

**Minutes of the meeting of Heddon-on-the-Wall Parish Council held on
Wednesday 20th March 2024 at 7:00 p.m. in Heddon Community Library**

PRESENT: Cllrs. D. Keller [DK]; (in the Chair); K. Dryden [KD]; P. Edwards [PE]; R. Adams [RA]; M. Wilson [MW]; D. Matthews [DM]

IN ATTENDANCE: L. Barton (Clerk); **Members of the public:**

- | Minute No. | Agenda item |
|-------------------|--|
| 1. | APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: RESOLVED: That an apology and reason for non-attendance shall be accepted from Cllrs. Oatway, Ince and Irving-Munro. |
| 2. | DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: Cllr. Keller declared an interest in matters affecting Karbon Homes, and Tivoli Groundcare. Cllr. Wilson declared an interest in St Andrew's Church, Cllr. Edwards declared an interest in the Knott Hall. |
| 3. | NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY COUNCIL (NCC):
Cllr. Peter Jackson attended the meeting and updated councillors on some matters relating to Northumberland County Council. Firstly, he assured councillors that NCC is in a stable financial position with healthy reserves. Much of this year's budget has been spent on maintaining frontline services. He also informed councillors that school performance in Northumberland is within the top 25% of the country with 95% of schools being rated either good or outstanding by OFSTED.
<u>Speeding on Hexham Road:</u>
Cllr. Jackson has been contacted by a resident expressing concerns about speeding on Hexham Road. This is a concern shared by the Parish Council. Cllr. Jackson will contact the Highways department directly with the resident's concerns. The Parish Council will liaise with Cllr. Jackson regarding priority road signs. Cllrs. Dryden and Wilson mentioned a meeting that had taken place with St Andrew's school, NCC Highways and NCC School Street Scheme regarding school parking in Heddon. Cllr Wilson will liaise with Cllr. Jackson to progress this.
<u>Potholes:</u>
Cllr. Keller raised the issue of potholes and the damaged kerbstone on Hexham Road, which have been reported using the FixMyStreet portal, but residents feel this does not always lead to timely action to carry out repairs. Cllr. Jackson explained that the recent wet weather has put a strain on the NCC Highways team as there are potholes and other repairs needed across the entire county. Cllr. Keller asked whether a timescale be given for repairs on FixMystreet. Cllr. Adams also pointed out that one particular pothole repair had been carried out to a poor standard and had degraded within a week.
<u>Drains:</u>
Cllr. Keller reported that drains are blocking in a number of locations around the village. These are reported to NCC using the portal and some have been fixed, but then block again next time there is heavy rain.
<u>Planning Protocols:</u>
Cllr. Adams mentioned concerns shared by councillors that the Planning Enforcement team at NCC are not acting on objections raised by the Parish Council or residents, when people are in breach of planning permissions. They are not always feeding back to complainants on what actions has been taken. Councillors feel that the Parish Council has less weight now than they had previously. Cllr. Edwards pointed out that this sets a precedent and undermines the planning process.
<u>Other:</u>
Cllr. Keller mentioned a resident in a more remote area near Heddon who is not able to get Openreach access and who has had difficulty in resolving this with both Openreach and NCC. Cllr. Jackson said he would look into this.
Finally, Cllr Wilson explained that councillors are currently scoping out projects which will take place in the Welfare Field and Memorial Park later this year. |
| 4. | MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING: RESOLVED: To approve as a correct record and authorise the signing of the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 15 th February 2024. |

5. MATTERS ARISING & REVIEW OF ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MEETING:

Councillors are updating the Welfare Field and Memorial Park Enhancement project scopes and will let residents know that these projects will start later this year.

6. FINANCIAL MATTERS: RESOLVED

1. To approve payment of invoices presented at the meeting.

The Income and Expenditure spreadsheet (shared with councillors by email prior to the meeting) was approved and signed.

It was **RESOLVED** to pay the following invoices presented at the meeting:

Replacement part for play equipment £195.15

Knott Hall guttering repairs £1400 (agreed at February meeting)

Locksmith £312 inc. VAT (agreed at February meeting)

Ikea drawer unit Sustainable Heddon £45

Batsons February Grounds Maintenance £414

Quarter 4 lease Selman Park £350

CCTV call out charge £204

NALC Training course £30

2. To consider any applications for grants or donations received at least 3 days before the meeting.

It was **agreed** to give a donation of £250 to Heddon Carpet Bowls as the completed paperwork has been received by the clerk.

