

Heddon-on-the-Wall Parish Council

Here to maintain and improve our village for all

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 9th November 2022 at 7:00 p.m. in Heddon Community Library

PRESENT: Cllrs. P. Edwards [PE] (in the Chair); R. Adams [RA]; K. Dryden [KD]; Lesley Irving-Munro [LIM]; D. Keller [DK]; F. White [FW]; M. Wilson [MW]. **IN ATTENDANCE:** Mr. K. Murray-Hetherington (Parish Clerk); Mr. Kevin Wilson on behalf of Mr. Guy Opperman MP; Mr. Peter Chapman; and Mr. Alan Turnbull.

- | Minute No. | Agenda item |
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| 1. | APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Cllr. Adam Lillico [AL] had submitted an apology explaining that he may be a bit later than usual due to work commitments. |
| 2. | DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: Cllr. Edwards declared an interest in matters affecting Knott Hall; Cllr. Keller declared an interest in matters affecting Karbon Homes and Batsons Groundcare. |
| 3. | MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING: RESOLVED: To amend the date from 2024 to 2023 in minute no. 5 and approve as a correct record and authorise the signing of the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 12th October 2022, as amended. |
| 4. | MATTERS ARISING & REVIEW OF ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MEETING: |
| 5. | NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY COUNCIL: Mr. Kevin Wilson (Caseworker) took notes on behalf of Mr. Guy Opperman MP regarding measures to alleviate the problems of parking at Heddon Primary School (Trajan Walk) and to eradicate dangerous parking on the main Hexham Road (B6528), by means of the installation of legally enforceable double yellow lines and other key highways priorities, which had been referred to County Councillor Peter Jackson (NCC) for action. |
| 6. | FINANCE, PREMISES AND STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE: RESOLVED: To receive the minutes of the Finance, Premises and Strategic Planning Committee's workshop held on 26th October 2022. |
| 7. | VACANCY: Mr. Peter Chapman withdrew his expression of interest in filling a vacancy by co-option but requested that his application shall remain extant for any future vacancy. RESOLVED: That Mr. Alan Turnbull shall fill the casual vacancy by co-option. |
| 8. | DECLARATION OF OFFICE: Mr. Turnbull signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office. |
| 9. | MAINTAINING OUR VILLAGE FOR ALL: The Parish Clerk explained that two suitable applicants had been invited to undertake the role of multi-skilled handyman as independent contractors, including a local parish resident, and they had been allocated jobs which required immediate attention according to their individual specialist skills and experience and based on the lowest cost. |
| 9.1 | RESOLVED: To instruct Jonathan Proud to take up and re-lay patio area on concrete under seat in the Welfare Field; remove and dispose of Ivy from Three Tuns bus stop; remove and dispose of lower branches on mature Lime tree to the north of the Welfare Field, at the prices quoted. |
| 9.2 | RESOLVED: To defer until after the Winter removal of concrete from under picnic bench in park (installing rubber mats); and new gate and division fence to allotment No. 4. |
| 9.3 | On the motion of Cllr. Wilson, seconded by Cllr. Dryden, it was RESOLVED: To instruct Leedale Landscapes to clear above the wall and trim the hedge including removing the green waste at 5 Mithras; and cut back conifers and repair fencing to Taberna Close at the prices quoted. Members required the conifers to be trimmed because the resident's tree or hedge branches are growing over the boundary, and the broken fence (accessed via Taberna Close) is being repaired at the Parish Council's expense on the basis that the new supporting posts of the fence will be erected on the |

Taberna Close side and not on the side of the occupier of the house.

10. IMPROVING OUR VILLAGE FOR ALL:

10.1 **RESOLVED:** To purchase and install four sets of festive lights in the Memorial Park at the price quoted [£50.00 per set] for four trees.

10.2 **RESOLVED:** To purchase four rolls of ribbon to be installed around the trees in the Memorial Park at the price quoted [£40.00].

11. REPORTS: Cllr. Wilson gave a detailed report on St. Andrew's Primary School. **RESOLVED:** To award a donation of £80.00 to purchase gift vouchers for a picture competition prizes.

