

MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY MEETING OF HEPTONSTALL PARISH COUNCIL

HELD REMOTELY via ZOOM, 12 APRIL 2021

Present : Councillors S Slater (Chairman) A Baldwin J Crowther B Cutts
Dr J R Dunford M V Edwards M Hughes & B Stott

In opening the meeting The Chairman wished to make a statement and asked for one minute's silence :

His Royal Highness, The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, KG., KT.

At this sad time our thoughts and prayers are with Her Majesty the Queen and members of the royal family with the passing of His Royal Highness Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh

It was agreed this form of words be copied to the website.

134/20 APOLOGIES (AND REASONS) OF ABSENCE

Apologies of absence (and reasons) were received from Councillor James.
No approval of the reason for absence was requested or granted.

135/20 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

A Declaration of 'Other Interests' was made by Councillor Hughes in respect of the Planning Appeal relating to land adjacent to the burial ground at Mid-Slack, Heptonstall.

136/20 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

With two parishioners in attendance, there was a request not to speak at this stage but simply listen to the debate and be available for explanations and questions at the appropriate time. (Planning Appeal relating to land adjacent to the burial ground at Mid-Slack, Heptonstall).

137/20 Minutes of previous meetings of Heptonstall Parish Council were approved as a correct record in respect of the following :

- Monthly meeting held 1 March 2021

138/20 Planning Appeal relating to land adjacent to the burial ground at Mid-Slack, Heptonstall.

Standing Orders were suspended.

The Clerk reminded members of the Council's previous decision in respect of Planning Application 19/01211/FUL :

Heptonstall Parish Council has no objection to this proposed development. It is expected that cognisance will be taken of comments by Historic England in respect of this site and the Parish Council would like to see the introduction of a covenant to restrict future residential development in the remaining parcel of the adjacent land.'

The Chairman welcomed Mr & Mrs Stansfield to the meeting and invited them to make a statement.

Mrs Stansfield explained an appeal to the Planning Inspectorate had been made to Calderdale MBC's refusal to grant planning permission. The refusal by Calderdale's Planning Committee covered 3 main aspects : There were no 'special circumstances' for the granting of permission for development within the Green Belt, The height and position of the proposed development in an undeveloped gap, and the footprint and materials were inappropriate. The conclusion was that that this was Green Belt land and was not to be built on and needed to be protected.

Mrs Stansfield site did not sit between 2 settlements (Slack Top and Slack Bottom) but that this would represent infill in the continuous community of Slack.

The question of materials had been addressed, and the upper floor had been reduced to lessen visual impact. She also made reference to historical buildings along Slack which was detailed in the 30 page Statement submitted to the Planning Inspectorate.

She concluded by inviting questions and confirming that the surplus land at the site would be kept as agricultural land

Standing Orders were resumed.

It was resolved to reinforce the decision already made to application 19/01211/FUL.

139/20 TRAINING/WEBINAR/CONFERENCE OPPORTUNITIES

The Clerk provides regular details of the availability of training and conferences and invites members to request bookings via himself as already authorised.

He confirmed bookings had already been made for himself and Councillor Dunford for the April YLCA Conference, and he should be advised of any additional requests.

140/20 BUSINESS TERM DEPOSIT

The Clerk was able to confirm arrangements had been put in place to transfer £5,000 from Current to Term Deposit for 6 months from 20 April 2021.

141/20 APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL REPORT : YEAR TO 31 MARCH 2021

It was resolved to approve the Financial Report for the 12 months ending 31 March 2021.

142/20 APPROVAL OF RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS ACCOUNTS : 2020/2021

It was resolved to approve the Council's Accounts for the year to 31 March 2021.

143/20 CERTIFICATION EXEMPTION FROM EXTERNAL AUDIT FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2020/21

It was resolved to record that Heptonstall Parish Council is exempt from external audit for the year 2020/21 as its annual turnover or expenditure does not exceed £25,000, and will complete the exemption form by 30 June 2021.

144/20 APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS

The following accounts were approved for payment :

| | | | |
|----------------------------|-------------------------|----------|-----------------|
| Lambert Print & Design Ltd | Newsletter publication | £ | 130.00 |
| Miss M G Morgan | Internal Audit | £ | 100.00 |
| Yorks Local Couns Assns | Annual Subscription | £ | 438.00 |
| Hept Social & Bowling Club | Public Parking Grant | £ | 350.00 |
| Hept Lights & Planting Gp | Insurance | £ | 265.00 |
| " " " | Christmas Tree | £ | 195.00 |
| Midgehole WMC | Grant - HB Bowling Club | £ | 250.00 |
| White Rose Archers | Grant | £ | 1,260.00 |
| Trustees of R Naylor dec'd | Grant | £ | 500.00 |
| Govrs of Hept Exhibitions | Grant | £ | 500.00 |
| Old Peoples Welfare Cttee | Grant | £ | 250.00 |
| CROWS | Grant | £ | 250.00 |
| Tony Spink | Defib Electricity | £ | 50.00 |
| R M Greenwood (Argos) | Headset | £ | 24.99 |
| (Argos) | Office 365 - Newsletter | £ | 59.99 |
| Yorkshire Bank plc | Term Deposit | £ | 5,000.00 |
| | | £ | 9,622.98 |
| Elections Reserve | Reserve Addition | £ | - |
| Computer Reserve | Reserve Addition | £ | 200.00 |
| Calderdale MBC | Precept | £ | 17,500.00 |
| Calderdale MBC | Grant | £ | 952.00 |
| Calderdale MBC | Coun Tax Reduction Gnt | £ | 1,138.00 |
| Yorkshire Bank plc | Term Deposit Interest | £ | 110.39 |

