

HEDLEY ON THE HILL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council meeting held on 11th September 2017 at 7.30pm in the Feathers' Inn

Present: Cllrs Penny, Speak, Watkins, Rodgeron, and Douglas. Monica Anderton, Clerk was in attendance. Also present were County Cllr Horncastle and for item 5 – Mike Brennan, Mike Hopgood and Claire Green.

753. **Apologies:** John Renwick for item 5.

754: **Declarations of interest:** There were no declarations of interest relating to the meeting.

755. **Minutes** from meeting of 10th July 2017: These were **approved** as a true record. The notes from the meeting of August 7th to discuss Village Green matters were also formally noted.

756. **Matters arising:** a) A hedge is blocking the view at a junction with the Prudhoe road. The Parish council had asked for it to be cut back. The matter was ignored by the resident and it had been reported to the County Council to be dealt with.

b) Following on from the meeting of 7th August, GFWhite had agreed to suggest several possible sites of land which could be donated to the Parish Council. They would also follow up on the legal aspect of matters, keeping the Parish council in touch with all that happens. A single land option, less in size than requested, had been offered. The Council would reply, reminding them of the matters agreed as above.

c) Garden waste bins: There have been requests for garden waste bin collections in the village. The reply from the County Council is that sufficient numbers have to be in the village and the council will then consider collections. If enough people in the village can organise this, it is possible it may occur.

d) Speeding through Leadgate Cottages had been reported.

e) Information is being sought on the traffic survey that was recently conducted on the road through the village.

757. **Report on Village Survey:** A brief summary of the outcomes of the survey were given to the Parish council with some supporting documentation. Approximately 2/3 of the properties in the Parish participated. Responses were varied but a number of concerns and possible outcomes were submitted to the surveying volunteers, who were thanked for all their hard work. It was agreed that the Councillors would take the documentation and study it in detail before discussing the matter further at the next Council meeting and possibly agreeing to future steps. Cllr Horncastle suggested that Anne Lawson (a past resident of the village), at the County Council could be contacted for further advice and if it is agreed to

progress matters, the Parish council will do all it can to facilitate matters. Communication between the residents and the Council had been criticised; it was pointed out that the meetings are open to the public, the minutes are posted on the website and Councillors can always be approached about issues. There is a vacancy still on the Council if a member of the public wishes to be co-opted to participate in future discussions.

758. Role of Parish Council: The letter to Cllr Horncastle was verbally responded to. Whilst the Parish Council had itemised 3 cases as examples of their frustration with the County Council – and members of the public, Cllr Horncastle took them as critical of the Planning Department in particular. This caused some ill – feeling as the Parish councillors were making the point that any local knowledge on matters is ignored in most cases by the Planning Officers even where only material planning considerations are made on an application. It was recognised that the issues with a cross border application involving Gateshead is to be looked at further by the NCC’s Environmental Officer, following Cllr Horncastle’s intervention and the Community Safety Officer will look at the neighbour dispute and fall out.

759. County Councillor’s report: Cllr Horncastle additionally commented on the status of the Whittonstall site still being dependent on the outcome of the Druridge Bay inspection.

760. Local Transport plan Programme for 2018-19: It was agreed to ask that the road safety concerns about the Hedley to Greenside sector be kept under review; warning signs regarding Horse riders on the roads had also been requested.

761. Planning: 16/04383/LBC – at Woodhead Farm – **Granted** permission;

16/04684/FUL – conversion to holiday lets at Woodhead Farm – **Granted** permission;

17/02882/FUL – rear porch at 5 Leadgate cottages; the Parish council supports the application.

762: Correspondence: circulated as emails: weekly E News from NALC;

763: Finance: a) Balance at 31st August 2017 is £36.42 (Precept of £2500 will be paid in on 13th September and VAT rebate of £15.47 has been received).

b) The following payments were authorised:

MFAnderton, Clerk, July 2017	£122.10
MFAnderton, Clerk, August 2017	£122.10
R Snaith, grass cutting – Jul/Aug.	£340.00
R Snaith, grass cutting – Aug/Sept.	£340.00
MFAnderton, expenses to date	£32.72

Came & Co. – Annual insurance premium £298.75

764: **Information received:** Clerks & Councils Direct – latest edition; CPRE summer 2017

765: **AOB:** None

766: **Date of next meeting:** 9th October 2017 at 7.30pm in the Feathers' Inn.