

HEDLEY ON THE HILL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council meeting held on 16th April 2018 at 7.30pm in the Feathers' Inn

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

829. **Apologies:** None

830: **Declarations of interest:** None

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

832. **Matters arising:**

- a) GFWhite – nothing new had been forthcoming; it was agreed to write directly to Mr Dixon for an update of matters;
- b) Grass cutting - the new contractor had forwarded a signed copy of his hiring letter and had met with the Chairman; As of yet, the grass was not considered long enough to cut;
- c) Village Group Survey: Nothing further as yet;
- d) Litter pick – this had been successfully completed although there were not many volunteers to do the work;
- e) Schools consultation – reported on by the County Councillor below.

833. **County Councillor's report:** Cllr Horncastle reported on three main issues:

~ Core Strategy: this has been withdrawn with little sanction from the Secretary of State as the new Local Plan is already well under way. An e-version of the Spatial Survey has been circulated together with a paper version for consultation;

~ Highways: As is known the roads have suffered more than usual this winter and spring. A further £4.9Million has been received from central Government to help with better repairs;

~ Schools Consultation: County Councillors had legal advice not to say too much during the consultation period which has now finished. With hindsight, the consultation document was not clear that this was an informal consultation and many people did not look at all the options. No formal outcomes are available yet however, there appear to be a number of positive points: that Haydon Bridge may be saved by including vocational training as part of its' status. There are most surplus places there; There may be a lot fewer schools closures than originally thought by consultees; there has been talk of using £50 million in the County Council reserves for the schools; however this is capital funds. It could be used though to make improvements where necessary such as extra classrooms for example.

~ Opencast: Cllr Horncastle is keeping in touch with Banks re their ongoing opencast proposals.

834: NCC Local Plan – Spring consultation: No additional housing/employment allocations were considered necessary as the original ones from the first Core Strategy were still in place.

835 Correspondence: Circulated as emails – NALC e- news; NALC training schedule: NCC – HR support.

836. Roads: See item in County Councillor report. The matter of a road sweep and replacing the cats eyes would be chased up. Gateshead Council would also be asked if they could do anything about the litter along the road from Greenside to Hedley.

837. Finance: a) Balance at 1st April 2018 is £55.35

In accordance with the new Audit regulations, the following items were also approved prior to the internal audit taking place. Draft accounts for 2018/18 were circulated to members in the meantime;

b) Annual Governance Statement – this was approved by the council;

c) The 2018/19 Risk Assessment was noted;

d) The Exemption Certificate, as a small Council , was approved and signed in accordance with the regulations;

e) The precept payment of £3000 was noted as being received.

f) The following payments were authorised:

MFAnderton, Clerk, March 2018	£122.10
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MFAnderton, Expenses	£63.15
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838. Information received: NCC leaflets on composting/garden bins; CPRE spring magazines.

839: AOB: ~ Cllr Watkins asked Cllr Speak for the contact details to make an application to the Wind Farm subsidy for a grant towards a Christmas Carol event for the village.

840: Date of next meeting and APM: 14th May 2018 at 7.30pm in the Feathers' Inn.