

# Heddon-on-the-Wall Parish Council

*Here to maintain and improve our village for all*

## Minutes of the meeting of Heddon-on-the-Wall Parish Council held on Wednesday 12th October 2022 at 7:00 p.m. in Heddon Community Library

**PRESENT:** Cllrs. P. Edwards [PE] (in the Chair); R. Adams [RA]; Adam Lillico [AL]; Lesley Irving-Munro [LIM]; D. Keller [DK]; F. White [FW]; M. Wilson [MW]. **IN ATTENDANCE:** Mr. K. Murray-Hetherington.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:** Mr. Peter Chapman was in attendance following an expression of interest in filling a vacancy by co-option. Another candidate was unable to attend and it was agreed to defer consideration of the candidates until the next meeting. A closing date was fixed for Tuesday 8th November.

**SPONSOR-A-TREE:** Mr. Mark Keller (Batson Groundcare) advised members on the choice of trees. **RESOLVED:** To offer a named sponsor the option of a *Betula jacquemontii* ornamental tree. [Cllr. Lillico arrived 7:12 p.m.].

Minute No.	Agenda item
1.	<b>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: RESOLVED:</b> That an apology and reason for non-attendance shall be accepted from Cllr. K. Dryden.
2.	<b>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:</b> Cllr. Edwards declared an interest in matters affecting Knott Hall; Cllr. Keller declared an interest in matters affecting Karbon Homes and Batsons Groundcare; Cllr. Lillico declared an interest in matters affecting Jonty Cotton Ltd.
3.	<b>MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING: RESOLVED:</b> To approve as a correct record and authorise the signing of the minutes of the extraordinary meeting held on Monday 26th September 2022.
4.	<b>MATTERS ARISING:</b> There were no matters arising from the previous minutes.
5.	<b>MAINTAINING OUR VILLAGE FOR ALL: RESOLVED:</b> To approve the specification for grounds maintenance and issue invitations to tender in January 2024; contract start date on 1st April 2024.
5.1	<b>RESOLVED:</b> To ask West Jesmond Tree Surgery Ltd. to remove t1 alder and t2 ash trees and all timber in the Memorial Park; grind the two stumps; and remove a dump bag containing branches which had been discarded in the flower bed at the bottom of Chare Bank.
5.2.	The Parish Clerk explained that three suitable candidates had been shortlisted from 25 applicants for the role of multi-skilled handyperson, including a local parish resident, and they had been asked to provide quotations for the cost of jobs which required immediate attention. <b>RESOLVED:</b> To allocate work on a rotating basis according to their individual specialist skills and experience.
<b>ACTIONS:</b> <b>DK</b> to circulate several tree seat ideas and prices [deferred indefinitely]. <b>RA</b> to chase up a price for powder coating MUGA goal posts for the next meeting. <b>DK</b> to add agreed items to the specification and submit for final comments. <b>AL</b> and <b>LIM</b> to contact local stonemasons(Sam & John) regarding a repair to the wall on Chare Bank. <b>LIM</b> to draft an article for Heddon Gossip seeking volunteers for the Roman Herb Garden.	
6.	<b>IMPROVING OUR VILLAGE FOR ALL:</b> The Chairman had advised Sovereign play equipment that the council was awaiting feedback from residents. An item would be placed on the agenda for discussion at the next meeting (November).
6.1	<b>RESOLVED:</b> That there is no budgetary provision to cover the estimated cost of the infrastructure required to install festive lighting in the Memorial Park in the current financial year 2022/23.

**ACTIONS:-**

**DK** to advertise environmental sessions in Heddon Gossip.

**MW** to mention to Heddon Primary School the consultation on play equipment.  
**RA** to investigate upgrading solar lights in the Memorial Park in time for Christmas.  
**DK** and **FW** to arrange to install Christmas ribbons in the Memorial Park.

