ATTENDANCE

L Dunn	
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APOLOGIES

Cllr A Holmes	Cllr G Lee
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087.2019 RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN AGENDA ITEMS

The Clerk has an interest in the Community Fund application received from Bishop Auckland St Marys U14 Football team.

088.2019 APPROVE MINUTES OF MEETING ON 19TH SEPTEMBER 2019

The minutes of the meeting on 17TH October 2019 were approved and signed by the Chairman accordingly.

089.2019 MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

Following the submission of further information to CDALC a response has been received from the legal team at NALC.

The Chairman and Cllr Lee met with representatives from Heighington School regarding the sports field car park. The school was asked if they were in a position to contribute to the upkeep of the car park in consideration of the use by staff, visitors and parents of the school. The school's response was that the school was contracting rather than expanding with lower pupil numbers projected in the future. They stated that there were no parking restrictions attached to the car park so users were not breaking any rules by using it. S106 monies due to the school from the housing developments was discussed and the school admitted it didn't know anything about them. Cllr Lee is to speak to DBC to arrange a meeting in order that this can be discussed further. The school has produced a draft letter to send to parents explaining to them that the car park belongs to the Parish Council and its main intention is for use by users of the sports facilities. It also explains that from time to time contractors and Heighington FC representatives will be using the car park. The letter was approved for circulation.

ACTION: Cllr Lee

090.2019 HEALTH AND SAFETY

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At the meeting of Councillors on 7th November EJS Electrical were awarded the work in the changing rooms and the work is to be started next week.

Cllr Garner stated that the completion certificate from when the building was built should be obtained as it is classed as insurance for defects and HPC could go to the Inspection Council. Cllr Lee has been in contact with DBC Building Control and they have advised that they were not obliged to keep a copy and so cannot help. Cllr Teare explained that this matter was discussed in full at the meeting of 7th November and it was agreed that the work needed doing despite the missing completion certificate. The Chairman will also contact the previous Chairman to see if he has any paperwork.

ACTION: Cllr Blenkinsopp

091.2019 SPORTSFIELD

The Chairman asked if everyone was happy with the proposed fees for Heighington FC as included in the budget. The agreed charges are:

- £250 per adult team
- £100 per junior team

The fees were all agreed and Heighington FC will be informed.

ACTION: Parish Clerk

092.2019 FUNDING AND FUNDRAISING

A number of applications have been received for funding from the Community Fund. Each one was discussed in detail:

1. Application for £69 towards the refurbishment of the Redworth Millennium Pump Area by Redworth Village Hall Association – APPROVED
2. Application for £320 to take older parishioners from the village out for Christmas Lunch – REFUSED
3. Application for £150 for training balls and tracksuits for St Marys Bishop Auckland FC U14s football team – REFUSED
4. Application for £850 towards the purchase of replacement lights for the Heighington Christmas tree – PROPOSED by Cllr Garner, seconded by Cllr French and UNANIMOUSLY AGREED
5. Application for contribution towards replacement lighting in Heighington Village Hall - REFUSED
6. Application for funding for Heighington BP Scouts – PROPOSED by Cllr Garner, seconded by Cllr French and following a vote it was AGREED (3 votes AGAINST and 4 votes FOR) and awarded £735.81

ACTION: Parish Clerk

093.2019 REDWORTH & HEIGHINGTON

Cllr Teare has not had the opportunity yet to remove the notice board in Redworth.

ACTION: Cllr Teare

The boulders in Heighington still need to be moved.

ACTION: Cllrs Teare / Garner

The defibrillator had been delivered and discussion was had on the best place to erect it. Cllr Thompson proposed it be erected on the village hall and Cllr Woodward seconded this proposal. It was agreed that contact

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would be made with Heighington Village Hall Association to ask if it could be put on the village hall on an area which is easily visible to the public.

It was also noted that the Council had received a note of thanks for taking responsibility of the defibrillator from Mrs. Lee.

ACTION: Parish Clerk

A question was raised as to what the position was with the remains of the bonfire. The landlord at the Bay Horse will be asked.

