

HEIGHINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

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

MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 16TH JANUARY 2020 AT 7.00 PM

PRESENT

Cllr G Blenkinsopp (Chairman)	Cllr E Thompson
Cllr A Holmes	Cllr L Garner
Cllr S Bremner	Cllr M Woodward

IN ATTENDANCE

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APOLOGIES

Cllr C Teare	Cllr G Lee
Cllr M French	

099.2019 RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN AGENDA ITEMS

Cllr Holmes expressed an interest in the presentation by the parishioner on the potential development of the former Cumby land.

The parishioner explained the plans for the land at the former Cumby public house. They have been approached by a number of housing developers, the most recent being Cousins Homes. The development would consist of 37 self builds and the parishioner welcomed any comments on the layout and the proposals. They explained that a pre application had been submitted to DBC before Christmas and before the full application would be submitted a public consultation would be held. They acknowledged the Right of Access which the Parish Council had over the land and explained that surveys and studies had already been carried out with no issues being found.

General discussion then proceeded including the possibility of the relocation of the doctor's surgery on the site which the parishioner said they would have to consider and would come back to the Parish Council.

The Chairman thanked them for coming and said that Councillors would attend the public consultation event.

A parishioner from Redworth had attended the meeting to discuss concerns over the erosion of the village green in the village. Details were given and the Chairman explained that as custodians of the village greens the Parish Council would look into the concerns and see what could be done. The Chairman will meet the parishioner in the village in order to see the erosion referred to.

ACTION: Cllr Blenkinsopp

A parishioner and representative from Heighington Village Hall had attended the meeting to discuss the Village Hall in relation to S106 priorities for the village. They explained that the windows in the hall were in need of replacement and quotes obtained to date were in the region of £160,000. In addition to this the lighting in the hall needs replacing, with that in the new hall being scheduled for the work to be done in the near future

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at a cost of approximately £2,000. Lighting in the old hall and entrance way also needs to be replaced. There are also concerns with the roof. The Chairman informed the parishioner that there were monies left in the Community Fund as the amount allocated for replacement Christmas Tree lights had not been fully spent and so some could be donated towards the cost of the lighting.

100.2019 APPROVE MINUTES OF MEETING ON 21ST NOVEMBER 2019

The minutes of the meeting on 21st November 2019 were approved and signed by the Chairman accordingly.

101.2019 MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

Cllr Lee was going to speak to the Head of Planning at DBC to arrange a meeting to discuss S106 monies after his meeting with the school. As Cllr Lee was not in attendance no further information had been obtained. The Head of Planning had been invited to the meeting by the Parish Clerk but had not responded to the request.

ACTION: Cllr Lee

The Chairman had not had the opportunity to speak to the previous Chairman regarding the electrical completion certificate for the changing rooms.

ACTION: Cllr Blenkinsopp

CDALC had advised that the additional meetings held to discuss quotes for work to be done should be classed as extraordinary meetings.

Documentation in relation to the Right of Access had been found and will be examined by CDALC.

ACTION: Parish Clerk

Street Scene had been contacted regarding swapping the bins at Hopelands and Highside Road and a response is awaited.

102.2019 HEALTH AND SAFETY

The electrical work in the changing rooms has been completed. There is now a different heating system in place. The Chairman explained that the smoke alarms need replacing and the fire alarm button removing as there is no requirement in the building for a fire alarm.

Cllr Woodward advised that the Fire Risk Assessment would need updating accordingly.

Cllr Woodward also advised that the petrol store should be bolted to the outside of the building. The Chairman would discuss this with Heighington FC.

ACTION: Cllr Blenkinsopp / Cllr Woodward

103.2019 SPORTSFIELD

Heighington FC have queried the charge for use of the field and have requested a meeting. It was agreed that representatives from the Parish Council would meet to discuss this and also the FC's proposal to enter into a pitch improvement scheme with the Institute of Groundsmanship.