11.1 **RESOLVED:** That Cllr. Wilson shall arrange another meeting with Heddon United Football Club Juniors to provide feedback from the landowner on proposals for the future use of Selman Park.

11.2 **RESOLVED:** That a formal meeting of the Finance, Premises and Strategic Planning Committee, or an informal workshop, shall held on Tuesday 22nd November 2022 commencing at 7:00 p.m.

11.3 **RESOLVED:** To approve a proposal to vest ownership of a Hadrian 1900 mosaic in the Parish Council, which would then be responsible for the item's maintenance. It was agreed to discuss remedial actions to prevent excess water flooding the Memorial Park only after agreed drainage works on Chare Bank had been completed by Northumberland County Council (NCC) and to meet officials from NCC to explore options to prevent flooding, when they visit the site to re-price the work.

12. 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.

13. CORRESPONDENCE: RESOLVED: To refer a request regarding Saturnalia event to Knott Hall Trustees.

14. FINANCE AND ASSETS: RESOLVED: To receive the schedule of monthly expenditure and approve payment of invoices presented to the meeting; and to receive the most recent budget report.

14.1 **RESOLVED:** To receive the most recent budget report.

14.2 There were no applications for grants or donations.

14.3 Members consider a bequest of £10,000 (Ten Thousand Pounds) to the Parish Council "for general charitable purposes relating to the Knott Memorial Hall". **RESOLVED:** That the sum of £10,000 shall be paid to the Knott Memorial Hall's bank account via bank transfer.

14.4 **RESOLVED:** That contractors shall be given exactly the same specifications/requirements to enable them to quote on an equal basis for new boilers in the Community Library & Business Centre.

15. POLICY ON GRANTS AND DONATIONS: RESOLVED: To refer a draft policy on the award of grants and donations to the Finance, Premises and Strategic Planning Committee.

16. STAFFING: RESOLVED: To approve the Parish Clerk's successful completion of a probationary period.

17. BUDGET SETTING: RESOLVED: That the current precept is adequate 'in principle' and raising the amount is not necessary; and that the Finance, Premises and Strategic Planning Committee shall examine what the council's financial needs and statutory commitments will be for 2023/24.

17.1 **RESOLVED:** That the annual budget and the precept requirement for the 2023/24 financial year shall be approved at the next parish council meeting on Wednesday 14th December.

18. NEXT MEETING: RESOLVED: That the date of the next meeting: Wednesday 14th December 2022.

19. ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

19.1 Cllr. Wilson mentioned an offer of steel pins from a resident free of charge for the Roman garden.

19.2 Cllr. Keller had arranged for publication of the Heddon Gossip to include a frequently asked questions (FAQs) page on St. Andrew's Churchyard.

19.3 Cllr. Keller confirmed that the remaining trees would be planted on 26th Nov. and 3rd Dec.

20. CONCLUSION OF MEETING: The meeting closed at 8:35 p.m.

APPENDIX

MAINTAINING OUR VILLAGE FOR ALL:

ACTIONS:

- DK** to circulate several tree seat ideas and prices [deferred until tree planting project completed].
- RA** to chase up a price for powder coating MUGA goal posts [deferred until March 2023].
- DK** to add required length of grass cutting to the specification and submit to the Parish Clerk.
- PE** and **RA** to contact a local stonemason via Tom Watson regarding a repair to the wall on Chare Bank.
- LIM** to draft an article for Heddon Gossip seeking volunteers for Roman Herb Garden by 18th Nov.

IMPROVING OUR VILLAGE FOR ALL:

ACTIONS:

- DK** to advertise environmental sessions in Heddon Gossip in the New Year [2023].
- MW** awaiting feedback from Heddon Primary School on the consultation on play equipment.
- RA** to forward details of the supplier of solar lights in the Memorial Park for Christmas.
- DK** and **FW** to order and install Christmas ribbons in the Memorial Park.

FINANCE AND ASSETS:

- PE** to contact Barclays Bank for a change of mandate form.
- DK** to direct volunteers to the Parish Clerk & RFO regarding items for Halls of Heddon account.

CORRESPONDENCE:

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

CORRESPONDENCE:

- DK** to liaise with **RA** regarding PA system/extension cable for Remembrance Sunday service.