

HEDLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual meeting of the Parish Council held on 13th May 2013 at 7.30pm in the 'Feathers Inn'

1. **Present:** Councillors F A Speak, D R M Rodgerson, J S Douglas, D M Watkins.
Mrs M Senior (Clerk)
2. **Declarations of Acceptance of Office** – All councillors present signed the Declarations of Acceptance of Office as a Councillor in the presence of Mrs M Senior, Clerk of the Council.
3. **Election of Chairman** – It was proposed by Cllr F A Speak, seconded by Cllr J S Douglas and AGREED to re-elect Cllr R J Penny as Chairman of the Council. As Cllr Penny had given his apologies for absence he will sign his Declaration at the next meeting of the Council.
4. **Apologies for Absence** – Councillor R J Penny
5. **Declarations of Interest** – None
6. **Election of Vice Chairman** – It was proposed by Cllr J S Douglas, seconded by Cllr D M Watkins and AGREED to elect Cllr F A Speak as Vice Chairman of the Council.
7. **Minutes** of the meeting held on 8th April 2013, having been circulated, were approved and signed as a true record,
8. **Matters Arising**
 - a) **Village Green** - Wood chippings had been laid on the area cleared of shrubs last year. Thanks go to Cllr DRM Rodgerson for arranging this.
 - b) **West Hill** - Colin Horncastle had advised that this work was to be carried out by the end of the financial year. He will pursue this on behalf of the Parish Council. It was noted that many properties in the village had no phone line or internet connection due to the poor state of the West Hill. The underground cabling had become exposed and damaged due to the poor state of the road.
 - c) **Broadband** – NCC and BT have announced an £18.9m deal to roll out high speed fibre broadband to over 90% of homes and businesses in Northumberland. Residents are being encouraged to sign up to show their support for super fast broadband and they can do this online or by filling in one of the flyers. It was noted that 12 parish areas had managed to show demand from over half of the total properties in their area which is due to the work of local champions spending time visiting and talking to local people. This puts those areas in a great position to benefit from additional funding or to persuade suppliers to invest there. Demand can be registered at www.inorthumberland.org.uk however the clerk will request a supply of flyers which Cllrs Mrs F A Speak and Mrs D M Watkins agreed to distribute.
 - d) **Community Developers Fund** – Shotley Low Quarter PC are currently pursuing EDF who are the main contractors for the wind farm. They have requested funding details but are still to receive them.
 - e) **Wind Turbine** – Details were requested on the planning application for the wind turbine at Mickley Grange Farm. The clerk will circulate the information to councillors.
9. **Correspondence**

All correspondence had been listed on the agenda and was noted. All relevant items had been distributed to all councillors

 - a) **Northumberland County Council – Love Northumberland Award 2013** – The Love Northumberland Awards aim to reward community achievement of schools, community and voluntary groups through projects that preserve and enhance the environment. Nominations are invited from projects that enrich the lives of the people of Northumberland. Closing date for nominations is 31 May 2013
 - b) **NALC Training Sessions** – NALC has organised some training events for new councillors and new chairman which will take place in June. Details circulated to all councillors.

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10. Finance

- a) **Accounts up to 31/03/2013.** Summary of the accounts for the year 2012/2013 were presented to the Council. It was proposed by Cllr F A Speak, seconded by Cllr J S Douglas and AGREED to accept the accounts.
- b) **Invoices for Payment.**
 - Mrs A Senior – Salary and expenses up to 31/03/13 – £100.00
 - HM Revenue & Customs – PAYE - £25.00
 - Northumberland Association of Local Councils – Subscription 2013/14
 - Hollybush Sawmill – Wood Chippings - £48.00 (£40.00 net £8.00 VAT)
- c) **Bank Balance.** The bank balance of £7588.78 as at 25 April was noted (Statement 17).
- d) **To approve the Annual Return for the year ended 31 March 2013.** The Annual Statement of Accounts and Annual Governance Statement were considered and approved. Vice Chairman and Clerk were authorised to sign on behalf of the Council. Clerk to arrange for the Internal Audit to be carried out. The external audit date had been notified as 1 July 2013.

11. County Councillors Report – Colin Horncastle gave a brief update on the work of NCC. NCC is currently a hung council and it is not known which political party will be running the council although the Labour party is the larger they do not have overall control. Colin Horncastle will give his annual report to the Parish Council at the Annual Parish Meeting on 10th June 2013.

12. Planning Application – None

13. Grass Cutting – Grass cutting had begun with the new contractor. He will be asked if he is able to carry out the paving work required at the end of Meadow Crest.

14. Dry Stone Walling – It was noted that stones had been removed from a wall within the village boundary. Permission is required to remove dry stone walls and the Council would like to see the walls repaired. This will be discussed at the next meeting.

15. State of the Roads

- a) **Pot holes –** The surface of the road at the crossroads by the gliding club is breaking up, this will be reported.
- b) **Weed killing –** It was noted that once again some has been spraying weed killer on the grass and around the cherry tree. Investigations will be made to find out who is carrying this out.
- c) **Road sweeper –** It was noted that the road sweeper had been through the village twice in the last month.

16. East Tynedale Parish Councils Forum – The next meeting of the Forum will take place on Tuesday 2nd July 2013 in Riding Mill.

17. Minerals Workings – It is unlikely that the Hoodsclose application will go to committee before the July meeting due to the council elections. UK Coal has gone into administration however the planning application was still live. The commercial arm of UK Coal is keen for the application to go through.

18. Mickley Moor Farm – Nil.

19. Village Green – Notification had been received from NCC re the diversion of public footpath no 9. NCC had been contacted to move the public footpath sign to a more appropriate location.

20. Information Items

All relevant items had been distributed to councillors by email.

- a) Campaign to Protect Rural England – Transport toolkit
- b) Community Action Northumberland News – CANNY News – April 2013
- c) Northumberland County Council – iNorthumberland Spring 2013 Newsletter

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- d) Voices Northumberland – Northumberland Emergency Transition Scheme
- e) NALC eNews – April 2013
- f) Clerks and Councils Direct – May 2013
- g) Northumberland Strategic Partnership – Matters Arising April 2013
- h) Adapt NE – Healthwatch Northumberland

- 21. Memorial** - Cllr J S Douglas suggested placing a memorial to Dana Witherspoon in the village. The idea is for a tethering post with a water trough for horses on the village green by the tree. This will be looked into further.
- 22. Information leaflet** – An information leaflet will be produced with contact details for the Parish Council and advising of the website. Residents will be encouraged to contact the Parish Council pointing out any issues which need attention. The information leaflets can be distributed with the iNorthumberland leaflets.
- 23. Date and time of next meeting** – The Annual Parish meeting will be held on 10th June 2013 at 7.30pm followed by the monthly Parish Council meeting in the Feathers Inn.