ACTION: Parish Clerk

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A quote has been received for the installation of weed control sheets and a timer gravel board around the MUGA. It was agreed that this would be included in the list of priorities for the S106 monies as the quote received was over £2,000 and had not been budgeted for. It was also noted that further quotes would be required before any work was agreed.

The Chairman informed the meeting that whilst he was doing to safety checks on the MUGA he has noticed that there is a buildup of silt on the surface. Investigations need to be made to find a suitable company to come and remove the silt.

ACTION: All

104.2019 FUNDING AND FUNDRAISING

As there were monies left following the purchase of the Christmas Tree lights Cllr Holmes proposed that £500 be donated to the village hall to help towards the cost of the replacement lighting. This was seconded by Cllr Garner and it was UNANIMOUSLY AGREED.

ACTION: Parish Clerk

105.2019 REDWORTH & HEIGHINGTON

The notice board in Redworth has now been removed. Heighington Village Hall will be informed.

ACTION: Parish Clerk

The boulders in Heighington have now been moved.

The Chairman informed the meeting that the defibrillator had been installed on the side of the public toilets rather than the village hall. In order to install it on the village hall planning permission would be required as it is a listed building. As the electrician was on site, he installed it at the time of doing other work. The Chairman will carry out monthly checks which are then submitted to the Ambulance Service.

There have been ongoing issues with the gent's public toilet resulting in them being locked since before Christmas. People are deliberately urinating on the floor and defecating in the urinal. A request had been received from a parishioner asking that the toilets be unlocked and it was agreed that this would happen and them be monitored. The Chairman informed the meeting that when the defibrillator was installed the electrician noticed that the wall covering included asbestos. Some warning stickers will be obtained and displayed accordingly.

ACTION: Cllr Blenkinsopp

A new "No encroachment on the village green" sign is needed.

ACTION: Cllr Holmes / Cllr Bremner

106.2019 THE CHESTNUTS / OAKLANDS

None

107.2019 PLANNING

DBC are requesting Parish Councils to prepare a list of priorities which can be considered when S106 monies are being discussed from potential / approved developments. Following discussion, it was agreed that HPC priorities are:

- Improved access to the sports field carpark. This is used for school drop offs & gets very busy and is a safety hazard. This requires a second entrance so we can create a one-way system.

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- Sports field car park extension, additional 20 parking places. There is insufficient parking at the school and school staff use the sports field car park. This leaves insufficient parking for people using sports field. Any carpark extension must have drainage to prevent run off onto the football pitches.
- Improved internet speed to Redworth (fibre)
- Improvements to Heighington village hall (Grade 2 listed building). The building is very old and needs new windows (£160k), new heating system, new roof and rewire.
- Extension to Sports field changing rooms for safe storage of grass cutting equipment
- Traffic calming for Heighington (Mill bank) and speed warning signs for School Aycliffe & Heighington
- Improved bus service for School Aycliffe (link to Heighington & Aycliffe)
- Road improvements to Redworth (around village green to prevent damage to village green)
- Some retail shops in school Aycliffe
- Seating and picnic benches for sports field and village greens

The Parish Clerk will pass on the details to DBC.

ACTION: Parish Clerk

Application Ref: 19/01086/LW – Certificate of lawfulness for existing use of land for equestrian activities, Runnymede, Mill Lane, Redworth

Agreed a “no comment due to insufficient information” reply given.

ACTION: Parish Clerk

108.2019 FINANCE

The bank reconciliation for November had been circulated prior to the meeting and the December one included and balanced.

The Parish Clerk confirmed that DBC were informed of the precept for 2020/21 before their deadline.

109.2019 REPORTS/CORRESPONDENCE

Cllr Garner has been approached by a parishioner complaining of the difficulty they have on some of the footpaths around the village with protruding hedges, particularly as they have a double buggy. It was agreed that as the responsibility for this matter lies with DBC a request would be sent asking them to contact the residents concerned.

ACTION: Parish Clerk

110.2019 ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED ON NEXT AGENDA

There being no further items, the meeting concluded at 8:45pm