It was **agreed** to send flowers to Cllr. Ince. The clerk will arrange this.

Councillors discussed a request received from a young resident for support with a fundraising event they are organising. It was **agreed** to give a small donation of £25.

3. Allotment Water tank – the clerk fed back to councillors following a meeting held with allotment holders to discuss the damaged water tank at the allotments. Allotment holders were clear that a supply of fresh water is required and that rainwater collection alone will not be adequate. Cllrs. **agreed** that the best option would be to proceed with a replacement water tank arranged through one of the companies who provided quotes. The clerk will send a letter to allotment holders explaining the Parish Council decision. It was **agreed** that allotment rents would increase to cover the cost of the replacement tank.

4. Vacant offices 1, 2 and 4: - renovation work will take place in offices 1 and 2 during the first week in April as the new tenant is taking up occupancy in May. Office 4 will be advertised through Bradley Hall.

7. MAINTAINING OUR VILLAGE FOR ALL:

Cllr. Adams has repaired the damaged goal post in the MUGA.

Cllr. Wilson reported damage to the tennis net box next to the MUGA. It was agreed to leave this for now and consider it as part of the Welfare Field project.

8. IMPROVING OUR VILLAGE FOR ALL:

Cllrs. discussed the upcoming projects and assigned names to support the delivery of each project. It was **agreed** that details of the projects would be shared with residents through the Heddon Gossip.

9. **REPORTS:** Cllr Wilson had met with the headteacher of St. Andrew's School and reminded them that Selman Park is available for their use; councillors will try to promote Selman Park usage with residents and the local guides group.
10. **PLANNING:**
Planning consultations:
24/00516/FUL 12 Killiebrigs extension – no comments or objections
24/00458/LBC Former Biology Field Station consent for building a greenhouse and restaurant – no comments or objections
24/00457/FUL Former Biology Field Station demolition of existing buildings and redevelopment – no comments or objections
23/03885/FUL Heddon Steads proposed 2 storey side extension – additional information received by NCC – no comments or objections
24/00627/VARYCO Variation of condition 2 Land North east of Heddon View – no comments or objections
24/00625/FUL 92 Trajan Walk retrospective construction of a residential annex. Councillors discussed this application as concerns were raised that the work had been carried out first and permission sought retrospectively. In addition, it was noted that the variation to roof planning in 2019 has not been sighted by the Parish Council. It was **agreed** to provide these comments to NCC Planning.
Planning decisions:
23/04494/FUL 1 Station Road permission **GRANTED** for a single storey rear extension
11. **CORRESPONDENCE:**
One resident had contacted the Parish Council with concerns about speeding on Hexham Road; another resident had got in touch with the Parish Council to share concerns about a planning issue; another resident had contacted the Parish Council about difficulties with Openreach access.
12. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS:** Cllr. Adams reported fly tipping opposite Bays Leap Farm; the clerk will report this via FixMyStreet; Cllr. Keller asked for minutes from the Airport meetings to be uploaded onto the Parish Council website. The clerk confirmed that this has been done and that the minutes can be viewed on the home page of the website beneath the information about the Roman Wall. Cllr. Wilson asked that the staffing committee reconvene before the next Parish Council meeting. Councillors **agreed** to send flowers to Cllr. Ince. The clerk will arrange this.
13. **NEXT MEETING: RESOLVED:** That the date of the next meeting shall be Wednesday 10th April 2024 at 7pm.

CONCLUSION OF MEETING: The meeting closed at 8.40pm.

APPENDIX

MAINTAINING OUR VILLAGE FOR ALL:

ACTIONS:

DK to update Memorial Park checklist to remove out of scope items
DK to approach MA re memorial park bench and railings
LB to draft letter to allotment holders re water tank
LB/ DK to draft letter about planning re Trajan Walk

IMPROVING OUR VILLAGE FOR ALL:

ACTIONS:

LB to report fly tipping opposite Bays Leap Farm
MW to liaise with Peter Jackson re school parking
PC to liaise with Peter Jackson about priority road signs

FINANCE AND ASSETS:

ACTIONS:

DK Update tenancy lease agreement for Business Centre
LB / LT Order replacement water tank

OTHER:

ACTIONS:

LB to order flowers for Cllr. Ince
Staffing committee to reconvene