

## HEDLEY ON THE HILL PARISH COUNCIL

### Minutes of the Council meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> February 2018 at 7.30pm in the Feathers' Inn

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

804. **Apologies:** Cllr Watkins

805. **Cooption of new councillor:** deferred to next meeting

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

807. **Minutes** from meeting of 15<sup>th</sup> January 2018: These were **approved** as a true record.

808. **Matters arising:**

a) Hedges – Cllr Horncastle would talk with the County Councillors officers regarding this as the work done was not sufficiently well to be considered safe;

b) GFWhite – nothing new had been forthcoming;

c) Speeding: No further news to date;

d) Letters to County Councillors re complaints about lack of contact with NCC – a reply had been received indicating that Mark Ketley would respond. Still awaiting that reply;

e) Hedley House: Karbon Homes engineers had inspected the wall over the tree and decided it was safe. They would monitor it on a regular basis;

f) Village Group Survey: No further action to date;

g) GDPR – no further useful news yet;

h) NCC Parking Survey: A response had been sent commenting on the problems with parking in the nearby villages and towns as well.

809. **County Councillor's report:** Cllr Horncastle reported on the budget proposals and schools. On inspection of the financial records after the change of administration, there is a large deficit which has to be accounted for without damaging public services any further. The Highways commitments will be kept and the post – 16 school transport will be re-instated. There is a huge problem with the school systems in the County, much of which has been in the press. There have been a number of meetings regarding the possible restructuring of the school systems from 3 tier to 2 tier and with larger federations of schools and also taking into consideration the Academies such as that for the Hexham group of schools. This is all confusing and the first level of consultation was with staff and schools only. The next consultation starting later in February and running into April will be an open

consultation for any interested parties to have their say. There is only one new school proposed to be built at present in Ponteland. However, the Middle school do not wish to be involved and this causes further issues.

The Head of Service for the County (Cllr Daly) has an Education background and is meeting with any schools or representatives who wish to know more.

**810. Schools reorganisation:** A letter of concern had been received by the council on this issue which was covered by the Cllr Horncastle above. He will meet with the resident personally to explain matters as they are as there were some misunderstandings on what was said in the press.

**811. Grass cutting tenders:** Two quotes had been received and the relative merits were discussed before deciding which was the better option. Subject to clarification on method of payment, which was agreed by the contractor, it was agreed to award the contract to DC Tree Care & Ground Services. (A letter confirming this would be sent).

**812. Roads:** the Chairman is meeting with Highways personnel to drive round the problem areas.

**813. Correspondence:** Circulated as emails – NALC e- news;

**814. Finance:** a) Balance at 1<sup>st</sup> February 201 is £394.30

b) The following payments were authorised:

MFAnderton, Clerk, January 2018	£122.10
Calico UK, re domain name for website etc.	£64.80
Spanglefish, website host	£29.95

**815: AOB:** ~ A resident's dog running loose was leaving waste in the village. A polite letter would be written to the owners (**MA**);

~ A resident had written requesting that consideration be given to naming the 'Main Road' and numbering houses to facilitate postal deliveries etc. as all properties have the same post code (**DP** would talk with Highways) and **MA** would ask Planning about the possibilities.

**816: Date of next meeting:** 12<sup>th</sup> March 2018 at 7.30pm in the Feathers' Inn.