

## **HEDLEYHOPE PARISH COUNCIL**

**Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 8 August 2024 at 7.30 pm  
in the Village Hall, East Hedleyhope**

### **Present**

**Chair:** Sarah Woodroffe (SW)

**Cllrs:** Martin Hurton (MH), Deb Warde (DW)

**Officer:** Gillian Bell (Clerk)

#### **1. Apologies for Absence**

County Cllr Dan Nicholls, County Cllr Marion Wilson, PCSO Paige Hart

#### **2. Declarations of Interest**

MH – item 11 (projector screen).

#### **3. Public Participation**

No members of the public present.

#### **4. County Councillors' Reports**

Written reports from Cllrs Dan Nicholls and Marion Wilson had been circulated.

- *UK Parliamentary General Election* – Mary Foy (Labour) was elected as MP for the City of Durham constituency.
- *DCC Open Consultations* – details can be found at <https://www.durham.gov.uk/consultations>
- *Full Council meeting, 17 July 2024:* The Council adopted the County Durham Minerals and Waste Policies and Allocation Plan and the Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2023 – 2029. The County Durham Housing Strategy 2024 was not adopted.
- *Peter Pan and Wendy, Gala Durham* – show running until Saturday 27 July.
- *Durham Crematorium and Mountsett Crematorium Green Flag status* – both have retained their Green Flag status which acknowledges parks and green spaces for their quality, facilities and high maintenance standards.
- *Brassed Off Festival 2024* – successfully returned with a number of sell-out performances.

#### **5. PCSO briefing**

A report from PCSO Hart was received and noted.

#### **6. Minutes and recommendations therein agreed from previous meeting on 27 June 2024**

Proposed by SW, seconded by MH.

#### **7. Parish Councillor vacancy**

Cllr Chrissy Stobart had resigned from the Council. The Clerk will inform DCC Electoral Services.

8. **Financial regulations and standing orders**

It was agreed to adopt the updated financial regulations and standing orders.

9. **Budget Update**

*Balance as of 8 August 2024:*

Income: £9,681.10

Expenditure: £6,143.53

*Earmarked project expenditure:*

Seat repair and installation: £1000

Northern Powergrid Funding for Community Emergency Plan: £746.77

10. **Progression of on-going projects**

***Community Emergency Plan: items for purchase and storage options***

It was agreed that the Clerk would order the additional items identified to purchase at the April meeting, together with a lock for the generator and a key box for inside the village hall.

11. **Matters relating to the village hall, village green and nature reserve**

***Village hall replacement doors and heating system***

Geowarmth were working on the heating system and this was due to be completed in the next few days. The new doors would be installed on 22 August. As the National Lottery grant needed to be used by the end of September, items such as the WiFi router, curtains and blinds could be ordered now and fitted at a later date. SW agreed to contact Paul Raine regarding invoicing for the interior and exterior painting and the Clerk would contact Frank's to arrange a measuring appointment for the flooring.

***Nature Reserve***

The Clerk had contacted Durham County Council regarding the biodiversity net gain funding and it was anticipated that this could take some time to become available. DCC would lease the site to the Parish Council but no cost had been quoted. Other options would be to buy the site or to register it as village green. MH had obtained the application form for village green status (circulated). There would be an application fee and a need to prove public use for over 20 years, but this should not be an issue, given that the Community Association had previously held the lease and Clare Ross had collected information relating to use of footpaths in the nature reserve. There was discussion around whether the area of village green should include the whole reserve or the meadow and access to it, which would be considered at the next meeting. As the landowner had to agree to the village green status, it was agreed that the Clerk would contact DCC again to ask whether they would consent to this.

***Play area inspection report***

RoSPA had completed the play area inspection and recommended a number of repairs, including to the gate's closing mechanism, some of the surfaces and the multiplay unit. An application would be made to the Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund to cover repairs – the closing date for the next round of funding was 17 November 2024. It was agreed that the Clerk would obtain two quotes for the work and MH would obtain a third.

### ***New benches/seating***

The Clerk reported that Suzanne Reeve had agreed to put her grant towards the proposed bench but there was no update regarding using the Northumbrian Water volunteering scheme to lay the slabs for it to stand on. MH indicated that the bench could be sited on the grass, but it was felt that it would be better on a hard surface. MH agreed to measure the area which needed to be paved and the cost of the work could be included in a Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund application.

### ***Conifer removal***

DW reported that she had asked Ross Nicholson to cut down and remove the fallen conifer outside the village hall. Ross had not been offered payment for the work, but following discussion it was agreed to pay him £100.

### ***Projector screen for village hall***

MH had a projector screen available for £25 which could be used in the village hall. It was agreed to purchase the screen.

## **12. Archiving Parish Council documents**

It was agreed to archive a small number of older parish council documents. The Clerk will arrange to deposit these in DCC archives at The Story.

- Postage book (1932 – 2004)
- Payments book (1973 – 1992)
- Declaration of Acceptance of Office (1967 – 1981)
- Precept book (1967 – 1991)
- Receipts and Payments book (1981 – 2004)

## **13. Planning applications**

*DM/24/01933/VOC - Variation of condition 8 of planning permission 1/1999/0429/DMFP (Three wind turbines, connection building, cable trenches and associated access tracks) to extend the duration of operations to no later than 31 March 2027. - Land To The West Of Willow Tree Cottage East Hedleyhope DL13 4PR*

*DM/24/01815/FPA - Proposed Roof Over Existing Sheep Pens - Low West House Farm Hedleyhope Bishop Auckland DL13 4BW*

No objections were raised to either application.

## **14. Members' reports**

None to receive.

## **15. Clerk's report**

### ***Financial***

*Payments made in May and June 2024:*

G Bell	£ 427.15	Clerk's June salary & IT costs
RoSPA	£ 93.60	Play area inspection
Moorview Windows	£1625.00	Deposit for new village hall doors
Octopus Energy	£ 58.18	Village hall electricity charges

ICO	£ 35.00	Data protection fee
Wave	£ 67.71	Village hall water charges
G Bell	£ 427.17	Clerk's July salary & IT costs
<b>Total:</b>	<b>£2733.79</b>	

*Payments received:*

Cuppa 'n' Cake	£ 20.00	Village hall hire (June)
CAN	£ 1354.17	National Lottery funding for village hall
<b>Total:</b>	<b>£ 1374.17</b>	

Petty cash float: **£5.90**

- The consultation deadline for the new Local Network boundaries had been extended until 20 September (information previously circulated).
- Debit card – required completion of an application form. Agreed that the Clerk and DW would hold a card.
- Parish Council savings account – agreed that the Clerk would look into options for some of the reserves.
- Asset register update – agreed that the festoon lighting, projector and sound system would be recorded as gifted from the Community Association to the Parish Council.
- Remembrance Day bunting – Suzanne Reeve had offered to knit poppy bunting, which could be added to the statue and noticeboard for Remembrance Day. It was agreed to ask her to go ahead and the Clerk will contact Suzanne.
- New village hall doors – a list of keyholders was drawn up. It was agreed that eight keys would be needed, including one to be kept in the internal/external key boxes. The Clerk would get keys cut following installation.
- Christmas lights – SW suggested having permanent lighting installed around the outside of the village hall which could be switched on over the Christmas period. MH would look into the costs.

14. **Date for next meetings:** Thursday 26 September 2024 at 7.30 pm

The meeting closed at 9.10 pm.

Signed

Cllr Sarah Woodroffe  
Chair  
26 September 2024