

MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY MEETING OF HEPTONSTALL PARISH COUNCIL

HELD AT HEPTONSTALL SCHOOL J I & N SCHOOL, 5 OCTOBER 2015

Present : Councillors J Scarborough (Chairman) J Crowther J R Dunford
M V Edwards N James K Roberts S Slater & B Stott

96/15 APOLOGIES OF ABSENCE

An apology of absence was received from Councillor A Baldwin.

Approval of absence was neither sought nor granted.

97/15 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

No Disclosable Interests were declared.

98/15 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Barrie Marlor wishes to expand his complaint regarding the loss of sunlight caused by the trees within the coppice at the rear of Southfield and owned by Calderdale MB Council. He reiterated his previously documented complaint and also explained how overgrown the land area had become with nettles etc at a height of 5 feet and encroach into the lane.

He thanked the Clerk of the Parish Council for having taken up this matter once again with Calderdale but was most disappointed at the reported response.

The Clerk offered to copy this response to him which he may choose to share with his disgruntled neighbours. Mr Marlor also asked to be advised of contact information of Calderdale Ward Councillors for the area – Mr Greenwood agreed to do so.

99/15 OVERGROWN TREES AT REAR OF SOUTHFIELD, HEPTONSTALL

It was resolved to provide Mr Marlor with the requested information and agreed to ask Calderdale MB Council to cut back the overgrown vegetation (as opposed to trees) in the coppice owned by the principal authority.

100/15 The **minutes of the Monthly Meeting** of Heptonstall Parish Council held 7 September 2015 were approved as a correct record.

101/15 TRAINING/CONFERENCE OPPORTUNITIES

The Clerk reported that the training opportunity : 'Understanding the Planning System by Andrew Towleron' in Wakefield on 10 October 2015 was already fully booked but had asked that Councillors Crowther and Slater be placed on a reserve list in case vacancies should occur.

It was resolved to authorise the attendance of Councillors Crowther and Slater at the forthcoming (21 October) event 'Developing Your Skills as a Councillor' to be held at Skipton.

102/15 APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS

The following **accounts** were approved for payment :

R M Greenwood	Telephone (net)	£ 69.56
Royal British Legion	Poppy Appeal (wreath + donation)	£ 100.00
CPRE	Annual Subscription	£ 36.00
AOL/Talk Talk	Broadband	£ 18.31

103/15 RISK ASSESSMENT

Councillor Edwards (Risk Assessor) provided a verbal report.

He had undertaken regular inspections of The Pinfold – the trees, walls, grassed area and picnic tables. He confirmed there were no issues of concern in respect of any of these items.

Councillors Edwards was thanked for his report.

104/15 PLANNING

(a) Planning Decisions : notification of recent decisions were received from the Planning Authority and presented for information

(b) The following **Planning Applications** were considered :

- **PA 15/20134/TPO : Works to two trees – Stoneshey Gate, Widdop Road, Heptonstall**

No objections arose

- **PA 15/01084/LBC : Extensions and alterations to property to form 2 dwellings including new parking arrangements and access from highway (Listed Building Consent) – Royds House, Towngate, Heptonstall**

It was resolved to object to this proposed development :

There would be encroachment onto the Green Belt.

The number of parking spaces is likely to be too few (3 spaces for 2 dwellings).

The 'link extension' would not be in keeping at such a prominent location.

The access/egress would represent an entrance too near to Valley View Road which is already considered to be hazardous junction with the main passage to and from the village.

- **PA 15/01209/OUT : Residential development of four dwellings (Outline) – Caycroft Nook. Northgate, Heptonstall**

It was resolved to offer strong objection to this proposal :

It would represent a detrimental impact given the site's proximity to the Conservation Area and adjacent Listed Buildings thereby transforming the area for the worst.

There are no special circumstances which would satisfy the criteria for permitting such development in Green Belt.

There would be a significant increase in traffic along Northgate and Townfield Lane (despite the latter being classified as a footpath!).

