

HEDLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 12th January 2015 at 7.30pm in the 'Feathers Inn'

Present: Councillors R J Penny, F A Speak, DRM Rodgeron, Mrs D M Watkins and J S Douglas
Mrs M Senior (Clerk)

335. **Apologies for Absence** – None
336. **Declarations of Interest** – Cllr Mrs D M Watkins declared a personal interest in matters relating to Hedley Women's Institute as she is a member.
337. **Attendance by Bridget Smith, President of Hedley WI.** Bridget attended the meeting to request that the Parish Council consider an application from Hedley WI for an annual grant towards the cost of hiring a room at Stocksfield Communication Association for their regular monthly meetings. The WI would prefer to meet in Hedley, since most of the members are from the village, but in the absence of a suitable room, they have to drive themselves, and give lifts to other members every time they meet. Good speakers are also becoming more expensive. The WI has recently been fortunate to receive a grant of £1000 from Durham Community Foundation, but this had been allocated to enable them to offer a bursary for a course at Denman, the WI College in Marcham, Oxfordshire, which will amount to £500, and the remainder is for the hiring of coaches to enable members to attend WI functions and for an outing. An annual grant of £200 was requested which will cover the current cost of room hire which is £23.50 per evening. After discussion, it was AGREED to give £200 per year for 3 years and review this on a yearly basis with the following conditions:
- Wider community involvement
 - If the number of members increases then the amount of the grant may decrease.
 - Advertising in NE43 News i.e. request for members and advertising events which are open to everyone, not just members.
 - Annual report from the WI, advising of number of members, attendance at events, speakers organised etc.
- It was AGREED that the WI program for the year could be loaded onto the Parish Council website.
338. **Minutes** of the meeting held on 10th November 2014, having been circulated, were approved and signed as a true record.
339. **Matters Arising**
- a) **Memorial Plaque** – Minute 319a refers. Cllr J S Douglas is to pursue this with Clayton Memorials.
 - b) **Trees.** Minute 333 refers. A quote had been received from Tom Richardson of £480 + VAT. It was AGREED to go ahead with this. Tom will leave the surplus wood for residents use. It was noted that the large beech tree over the village green had a large split. As this is beside a property, Cllr R J Penny will speak to the resident involved.
 - c) **EDFER Boundary Lane Wind Farm Community Fund.** Minute 319d refers. Cllr Mrs F Speak advised that Parish Councils could apply to the fund as long as the application would benefit the whole community. The fund is being well accessed and there are a number of applications for consideration at the next meeting.
 - d) **NE43 News.** Minute 319e refers. It was noted that NE43 News had been distributed around the village and outlying areas. Cllr Mrs F A Speak to discuss remuneration with the resident who had delivered all copies. It was suggested that any leaflets could be inserted into NE43 News for distribution around the village i.e. Hedley WI program. The next edition will be distributed March and then June.
 - e) **Hexham Courant.** Minute 319f refers. Cllr J S Douglas will continue to pursue the Hexham Courant to include Hedley in the Village Notes section.
 - f) **Grit Heaps.** Minute 319g refers. Following the request to Northumberland County Council to place grit heaps on the steep approaches to Hedley only 1 grit heap had been placed. Further request will be sent.
 - g) **Footpaths.** Minute 319h refers. NCC advise it is perfectly acceptable for a parish to undertake activities such as repairs to footpaths as long as they contact the appropriate department- in the case of footpaths alongside a highway Street Scene – Lynne Ryan and Richard McKenzie. Parish Councils can also negotiate for NCC teams to undertake the work.
 - h) **Northumberland Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment.** Minute 319i refers. Cllr C Horncastle indicated that the plot queried on the SHLAA was occupied by Phoenix House.
340. **Correspondence.** All correspondence since the November meeting had been listed on the agenda and was noted. All relevant items had been circulated to all councillors.
341. **Tynedale Visitor 2015.** The Hexham Courant is once again offering Parish Councils the opportunity to promote their area in the Tynedale Visitor supplement due out in April.
342. **Northumberland Local Plan Core Strategy Update.** The consultation on this document commenced on 12 December 2014 and will run until 11 February 2015. This version of the Core Strategy is a full

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draft of the document. This will bring together the parts of the document that were dealt with separately in the Preferred Options Stage one and two.

