

HEDLEY ON THE HILL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Meeting and Council meeting held on 8th May 2017 at 7.30pm in the Feathers' Inn

Present: Cllrs Speak, Rodgeron, Watkins and Douglas. Monica Anderton, Clerk was in attendance and Cnty Cllr Horncastle.

716. Election of Chairman: Dick Penny was proposed by Cllr Speak and seconded by Cllr Rodgeron. This was agreed; Election of Vice- Chair: Frances Speak was proposed by Cllr Douglas and seconded by Cllr Watkins. This was agreed.

717. Approval of Standing Orders: these had been previously circulated and were approved.

718. Apologies: Cllr Penny (Cllr Speak took the Chair for the meeting).

719: Declarations of interest: There were no declarations of interest relating to the meeting. The Interest forms (and expenses returns) were completed for return to County hall.

720. Minutes from meeting of 10th April 2017: These were **approved** as a true record.

721. Matters arising: a) Re George White for Dixon's and the Easement: Advice continued to be sought from NALC concerning the matter. Mr Dixon was claiming an easement owing to over 20 years continued use. However, this could possibly be disputed according to Village Green legislation. If more land is required, and the Council agree, the District Valuer and Property solicitors must be used to ensure correct procedures by the Council.

b) Ravenside: nothing further had been heard since the Council had replied last month to Mr Lawrence's emailed complaint. The direct neighbours had noted that many trees were being planted which were within a metre of the septic tank and might cause damage. It was recommended they be told to formally complain to Gateshead planners and possibly Northumbria Water to seek expert advice; Cllr Horncastle agreed to contact the Gateshead planners to liaise with them.

c) Phoenix House: The Clerk has received no formal notification but it appears that Planning permission was granted. There is concern that the information provided about the sewerage was incorrect as supplied to Northumbrian water.

722. County councillor's report: Cllr Horncastle noted a few items which he would expand on at the next meeting such as the move of County hall, ARCH, statutory notices, etc.

723. Planning: 17/00351/FUL: Summerhouse to shed at Old Chapel – Permission **Granted**;

17/ 00249/FUL: garage/storage facility in paddock – Old Byre, 1 Hedley North Farm – Permission **Granted**

724: **Correspondence:** circulated as emails: weekly E News from NALC; election material.

725: **Finance:** a) Balance at 30th April 2017 is £2425.24.

b) The following payments were authorised:

| | |
|-------------------------------------|---------|
| MFAnderton, Clerk, April 2017 | £122.10 |
| R Snaith, grass cutting | £170.00 |
| Internal Audit (P Basnett) | 73.40 |
| NALC – Annual subscription for 2017 | 73.55 |

c) A request had been made from the WI for a grant of £200. It was agreed to pay this as it was the final part of a previously agreed subsidy. However, concern was expressed because of the low level of existing funding; it was also agreed to ask the WI for a formal report on how the money has been used to benefit the WI for Hedley.

d) Internal Audit: this was noted as completed with no matters to draw to the Council's attention.

e) The 2017/18 Risk Assessment was noted. This had been updated.

f) The annual governance statement on the Annual Return was approved.

g) The Accounting Statement for 2016/17 was approved.

726: **Information received:** CAN – Getabout scheme; Highways England – A1 improvements – preferred route announcement; NCC – Surface dressing, particularly Whittonstall to Kiln Pit Hill – this had also been put on the website in lieu of statutory notices in the Hexham Courant.

727: **AOB:** A query re Broadband : this was now available but residents were apparently unaware that they had to apply individually for the connection package. A flyer should be sent round the village (DP);

~ re hedges overgrown – Cllr Watkins would mention this to the householder;

~ problems because of weedkiller being used by grass cutters which was damaging the sides of the Prudhoe Road; also a problem of weeds on footpaths around the village. The Clerk would ask NCC if there is anything they can do.

728: **Date of next meeting:** 12th June 2017 at 7.30pm in the Feathers' Inn. It was suggested this should begin earlier because of visitors re easement and community hall items.

