

## HEDLEY PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes** of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 8<sup>th</sup> September 2014 at 7.30pm in the 'Feathers Inn'

**Present:** Councillors R J Penny, F A Speak, DRM Rodgerson, J S Douglass and Mrs D M Watkins  
Colin Horncastle – County Councillor  
Mrs M Senior (Clerk)

271. **Apologies for Absence** – None
272. **Declarations of Interest** – None
273. **Minutes** of the meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> July 2014, having been circulated, were approved and signed as a true record,
274. **County Councillor's Report.** County Councillor Colin Horncastle gave a verbal update on matters relating to Northumberland County Council.
- a) **Post 16 Transport** – No change had been made in policy.
  - b) **Hexham Bus Station** – Alternative sites were currently being looked into for the relocation of the bus station. It would cost approximately £1m to bring the bus station up to current standards.
  - c) **Highways/Neighbourhood Services Restructure** – Restructure within Highways and Neighbourhood Services would see the department split. It was noted that Amanda Cryer had been transferred to South East Northumberland. NCC had done a good job in getting all the potholes in the County filled however Barry Rowland, Corporate Director of Service had stated that whilst efforts had been made to fill the pot holes this would be a pointless exercise if ditches/drainage was not also looked at. It is hoped that this work will be carried out before Christmas.
275. **Matters Arising**
- a) **First Northumberland Town and Parish Council's Conference** – Minute 277 refers. Unfortunately, it was noted that the conference was full.
  - b) **Communication** – Minute 252b refers. Cllr Mrs F A Speak had spoken to a neighbour who is willing to deliver NE43 News around the village.
  - c) **Hitching Posts** – Minute 252c refers. Quotes had been received for a small memorial stone at a cost of £360.00. A written quote is to be provided although it was felt that this was too costly. Cllr J S Douglass is to obtain a quote for a brass plaque which could be mounted on the wall by the hitching posts.
  - d) **Local Transport Plan Programme 2015-2016.** Minute 257 refers. Hedley Parishes 3 priorities had been submitted to NCC for inclusion in the 2015-16 programme.
  - e) **Garden Waste Bins.** Minute 269 refers. Response received from NCC re provision of garden waste bins in Hedley. This will be forwarded to all councillors.
276. **Correspondence.** All correspondence since the July meeting had been listed on the agenda and was noted. All relevant items had been distributed to all councillors.
277. **Insurance renewal.** It was agreed to renew the insurance policy and add additional cover for damage to the village green of £4000.
278. **Northumberland Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment - Notice of site assessment consultation.** Northumberland County Council is consulting on draft site assessments which have been prepared as part of the update to the Northumberland Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment. In order to boost significantly the supply of housing, the National Planning Policy Framework requires local planning authorities to prepare a SHLAA. The SHLAA identifies sites with potential for housing; assesses how many dwellings may be accommodated on a site with potential for housing development and assesses when sites are likely to be developed. Maps were distributed to all councillors. It was noted that the consultation runs until 24 September 2014.
279. **Finance**
- a) **Invoices for Payment.**

| PAYEE        | DESCRIPTION       | CHEQUE  | VAT | NET     | CHQ NO |
|--------------|-------------------|---------|-----|---------|--------|
| Mrs A Senior | Clerical Services | £100.00 |     | £100.00 | SO     |
| R Snaith     | Grass cutting     | £540.00 |     | £540.00 | 010649 |
| Mrs A Senior | Clerical Services | £100.00 |     | £100.00 | SO     |
| HMRC         | PAYE 4            | £25.00  |     | £25.00  | 010650 |
| HMRC         | PAYE 5            | £25.00  |     | £25.00  | 010651 |
| HMRC         | PAYE 6            | £25.00  |     | £25.00  | 010652 |

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|                |                   |         |  |         |        |
|----------------|-------------------|---------|--|---------|--------|
| Broker Network | Insurance renewal | £279.85 |  | £279.85 | 010653 |
| R Snaith       | Grass cutting     | £320.00 |  | £320.00 | 010654 |

- b) **Bank Balance.** The bank balance of £5768.67 as at 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2014 was noted (Statement 32).
280. **Planning Applications.** It was noted that the Hoodsclose Application had been withdrawn (reference number C/10/00255/CCMEIA). Whittonstall Action Group is stilling pursuing in case of re-submission. A copy of the latest report from NCC had been requested. Unfortunately the Council is not able to release the draft Committee report that was prepared for the Hoodsclose application. If the application had not been withdrawn it would have become a public document of course. However, the application was withdrawn at the request of the applicant prior to the report being made public, and given that the report contained elements of commercially sensitive information, the applicant requested that the report is now kept confidential.
281. **Grass Cutting –** It was noted that the grass cutting was still going well and there were 2 further cuts to be carried out this year.
282. **Dry Stone Walling –** Nothing to report.
283. **State of the Roads.** It was noted that the sign on the bend dropping down the West Hill was still in need of repair. This had been reported and the repair/replacement would be carried out in due course.
284. **East Tynedale Parish Councils Forum –** Nothing to report.
285. **Mickley Moor Farm –** Nil.
286. **Village Green**
- a) **Moles.** Problems had arisen with mole hills on the village green and adjoining garden. The resident is looking into bringing in a professional pest control company however if the moles still exist on the village green this could prove futile. It was agreed that the Parish Council would re-imburse for the pest control company's services on the village green.
- b) **Sign.** A resident had made a proposal to NCC to move the village entrance signs who had no objection. It was noted however that these actually belonged to the Parish Council. Cllr J S Douglass is to approach the resident for clarification.
287. **Information Items**  
All relevant items had been distributed to councillors by email.
- Campaign to Protect Rural England – Countryside Voice - Summer 2014
  - NALC eNews – July and August 2014
288. **Mineral Workings.** Nothing to report.
289. **Broadoak Nature Reserve Sign.** It was noted that this sign had disappeared. The clerk to contact Lafarge Tarmac to find out the status of the area.
290. **Date and time of next meeting.** The next meeting is to be held on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> September 2014 in The Feathers Inn.

Chairman \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_