343. **Northumberland County Council Public Consultation on Broadband Coverage in Northumberland.** Report received on the current and proposed coverage of broadband in Northumberland for the next 3 years.
344. **Northumberland County Council Proposed Budget 2015-16 to 2016-17.** An eight week consultation has been launched which will run until 23 January 2015 seeking views on NCC's budget proposals for the next two years (2015-2016 to 2016-2017).
345. **Northumberland County Council – Notification of removal of weekly planning list document on website.** It was noted that NCC are no longer uploading a weekly planning list to their website. This information is available on the Public Access system.
346. **Pharmacy Needs Assessment.** Draft Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment for NCC has been published on the council website. The consultation period is open until 30 January 2015. It was suggested that local Pharmacy opening hours be published in the Hexham Courant.
347. **NJC Clerk's Payscales 2014-2016.** The National Joint Council for Local Government Services (NJC) has reached agreement on new payscales for 2014-2016 to be implemented from 1 January 2015. This equates to an increase of £67.00 per year £0.37p per hour) plus a one off non consolidated payment of £100.00

348. Finance

a) Invoices for Payment.

PAYEE	DESCRIPTION	CHEQUE	VAT	NET	CHQ NO
Mrs A Senior	Clerical Services - December	£100.00		£100.00	SO
Mrs A Senior	Clerical Services – January	£100.00		£100.00	SO
HMRC	PAYE 9	£25.00		£25.00	010723
HMRC	PAYE 10	£25.00		£25.00	010724
Mrs A Senior	Expenses	£40.45		£40.45	010725
Whittonstall Action Group	Donation towards website	£40.00		£40.00	010726
Mr J S Douglas	Broomley & Stocksfield Parish Council re input in NE43 News	£30.00		£30.00	010727

b) **Bank Balance.** The bank balance of £5178.75 as at 2nd February 2015 was noted (Statement 38).

c) **Draft budget 2015-2016.** A draft budget had been prepared and will be finalised at the January meeting. Due to the surplus of funds held, it was agreed to levy a precept of £4000.00 for the year 2015-2016.

349. Planning Applications

Reference No	Details	Applicant	Decision
14/03102/FUL	Proposed sunroom extension to rear, attic conversion, eaves height raised & new porch Ravenside Bungalow, Hedley, Stocksfield	Mrs C Verrycken	GRANTED
14/03216/LBC	Listed building consent: Repointing of the external walls of the Old Chapel with Lime mortar. Old Chapel, Stocksfield	Mr J Lewis	GRANTED
14/03887/FUL	Removal of existing glazed lean-to and construction of infill between existing outbuilding and main house utility to provide linked access Hedley Grange, Hedley, Stocksfield	Mr S Colmer	

350. **Grass Cutting –** It was AGREED to continue to use Mr R Snaith for grass cutting in the village.
351. **Dry Stone Walling –** Nothing to report.
352. **State of the Roads.** Nothing further to report..
353. **East Tynedale Parish Councils Forum –**The next meeting of the Forum is to take place on 14th January 2015 at 7.00pm in Corbridge Parish Hall.
354. **Mickley Moor Farm –** Nil.
355. **Village Green –** Nothing to report.
356. **Information Items**
All relevant items had been distributed to councillors by email.
- Community Action Northumberland – CANNY News – November 2014
 - NALC – eNews – December 2014
 - Campaign to Protect Rural England – Autumn Newsletter 2014
 - Northumberland County Council – Winter Services
 - Community Action Northumberland – Winter Edition
357. **Mineral Workings.** Nothing to report.

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358. **Small Holding.** It was noted that the small holding at the bottom of the West Hill was becoming very unsightly although this was outside of the parish boundary. It was AGREED to contact Broomley and Stocksfield Parish Council expressing concern over the state of the area.
359. **Village Plan.** It was suggested that a 5/10 year plan should be created for the parish. It was agreed to discuss this further with a public meeting to gauge interest and if positive feedback received then a working party could be set up to take it forward.
360. **Polling Station.** Cllr Mrs D M Watkins questioned where the polling station would be for the elections in May. Cllr Mrs Watkins had spoken to NCC who advised that if a venue could be found in the parish then this would be considered by NCC. The clerk to contact NCC to establish when a decision would have to be made for this year.
361. **Broadband.** A meeting had been held with John Cooper, NCC giving an update on the situation. Although the cabinet in Hedley had been enabled with fibre optic, a new cable would need to be installed along the West Hill. There were a number of options available. Two companies are operating a wireless system which offers a line of sight system. The Feathers Inn were prepared to put an aerial on top of the pub for the line of sight option. A further meeting is proposed within the next few weeks. Cllr Mrs F A Speak is to enquire to the EDFER fund to see if funding a broadband connection could be a possibility.
362. **Date and time of next meeting.** The next meeting is to be held on Monday 9th February 2015 at 7.30pm in The Feathers Inn.

Chairman _____

Date _____