

# HEIGHINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

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

## MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 15<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2020 AT 7.00 PM

### PRESENT

Cllr G Blenkinsopp (Chairman)	Cllr A Holmes
Cllr S Bremner	Cllr G Lee

### IN ATTENDANCE

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### 087.2020 APOLOGIES

Cllr C Teare	Cllr E Thompson
Cllr M French	Cllr L Garner
Cllr M Woodward	

### 088.2020 RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN AGENDA ITEMS

None

### 089.2020 APPROVE MINUTES OF MEETING ON 17<sup>th</sup> September 2020

The minutes of the meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> September 2020 were proposed to be approved by Cllr Bremner and seconded by Cllr Holmes and therefore signed by the Chairman accordingly.

### 090.2020 MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

Cllr Woodward had given apologies so was not at the meeting. He will be chased up for the position on the fire risk assessment.

**ACTION: Parish Clerk**

Following a query which was received from the Village Hall Committee asking about repairs at the entrance to the hall a meeting had been scheduled between the Chairman and a village hall committee member but had to be cancelled at the last minute. Since then photographs have been provided by the village hall and it seems the repairs which are required are to the tarmac and kerb stones. A query had also been raised about the slippiness of a manhole cover but as this is access to the sewerage system this would be a matter for Northumbrian Water. It was agreed that the photographs of the road and kerb would be forwarded to DBC asking them to make good.

**ACTION: Parish Clerk**

Cllr Teare had informed the meeting that the manufacture of the new basketball rings was complete and would be fitted soon.

**ACTION: Cllr Teare**

A quote has been received for the replacement of both the front and back doors of the changing rooms. Alternative quotes will be sourced so they can be compared.

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**ACTION: Parish Clerk**

A quote has been received for electrical works in the changing rooms with the cost being £189. It was agreed for the works to go ahead.

**ACTION: Cllr Blenkinsopp**

Cllr Teare has identified new Christmas tree lights and is awaiting a quote.

**ACTION: Cllr Teare**

## **091.2020 HEALTH AND SAFETY**

None

## **092.2020 SPORTSFIELD**

Cllr Blenkinsopp informed the meeting that the locking of the gates was going well.

## **093.2020 FUNDING AND FUNDRAISING**

None

## **094.2020 REDWORTH & HEIGHINGTON**

Contact had been received from a concerned Heighington resident on the speeding of cars coming into the village up Darlington Road. It was agreed that this was a problem and discussion was had on what the Parish Council could do. Cllr Holmes proposed that contact be made with the school to see if the children would like to design a watch your speed sign and make it into a competition whereby the Parish Council would donate a prize. This suggestion was seconded by Cllr Brenmer and it was agreed that Cllr Lee would approach the school and a prize to the value of £40 would be set aside.

**ACTION: Cllr Lee**

Contact had been received from a resident in Redworth asking if they could make access to their property by having a dropped kerb installed and removing some of their garden wall, with the access outside of their property being deemed village green. Following discussion, it was agreed that further information was required, in particular a sketch drawing, in order for a fully informed decision to be made.

**ACTION: Parish Clerk**

Cllr Lee informed the meeting that he had been in talks with DBC Highways in relation to the installation of a barrier at the top of Mill Lane at its junction with Hopelands to protect parents and children who were walking on the roadside when going to and from school. The barrier would result in the turn from Hopelands onto Mill Lane being closed and the section of road being changed to one way only. The school is writing to parents this week to get details of how many parents are currently using this as a route during the staggered school start and finish times due to the pandemic. There was some disagreement within the Parish Council about whether this was a good use of DBC money.

Cllr Lee informed the meeting that dog fouling was an ongoing issue.

## **095.2020 THE CHESTNUTS / OAKLANDS**

Cllr Lee informed the meeting that issues were ongoing with green waste being fly tipped.

Cllr Lee informed the meeting that some residents of the Chestnuts were having issues with Greenbelt.

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## **096.2020 PLANNING**

Cllr Lee is to organise a meeting with DBC to discuss the S106 monies from the various housing developments within the Parish. All Councillors will be invited.

**ACTION: Cllr Lee**

## **097.2020 FINANCE**

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

### 2019-20 Audited AGAR

The 2019-20 AGAR following review by the external auditors had been received and it and the audit letter circulated. The external auditors had raised the issue which was raised by the internal auditors in that they could not determine the basis of valuation of the fixed assets. This has been discussed previously and goes back seven to eight years when figures were changed. As a result of this the external auditors stated that the council should not have answered yes to assertion 2 of the annual governance statement.

The Council noted the comments and it was agreed that changes and work which has taken place since the matter was first raised by the internal auditors will rectify it going forward.

### 2021-22 Budget

The Parish Clerk had circulated a draft budget for 21-22 for discussion. It was felt that the budgets for maintenance of the changing rooms and sports field should be increased as ongoing work had been identified and that work was required in Redworth to improve the area around the pumping station. Further work will be done on the figures for the next meeting and the Parish Clerk will contact DBC to get details of the tax base which will be used to calculate the precept.

**ACTION: Parish Clerk**

Membership of CDALC was approved for 21-22 and the cost of membership will be included in the budget.

## **098.2020 REPORTS/CORRESPONDENCE**

Cllr Lee informed the meeting of the arrangements which were being made by the Church for Remembrance Sunday. There will be a service in the Church but this can only be attended by 40 people and there will be no formal parade to the memorial. It was agreed that the Parish Council would still obtain a wreath to lay at the memorial and Cllr Lee will organise its purchase.

**ACTION: Cllr Lee**

## **099.2020 ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED ON NEXT AGENDA**

There being no further items, the meeting concluded at 8:00pm