

## HEDLEY ON THE HILL PARISH COUNCIL

### Minutes of the Council meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> July 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 Mr Robert Dixon and Mr John Dixon

740. **Apologies:** County Cllr Horncastle

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

742. **Minutes** from meeting of 12<sup>th</sup> June 2017: These were **approved** as a true record.

743. **Matters arising:** a) The report on the Community Hall etc. was deferred again;

b) The outcome of advice from Stephen Rickitt at NALC re the Village green etc. was reported to the Dixons and summarised for them. (The notes from that meeting will be appended to the approved minutes). Essentially there were 3 possible options for a way forward, 2 of which are very expensive. The preferred option, if agreed, is for GF White to appoint a barrister with expertise in the field who will work towards an acceptable solution, including the Parish Council formally in any discussions. It was agreed to hold a special meeting to discuss the issues on 7<sup>th</sup> August at 7.30pm in the Feathers.

d) Cllr Watkins had tried to talk with the homeowner at High Meadows about the overgrown hedges. It was decided to ask the Clerk to write formally to the resident asking for them to be cut back.

744. **Planning:** 17/00093/FUL: changes at Phoenix House: The Council have still not received formal notification that these have been granted and considerable effort was put into letting the County Council know about changes in road signs which were apparently a condition set by Highways, of which the Parish Council were unaware.

DC/17/00358/FUL – re Ravenside – granted **Permission**. Again, the views of the local community appeared to be ignored by the County Council who did not inform the Parish Council of the application despite being notified by Gateshead. (See item 746).

745. **County Councillor's report:** Cllr Horncastle sent a brief report. He pointed out that the recall of the Core Strategy by the County Council was only to look at the housing numbers and was not expected to take any longer than 6 months; he also noted that he had had several visits/phone calls with both the neighbours and owners of Ravenside to try and smooth matters out. This is still ongoing.

746. **Role of Parish Council:** There is considerable disquiet amongst the Councillors about the ongoing lack of consultation with what is a small council from the higher Local authority; it appears that irrespective of local knowledge, residents wishes etc. decisions are made

which are often contrary. What can seem to be trivial matters to the County Council have great impact at a local level. Some of the Councillors are ready to walk out on the Parish as they feel they are wasting their (voluntary) time. This has become particularly evident relating to planning applications for Phoenix House and for Ravenside. A further point noted later in AOB relating to the Cycle race in October also comes into question. It was agreed to ask the Clerk to formally write to Cllr Horncastle, detailing the grievances as far as possible, copying the letter to Head of Development Planning and to Cllr Glen Sanderson who now has responsibility for Development Planning on the County Council.

747: **Correspondence:** circulated as emails: weekly E News from NALC; NCC – re Community regeneration team – names etc; Other – NCC – Green Dog walkers responsible ownership campaign; thank you letter from Tynedale Hospice at Home; Royal Mail – apologies for lost mail with postage refund.

748: **Finance:** a) Balance at 30<sup>th</sup> June 2017 is £1235.07 (Balance to be closely monitored).

b) The following payments were authorised:

MFAnderton, Clerk, June 2017	£122.10
R Snaith, grass cutting	£340.00
MFAnderton, expenses to date	34.45

c) A request for funding of £20 per annum to help continue funding for the East Tynedale Community forum was agreed with the Chair making a casting vote in favour.

d) It was noted with thanks that a report had been received from the Women's Institute outlining the use for the £600 grant given over the last three years to them.

749: **Information received:** Clerks & Councils Direct – latest edition

750: **AOB:** ~ To find out if the County Council will collect brown garden waste bins from Hedley;

~ Dog mess on pavements – more signs to be placed?;

~ to Catch up on speeding checks that were to be carried out by Northumbria Police and to ask about speeding at Leadgate Cottages which is not covered by speed restrictions at present;

~ Drain blocked near the gliding Club again at Currock Hill;

~ Cycle race in October: Is there any consultation going on with the local council by the organisers? Clerk to explore.

751: **Date of next meeting:** 11<sup>th</sup> September 2017 at 7.30pm in the Feathers' Inn.

