**Heddon on the Wall Parish Council**

The minutes of the Heddon-on-the-Wall Parish Council meeting,

Held on 10th February 2016 at 7.00pm in Heddon Library

*Mr. and Mrs. Lockhart and Mr. Alan Smith attended the meeting..*

1. **PRESENT & APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**Present: Mrs Gardner-Medwin (chair), Mr Armstrong, Mr Adams, Mrs Cruickshank, Mr Iley, Mr Tailford, Mrs Thompson, Mr Stewart, Clerk (Mrs Pringle). Apologies Mr. Young
2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**None.
3. **MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 13th JANUARY 2016**The minutes were approved and signed by the Chair.
4. **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

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| **Owner** | **Action** | **Status** | |
| L Pringle | Report pot holes on Hexham Road and outside the garage | | **Completed** |
| L Pringle | Make planning reports | | **Completed** |
| R Young | Repair surface under swings in Welfare Field | | **Ongoing** |
| L Pringle | Organise Garden waste Bin for Library | | **Ongoing** |
| I Armstrong | Organise Knott Hall Committee Meeting and invoices | | **Completed** |
| R Adams | Speak to users of the sports field re. Defibrillators | | **Completed** |
| L Pringle | Find out who owns seat outside Methodist Chapel | | **Completed** |
| L Pringle | Organise First Aid course with St. Johns Ambulance | | **Ongoing** |
| I Armstrong | Authorisation to cut conifers | | **Deferred March** |
| All | Areas of responsibility | | **Completed** |
| R Young | Source new planter for bus stop, arrange removal of old one. | | **Deferred March** |
| A Gardner Medwin | Old Memorial Park planting document to David Hall | | **Completed** |

1. **COUNTY REPORT**

An update was given on flooding in Corbridge, Mr. Jackson visited the area with the floods minister, the flooding may also have affected Ovingham Bridge which will remain closed until the foundations have been checked for scouring. There has been a campaign for a new bridge but as the county council were going to close the bridge before government funding became available this is a non-starter.

Active Northumberland is the charitable organisation which runs leisure services for the county council and includes the library service. This service is losing money and has been bailed out for this year, they now have a new board of people used to running businesses so hopefully will manage to get out of the red for next year.

New County Hall, Ashington. Councillor Jackson is still actively campaigning against this project and has called for an external independent audit as most people think there is nothing the matter with the existing building. Auditors to look at parking within the new plans, ground suitability due to mining activity, final decision on the new county hall will be 24th feb.

Mrs. Thompson asked a question of the councillor regarding ISOS housing, tenants of ISOS housing will soon have to pay for grass cutting at £1.58 per week on Centurion Way there are 14 ISOS properties and 24 private properties so why do the ISOS tenants have to pay for all of the grass cutting? Councillor Jackson said he would write to the Chief Executive of ISOS and see if anything could be done and raise the issue on the County Council Scrutiny Committee.

1. **PLANNING**

Before discussion of the planning agenda Mrs. Joy Lockhart spoke on some of the issues affecting her and other residents of Birks Road. She also provided comprehensive photos which are available at the library. Her main points were the condition of the road due to the increase in heavy goods vehicles. Flooding on one section of the road makes it impossible for residents to get to their properties. Blind spots and not enough passing places compromising the safety of pedestrians and there will be lots more pedestrians after the new housing estate is built in Throckley. She asked if the council could keep her points in mind when anymore planning applications come in for the councils input.

Mr. Armstrong answered supporting Mrs. Lockhart’s position and explaining what the council has done regarding prior points and confirming the councils support for the residents position.

Mr. Jackson stated that he had already objected to the pre application of more houses for Birks Road due to green belt exclusions, impact on countryside, lack of special circumstances for development and amenities for residents, he gave some useful ideas for how to go forward with the campaign.

**Applications**

1. **15/04337/VARYCO: BAYS LEAP FARM**Variation of condition 2 from application 14/03196/FUL proposed milk and cheese processing plant, café and interpretation centre. No objections raised.
2. **16/00015/PREAPP: 20 BIRKS ROAD, NE15 0HF**

Proposed housing development of less than 10 units north and east of 20 Birks Road. Objections raised as above.

1. **16/00114/FUL:Bellamor Holmside, Birks Road NE15 0HF**

Change of use of residential garden land to agricultural, change of use of agricultural land to residential garden as approved under 15/01007/FUL, construction of replacement building for residential use in lieu of replacement building for residential use approved under 15/01007/FUL, construction of leisure building as approved under 15/01007/FUL, construction of outbuilding (garages) in lieu of office/workshop building approved under 15/01007/FUL, conversion of existing barn within existing residential curtilage to form a separate residential dwelling and relocation of type 7 access and vehicular track approved under 15/01007/FUL. No objections raised except that this was the 11th change to this application so far considered by the council.