145/20 PLANNING

(a) Planning Decisions : There were no details of decisions made by the Planning Authority in the past month to be notified to members

(b) Planning Applications : There were no new Planning Applications to be considered by members.

146/20 Arising from correspondence received :

- Councillor Slater provided members with a summary of her attendance with The Clerk of the latest meeting of Calderdale MBC's Safer Cleaner Greener Committee. She also submitted a report of her meeting with Calderdale MBC

officers in respect of excess water on the road surface at Widdop Road and Slack Top.

- Councillor Cutts provided a copy of a parishioner's request for the reinstatement of a bench overlooking Hell Hole rocks. It was resolved to inspect and photograph the site (Cllrs Cutts, Hughes & Dunford) and inspect the picnic benches near this site which may require some renovation work.
- The Clerk provided copies of correspondence with a parishioner relating to off-road cycling at Slack and Popples.
- Detailed consideration was given to the correspondence relating to dogs being walked professionally on Heptonstall Moor and the illegality of ground nesting birds being disturbed from 1 March to 31 July, as well as the continued problem of off-road cyclists which this Council is already actively pursuing. It was resolved to copy the segment of the correspondence relating to dogs on open moorland be copied to Calderdale MBC Ward Councillors as well as Walshaw Estate for their joint appropriate and remedial actions. (This was an issue which should be introduced to the Local Action Forum as well as the Safer Cleaner Greener Committee which is chaired by a West Yorkshire Police Inspector).

147/20 OFF ROAD CYCLING

Councillors Cutts and Dunford reported on their recent meeting of the 2 different committee aspects dealing with this matter, and supplied copies of the meeting notes to all members.

148/20 ANNUAL ASSEMBLY OF THE PARISH MEETING : ESTABLISHING BETTER ATTENDANCE

Following a request at the Annual Assembly which took place on 1 March 2021, consideration was given to this matter – which is common to many Local Councils. One thought was to hold a promoted 'Chairman Making' gathering with refreshments (from the Chairman and Clerk) and it was agreed to give further thought to this idea for the 2022 event.

149/20 A REVIEW OF THE FUTURE MEANS OF COMMUNICATING WITHIN THE COMMUNITY

A significant discussion took place on the current and future means of 'getting out the message' to the community. The Clerk had already provided details of the current agreed methodology which relies upon the Newsletter, the website (a requirement for the Transparency Code), the notice boards, an Annual Report as well as e-mail and telephone contact. The use of social media is not at present included. Councillor Cutts volunteered to put a briefing note together and the matter be further discussed at a future meeting.

150/20 JOINT NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

The Clerk reported that the 6 week period of the first consultation period had now ended, and he had attended one of the three well presented public events for discussion and questions.

He assured members he would circulate resulting notes when they become available, and reminded that there would be a second period of consultation in the coming weeks.

151/20 DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETINGS

The Clerk confirmed that the opportunity to continue to hold remote meetings would cease on 7 May, but that there was not yet the availability of face to face meetings for some weeks. He advised that it was essential to hold an Annual Meeting this year and therefore recommended bringing the scheduled date forward by 2 weeks to ensure this could take place. It was therefore resolved to hold the next meetings as follows :

- Annual Meeting of Council (remotely via Zoom) at 7.00 pm on Monday 3 May 2021
- Monthly Meeting (remotely via Zoom) at 7.30 pm on Monday 3 May 2021.

152/20 THANKS TO RETIRING CHAIRMAN

Councillor Slater gave her apologies as she would be unable to join the meeting on 3 May, and this would therefore be her last meeting 'in the chair'.

The Clerk wished to record his thanks to Councillor Slater for her time and duties as Chairman. Because of the intervention of Covid-19 restrictions her term of office had doubled to 2 years, and during that time meetings were significantly changed (including a period when meetings were suspended) and other matters had had a significant effect on her working and private life.

Mr Greenwood wanted members to know how professionally she had coped in her Council leadership throughout, her willingness for regular necessary conversations as well as the energy and humour she had brought to the task. It had not been an easy 2 years and he wanted his thanks to be recorded.

Councillor Dunford (Vice Chairman) supported this view and recorded thanks from the Council for her hard, professionally executed.

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(Chairman)

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(Date)