

HEDLEYHOPE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 28 March 2024 at 7.30 pm
in the Village Hall, East Hedleyhope

Present

Chair: Sarah Woodroffe (SW)

Cllrs: Tony Reeve (TR), Deb Warde (DW)

Officer: Gillian Bell (Clerk)

1. Apologies for Absence

Cllr Martin Hurton, Cllr Jeff Stobart, Cllr Chrissy Stobart, County Cllr Marion Wilson, PCSO Paige Hart

2. Declarations of Interest

None to declare.

3. Public Participation

No members of the public present.

4. County Councillors' Report

A written report had been circulated.

- Public Service Broadcasting will perform their album 'Every Valley', which tells the story of the rise and fall of coal mining, in full at Durham Cathedral on the opening night of Durham Brass Festival. The festival runs from 5 to 13 July 2024.
- A devolution deal between the government and the leaders of County Durham, Gateshead, Newcastle, North Tyneside, Northumberland, South Tyneside and Sunderland councils has been signed. This will hand the incoming North East Mayor and Cabinet more control over transport, housing and skills, and makes available over £100 million of new funding that can be invested in the North East's priorities. A new North East Coastal and Rural Taskforce is being set up to strengthen the region's rural and coastal communities.
- DCC are considering the possibility of a Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) covering Durham City that would see to control behaviours including begging, urinating in the street and use of intoxicating substances. The Cabinet are being asked to approve consultation being carried out before possible implementation.
- DCC has been awarded £2.94 million from the Department of Transport Safer Roads Fund for a series of improvements on the A690 between Crook and Neville's Cross. The work is aimed at improving safety for all road users, but with a focus on pedestrians and cyclists.

5. PCSO briefing

A report from PCSO Hart was received and noted.

6. Minutes and recommendations therein agreed from previous meeting on 29 February 2024

Proposed by DW, seconded by TR.

7. **Budget Update**

Balance as of 28 March 2024:

Income: £17,818.01

Expenditure: £18,569.76

Earmarked project expenditure:

Seat repair and installation: £1000

Northern Powergrid Funding for Community Emergency Plan: £1158.77

8. **Parish Council Health & Safety Policy**

The revised policy had been circulated. It was agreed to adopt the Health & Safety policy, which will be added to the website.

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

Community Emergency Plan: items for purchase and storage options

The ordered equipment had now arrived and the storage shed was due to be dispatched on 22 April. A quote of £240 had been received to install the shed. Additional items suggested to purchase included two catering pans, thermos food flasks and disposable gloves. Prices would be obtained and considered at the next meeting. As storage space would be needed for the generator, the cost of rebuilding the cupboard in the back room could be included in this grant (a quote of £400 had been received). A mobile broadband router was also suggested and TR agreed to look into available options.

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

Village hall replacement doors and heating system

The Ofgem grant for the new heating system had been secured but the work would need to be completed before the end of June. A quote of £300 had been obtained for the slab for the heat pump and SW had requested a quote to repaint the interior of the hall. DW asked about replacing the flooring in the main room and agreed to look into options and pricing. Once all quotes had been collected and the funding offer letter received, a date to start work would be agreed with Geowarmth.

Defibrillator mounting, restored seats and repair work

Quotes had been received as follows: defibrillator mounting £200, seat restoration £240, restoring the seat above the play area £200, repairs to the play area fence £80. It was noted that a repair had been made to the defibrillator mounting and this was now secure. It was agreed to go ahead with the remaining work and the Clerk will confirm the costs to install the two restored seats. In addition, DW noted that the seat above the meadow near the kissing gate was damaged. It was agreed that the Clerk will ask Richard Curtis to check if the seat could be repaired.

New electricity tariff

The current fixed tariff ended in May 2024. As it was difficult to estimate the likely electricity usage with the new heating system, it was agreed to move to a variable tariff and evaluate running costs after a year.

Nature Reserve

The Clerk had contacted Tammy Morris-Hale and she had agreed to get in touch with DCC Land and Property Team. The Skill Mill had also been contacted but no reply had been received. DW reported that a resident had offered to rebuild the kissing gate if provided with the materials and she suggested getting more community involvement with the work needed on the nature reserve. There was ongoing concern about the possibility of quad/trail bikes gaining access to the meadow through the gap in the fence. However, it was also recognised that there were issues of liability, given that DCC were responsible for the nature reserve. It was agreed that the Clerk would contact Derek Snaith and the county councillors for a contact in DCC in order to find a way forward.

11. **Newsletter**

SW had completed the newsletter and it had been circulated prior to the meeting for comments. A piece about the photography club would be removed, as it was no longer running, and an item about the Little Library would be added. SW would amend and forward to TR to print and arrange delivery.

12. **Members' reports**

None to receive.

13. **Clerk's report**

Financial

Payments made in February and March 2024:

Taylor Investments	£ 938.98	Metal storage shed
G Bell	£ 427.15	Clerk's February salary & IT costs
G Bell	£ 8.22	Reimbursement for accident book & eye wash
Octopus Energy	£ 70.71	Village hall electricity charges
A J Reeve	£1662.25	Reimbursement for emergency plan equipment
Richardson Surveying	£ 240.00	Ofgem scheme
Total:	£3347.31	

Payments received: **£0**

Petty cash: **£7.25**

- The Clerk will contact Ann Barnshaw to arrange the internal audit of the accounts.
- The 2023/24 AGAR form had been received.
- The pot holes at Rose Terrace and the damaged kerb stones have been reported and repairs made.

14. **Date for next meeting:** Thursday 25 April 2024 at 7.30 pm in the village hall.

The meeting closed at 8.40 pm.

Signed

Cllr Sarah Woodroffe
Chair
25 April 2024