1. **16/00249/FUL: 23 Station Road NE15 0DY**

Construction of new dormer in roof and associated internal works. No objections raised.

1. **16/00252/MISC: Forge Cottage 6 Hexham Road NE15 0BG**

Proposed BT Superfast Broadband cabinet. No Objections raised.

1. **16/00002/PREAPP:Dingle Dell, 3 Taberna Close, NE15 0bW**

Proposal to change use to combine category A3/A4/A5 rather than just a new café and frontage. The council supports this application. Mr. Smith the applicant discussed how he wanted to improve the property. The only thing which will be considered at the time of a full application would be the A5 category as this may have a larger impact should the property be sold.

**Granted**

1. **9 Military Road NE15 0BQ**

Change of use of single garage to a bunk house

1. **KNOTT MEMORIAL HALL**

An overview was given on the first meeting of the Knott Memorial Hall committee. Mr. Tailford is temporary chair and the committee is still searching for a treasurer. The next meeting is the 21st March and the committee is anticipating about 4 meetings per year. Subjects discussed were Signage, Cleanliness, Health and Safety and whiteboards.

1. **LIBRARY AND BUSINESS CENTRE**

The committee formation has been held back by unfortunate circumstances, the reason for the the committee was discussed and as the library is a community library so the community should be involved in running it along with the Parish council.

A separate committee was formed to look at the role required to look after the business centre and any other assets in Heddon with a view to formalising the job description, person specification and salary. (Mrs. Gardner Medwin, Mr. Armstrong, Mr Iley, Mr. Adams and Mrs. Pringle)

1. **SPORTS FIELD**

An amount of £1,080 was authorised to pay for the documentation needed for acquiring planning permission, change of use and utilities to start on the new changing rooms for the Sports Field.

1. **QUEENS BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION**

The council is happy to support any groups arranging activities for the Queens Birthday.

1. **FINANCE**

There was concern at how much the bill for the Alarm system in the Library was going up from February.

1. **NEW PARISH COUNCIL CHAIRMAN**

Alisoun Gardner-Medwin will be carrying on as chair until the election in May.

Coucillors responsibilities and committees.

Finance Committee – Mrs. Gardner-Medwin, Mr Armstrong, Mr Iley, Mr Young

Planning Committee – Mrs. Garner-Medwin, Mr. Armstrong, Mr Adams, Mr Iley

Staffing Committee – Mrs Gardner-Medwin, Mr. Armstrong, Mr Iley, Mr Adams, Mrs Pringle

Mr. AdamsI- Sports field, Youth activities, technical advice

Mr. Armstrong – Conservation, trees and green spaces.

Mrs. Cruickshank

Mrs. Gardner-Medwin – Chair, Parks gardens and planting,

Mr. Iley – Airport

Mr. Stewart – Highways, street lighting, signs

Mr. Tailford – Knott Memorial Hall

Mrs. Thompson – Knott Memorial Hall bookings, bus services, ISOS housing, services for the elderly

Mr. Young – Allotments, general maintenance, street furniture

1. **CORRESPONDENCE**

Email: Vehicle activated traffic signs maintenance contract – Mr stewart to investigate

Email: NCC Northumberland LED street lighting scheme – Mr. Stewart to lead

Email: Local Council tax support scheme

Email: ISOS housing complaint

Email: Channel 5 programming

Also discussed were Mr. David Francis retiring from NALC and dog fouling in Heddon

The meeting closed at 21.05

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| Owner | Action | Status |
| L Pringle | Formal complaint to NCC re. unauthorised use of agricultural buildings. |  |
| L Pringle | Make planning reports |  |
| R Young | Repair surface under swings in Welfare Field |  |
| L Pringle | Organise Garden waste Bin for Library |  |
| I Armstrong | Organise Library Business Centre Committee |  |
| R Adams | Apply for planning permission for Sports Field |  |
| L Pringle | Organise staffing Committee meeting. |  |
| L Pringle | Organise First Aid course with St. Johns Ambulance |  |
| I Armstrong | Authorisation to cut conifers |  |
| L Pringle | Speak to Mr.Haddon |  |
| R Young | Source new planter for bus stop, arrange removal of old one. |  |
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D Irving – Bus shelter and tubs £225