ACTION: Parish Clerk

There have been ongoing issues with the gent's public toilet. The plumber fixed the leak but when the Environmental Warden had next gone into the toilets there was water all over the floor. The fixings were further tested and to be found sound and it is suspected that the liquid on the floor is urine. The Chairman had noticed that the toilet was locked and was to speak to the Environmental Warden to find out why.

ACTION: Cllr Blenkinsopp

Various quotes for replacement Christmas tree lights have been sourced and advice from other local Parish Council as to their suppliers. All the information was passed onto Cllr Teare who will organise their purchase. Contact had been received from HVHA regarding the procedures for the switching on of the Christmas tree lights at their annual Switch On event. Following discussion, it was agreed that Cllr Teare would attend the event and the procedure would be as in previous years in that the representative switching on the lights would have a remote control and when they pressed the "On button" Cllr Teare would activate the power supply.

ACTION: Parish Clerk / Cllr Teare

094.2019 THE CHESTNUTS / OAKLANDS

None

095.2019 PLANNING

Application Ref: 19/01049/FUL – Application submitted under Section 73 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 for the removal of condition 3 (Affordable Housing) attached to planning 16/00820/FUL dated 16 April 2018 – Proposed Residential Development, Station Road, Heighington

Agreed a "object strongly as the provision of affordable housing was a condition of the receipt of planning approval" reply given.

ACTION: Parish Clerk

096.2019 FINANCE

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

The Parish Clerk gave detail of the membership of CDALC and its estimated cost for 2020/21. It was agreed that membership should be continued.

ACTION: Parish Clerk

The Clerk requested permission to forward the payments for village hall assistance to both Heighington and Redworth Village Halls. This was agreed. Discussion followed and it was also agreed that both village halls would be informed that they would need to submit an application for the funding in 2020/21.

ACTION: Parish Clerk

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The proposed 2020/21 budget was discussed. The budget shows total income and expenditure of £27,020, assuming a precept of £20,270 which is the same requested from DBC as the current year. With the latest figure available on the tax base as at 2019/20 of 901.9 this would give a Council Tax cost of £22.47 per Band D household in the Parish.

The 2020/21 budget was approved.

ACTION: Parish Clerk

The Clerk informed the meeting that confirmation had been received from HSBC that the signatories on the bank account had now been changed. There were some cheques which had been signed by the old Chairman which would therefore need to be destroyed. These are cheque numbers 101651 to 101657 inclusive.

Several invoice had been received for which payment was required and these were authorised.

097.2019 REPORTS/CORRESPONDENCE

Cllr Lee has been approached by the owner of the former Cumby to ask if they can come to the next Parish Council meeting in order to discuss their plans for development of the site. They had provided a draft may of their proposal which consists of 17 self-build executive homes. The Chairman asked if everyone was happy for him to be invited to the next meeting and this was agreed

ACTION: Cllr Blenkinsopp

The Chairman has been approached by Bewick Crescent Doctors Surgery about possible plans to relocate Heighington surgery to alternative premises. Possible sites were discussed, one of which involved an area of the sports field. Cllr Garner was against using the sports field and Cllr Teare stated that it needed full discussion. Cllr French informed the meeting that the sports field could only be used for sporting purposes and that there is a covenant on it to this effect.

A request has been received from HVHA for them to utilise the notice board which incorporates the Ordnance Survey Map. It was agreed that the board had seen better days and it was agreed that a new map would be purchased. HVHA would be contacted to say that HPC intend to refurbish this particular notice board but if they required an additional board then they were welcome to have the one which is due to be removed at Redworth.

ACTION: Parish Clerk

A question has been raised by a parishioner requesting when copies of the minutes from meetings held between Councillors on 22nd August and 7th November are to be published on the website. The Parish Clerk was not at either of these meetings and it is noted that the parishioner is only aware that these meetings took place as they have access to the Village Hall bookings diary. These were not full Council meetings and advice is to be sought from CDALC as to whether these need to be published. The Chairman will however produce minutes for the most recent meeting.

ACTION: Parish Clerk

098.2019 ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED ON NEXT AGENDA

Quote for work to dig around MUGA and lay hardcore and boards to prevent weeds.

Beech Crescent Development & S106 monies (Head of Planning at DBC to attend the meeting)

There being no further items, the meeting concluded at 8:50pm