

HEDLEY ON THE HILL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council meeting held on 12th March 2018 at 7.30pm in the Feathers' Inn

Present: Cllrs Penny, Speak, Rodgeron, Watkins and Douglas. Monica Anderton, Clerk was in attendance and 2 members of the public attended.

817. **Apologies:** Cnty Cllr Horncastle

818. **Cooption of new councillor:** Susan Celino was formally co- opted as councillor.

819: **Declarations of interest:** Cllr Watkins declared an interest in the Schools consultation.

820. **Minutes** from meeting of 12th February 2018: These were **approved** as a true record.

821. **Matters arising:**

a) Hedges – The problem of overhanging hedges has been satisfactorily dealt with;

b) GFWhite – nothing new had been forthcoming;

c) Speeding: No further news to date; this will be chased again to see if a timescale can be given;

d) Grass cutting contract- the new contractor to be asked to sign a copy of his letter of engagement (**MA**);

e) Village Group Survey: A date is being sought for a meeting to progress matters; Also the possibility of holding a coffee morning will also be considered.

g) Renaming of Main Road with numbering of houses – not met with great enthusiasm;

h) Garden waste bins will now be collected if required by NCC. The information has been put on the website but a brief note will also be put in the Notice Board (**DP**) after the details are forwarded to the Chairman.

822. **Schools Consultation:** There was considerable discussion on the options being put forward by Northumberland County Council in particular. Cllrs Watkins and Douglas made a number of comments from their point of view as teachers. And Helen Greer of the Feathers in her capacity as a School Governor had produced copies of some response sheets for the consultation and some written comments. Overall, none of the options being proposed by NCC are acceptable. Whittonstall will close under all the options and the rural communities will suffer greatly if the numbers of small rural schools proposed for closure are indeed closed as they often act as the **only** focus for the communities they are in. Where possible, individuals are being asked to respond to increase the overall numbers of replies. Concerns were also expressed about the future of small villages if there are no schools and the degree of accuracy of the statistics that NCC are using in their arguments appear to be flawed. The

Clerk will draw the comments together and circulate to members before responding formally on behalf of the Parish Council (**MA**).

823. **County Councillor's report:** No report was provided.

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

825. **Roads:** Cllr Penny had gone round the problem areas with the Highways Engineer from NCC. Unfortunately the weather interfered to some extent. There is no way they have the resources to resurface the Ebchester road but they will do as much patching as possible. The snow ploughs have taken off most of the recently fitted cat's eyes and NCC will be asked to fix them again when the weather has improved. Thanks will be forwarded from the Parish Council to the local farmers who have helped keep the roads clear in the recent bad weather.

826. **Finance:** a) Balance at 1st March 2018 is £177.45

b) The following payment was authorised:

MFAnderton, Clerk, February 2018	£122.10
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827: **AOB:** ~ A litter pick is to be organised for Saturday 14th April next. The Clerk will arrange with NCC Highways for bags, gloves etc. to be supplied;

~ a locked gate has been demolished which marks the footpath to the inspection access for Norther Gas. They will be informed of this;

~ a local resident has asked if he can sound out other residents about traffic calming measures in the village. Whilst probably being useful, the results of the Police speed survey have not yet been completed.

828: **Date of next meeting:** 16th April 2018 at 7.30pm in the Feathers' Inn (to allow for Easter holidays).