Junctions with Towngate would be inadequate to secure safety with passing traffic. This is a particular issue at Top o'th Town where access from and to the main street is very narrow and restricted – almost a blind junction.

The existing traffic problems would be exacerbated by construction traffic using either route.

It was further resolved to seek support of Ward Councillors to these objections and ask that the application be 'called in' should officers propose to recommend planning approval.

105/15 Arising from correspondence received :

- **Proposed work in Hepton Drive Gardens, Heptonstall :** The Clerk tabled correspondence from an officer of Pennine Housing 2000 following a telephone conversation. Works are planned to improve the condition of the gardens and thinning of trees would be a first step.
It was resolved to ask that the Christmas lights are retained at the current site as these have benefited from village funding.
- **Filming in Heptonstall Village :** The response from Calderdale MB Council in respect of the policy for filming permission was considered by members.
It was resolved to ask that this Council is told in advance of future arrangements for the benefit of information to residents.

106/15 REPORTS OF RECENT MEETINGS

Councillor Scarborough reported on behalf of members who attended the recent Conference of Parish & Town Councils in liaison with Calderdale MB Council.

He concentrated on the address by a senior police officer :

- Funding is available from the Proceeds of Crime – it was resolved to ascertain the criteria for such application
- Parking issues are dealt with via Calderdale MBC (e-mail = parking@calderdale.gov.uk). Obstructions should be reported to the police.

It was resolved to identify specific hotspots of parking infringements with information being collated by Council members living within the vicinity of Smithwell Lane/Towngate.

107/15 HEPTONSTALL FORWARD : SUCCESSION BEYOND MAY 2016

Councillor Edwards reported on a joint meeting with representatives of Heptonstall Forward. Councillor Crowther and The Clerk were also present. As a result the members sought ratification on the decisions to :

- Hold a joint public meeting to seek new residents to join Heptonstall Forward, failing which :
- To move Heptonstall Forward into dormancy when current members retire in May 2016.

It was resolved to support the decisions taken.

108/15 BUSINESS RATES IN RESPECT OF PUBLIC TOILETS

Following information received from Yorkshire Local Councils Associations it was resolved to write to Craig Whittaker M.P. expressing objection to the continuation of charging business rates for operating public toilets.

109/15 USE OF COMMUNITY WEBSITE + TRANSPARENCY CODE + FOUNDATION AWARD

The Clerk updated members on progress towards satisfying the Transparency Code involving the provision of information for uploading to the Heptonstall community website.

110/15 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING

The Clerk updated members on progress in respect of Neighbourhood Planning. He confirmed that funding had been gained for the appointment of a specialist to undertake certain tasks. Interviews had taken place and an appointment made.

He explained that the long awaited Land Allocation details would become available for consultation early in November 2015 and members would need to be ready to respond.

Finally Mr Greenwood explained that recent public consultations would now be expanded to local organisations which would be added to the mix of comments from individuals.

The Clerk was thanked for his report.

111/15 REPORT OF PROGRESS OF ACTIVITY OF THE TRAFFIC GROUP

Councillor Scarborough updated members on the recent activity of the group. The village entry stones had been difficult to source but he felt this could soon be resolved. It was agreed to support Councillor Scarborough in this task.

He also reported on correspondence sent by the head teacher of Heptonstall J I & N School (David Perrin) to the head of Calderdale MBC Highways in respect of traffic/parking issues at the north of the village. As a result Ian Turner of Calderdale MBC would shortly meet with Mr Perrin, Councillor Scarborough being invited to attend.

Inspections had recently place by members of the Traffic Group at parking arrangements beyond Lane Head. Suggested revisions were detailed and these were supported by Council members.

Councillor Scarborough was thanked for his report.

112/15 REMEMBRANCE SERVICE

Members were advised the village service would this year be held at Heptonstall Methodist Church on 8 November, commencing 10.30 a.m.

The Chairman will lay a wreath and present a copy of Heptonstall's Roll of Honour (purchased by Mr Greenwood) for insertion in a cabinet the cost of which was subject to grant funding by this Council.

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(Chairman)

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(Date)