7. **HADRIAN'S WALL FESTIVAL:** Cllr. Keller handed the Clerk £466.37 cash collected on the day. £158.23 had been paid to each to the following: Heddon on the Wall Education and Training Trust; Heddon on the Wall Methodist Church; St Andrews Church - Heddon PCC.
- 7.1 Members considered a proposal to vest ownership of a Hadrian 1900 mosaic in the Parish Council, which would then be responsible for the item's maintenance. Members were advised that future maintenance carried out under the powers of the Highways Act 1980, which enables Parish Councils to maintain public rights of way, would commit the council to the costs for resurfacing the section of the bridleway. **RESOLVED:** To seek further information from the Area Countryside Officer.
8. **REPORTS:** Cllr. Wilson gave a detailed report on St. Andrew's Primary School (deferred from previous meeting). **RESOLVED:** To approve a request from the school to use the community library for staff meetings, subject to access arrangements. Cllr. Wilson gave a report on proposals for the future use of Selman Park. **RESOLVED:** That Cllr. Wilson shall arrange another meeting with the landowner to provide feedback from a meeting with Heddon United Football Club Juniors.
9. **PLANNING APPLICATIONS:** Planning consultations received during the previous month had been circulated for comments as well as results of previous applications granted, refused, or withdrawn.
10. **FINANCE AND ASSETS: RESOLVED:** To receive the schedule of monthly expenditure and approve payment of invoices presented to the meeting.
- 10.1 On the motion of Cllr. White, seconded by Cllr. Adams, it was **RESOLVED:** To award a donation of £50.00 to Tynedale Hospice at Home.  
On the motion of Cllr. White, seconded by Cllr. Adams, it was **RESOLVED:** To award a donation of £50.00 to Sport Tynedale.
- 10.2 On the motion of Cllr. Wilson, it was **RESOLVED:** To delegate authority to the Clerk to pay invoices during Summer recesses (August) and in other instances when meetings are cancelled as a standing instruction and that such invoices would be signed-off at the next available meeting.
- 10.3 **RESOLVED:** That the Clerk shall have authority to spend up to and including £500.00 which in the Clerk's judgement is necessary for repair, replacement, or other work, demonstrating value for money. The Clerk shall report such action to the Parish Council as soon as practicable thereafter.
- 10.4 **RESOLVED:** That the Finance, Premises, and Strategic Planning Committee shall have delegated authority to manage the finances, premises, and strategic planning on behalf of the Parish Council.  
**RESOLVED:** To review the amount of resources of time required to service and attend the Finance, Premises, and Strategic Planning Committee, and the frequency of committee meetings.

**ACTIONS:-**

**PE** or **RA** to contact Barclays Bank for a change of mandate form.  
**DK** to obtain terms of reference for Halls of Heddon account.  
**MW** to arrange a workshop for committee members to discuss a strategic plan for the Council.

11. **CORRESPONDENCE:** Members considered correspondence received which required action.
- 11.1 **RESOLVED:** To ask Leedale Landscapes to provide a quotation for trimming the hedge adjacent to 5 Mithras Gardens and clearing the land on top of the wall before asking them to carry out the work.
- 11.2 Cllr. Adams had spoken to the householder at 8 Heddon Banks who was content for the Parish Council to trim the conifers and repair the broken fence (Taberna Close). **RESOLVED:** To obtain a quotation for the cost of trimming the conifers and repairing the broken fence prior to approval.
- 11.3 Concerns regarding overgrown hedges and bushes had been forwarded to County Councillor Peter Jackson. **RESOLVED:** To endorse the lines taken by the Parish Clerk; that the areas of land which are not owned or leased by the Parish Council are the responsibility of individual private land owners or Northumberland County Council as the Highway Authority with power of enforcement.
- 11.4 Members discussed a proposal to open up the community library as a 'warm hub' for residents over the coming winter months. The Clerk explained that Community Action Northumberland (CAN) was

helping organisations to get new warm hubs off the ground in their area.

- 11.5 **RESOLVED:** To approve Mr. Graham Pyle's continuance as the Parish Council's representative on Newcastle Airport Consultative Committee, and to thank him for his work in the role.

**ACTION:-**

**DK** to email the two churches; Knott Hall; and the Women's Institute to highlight new warm hubs.

12. **NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY COUNCIL: RESOLVED:** To ask County Councillor Peter Jackson to take measures to alleviate the problems of parking at Heddon Primary School (Trajan Walk NE15 0BJ), and to eradicate dangerous parking on the main Hexham Road (B6528), by means of the installation of legally enforceable double yellow lines, which aligns to the council's key highways priorities.

13. **NEXT MEETING: RESOLVED:** That the date of the next meeting: Wednesday 9th November 2022 [budget and precept setting for 2023/24].

14. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS:**

14.1 Cllr. Keller agreed to circulate the letter to residents regarding churchyard for final comments.

14.2 The Clerk was asked to make arrangements with Halls of Heddon for the traditional 'dressing of the cross', decorating the war memorial, for Remembrance Sunday (13th November 2022). The Clerk had handed to Mark Keller at the start of the meeting a poppy wreath to lay at the war memorial.

15. **CONCLUSION OF MEETING:** The meeting closed at 9:20 p.m.