

**Minutes of electronic meeting of Hedgeley Parish Council held at 730pm on Wednesday 22nd July 2020 commencing 730pm**

**Those Present** Cllr M Wilson (Chairman), Cllr N Birnie, Cllr P Scott, Cllr J Brown, Cllr D Carr-Ellison, County Cllr W Pattison, C Miller (Clerk)

**2020/18 Apologies for Absence**

Cllr I Smith, Cllr M Clark, Cllr C Robinson, Cllr J Frater, G Williamson

**2020/19 Declaration of Members Interests**

There were no Declaration of Members Interests.

**2020/20 Opportunity for members of the public to raise any matter on the agenda**

There were no matters raised from members of the public.

**2020/21 Minutes of previous meeting held Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> February 2020**

The minutes of the previous meeting held on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> February 2020 were accepted as a true record, further to amendment under **2020/05/03 Parish drains**, to change gully sucker to gully brush.

**2020/22 Matters Arising from previous meeting held Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> February 2020**

**2020/22/01 Works to well**

Cllr D Carr-Ellison transporting stone to the site, however the dry stone waller was now unable to carry out the work and an alternative quote of £200 plus material had been received and it was resolved to accept the quotation. Funding of £350 had been received from Powburn Show towards the project.

**Play area – to receive annual Rospa play area inspection report; to consider re-opening of Powburn play area and risks involved due to Covid-19**

The report had raised the following - entrapment of gate, and it was resolved this would be actioned; holes in general surface were due to rabbits; tighten/replace balance log movement stop; cableway lower chain links inspection impossible due to cover having shrunk which requires releasing to allow inspection of chain and seat joining links; monitoring of softening at base of supports on swing. It was resolved a company from Eyemouth would be contacted regarding joining links and Playdale would be contacted for quotations for all other remedial works to equipment.

It was resolved to accept the Covid-19 Risk Assessment carried out by the Clerk, place notices relating to social distancing and sanitising advice and reopen the play area.

**2020/22/03 Parish drains**

Drainage works to five gullies at Playwell and Denehouse junction had been carried out. A buildup of sand on Playwell road had been discovered by County Council staff which had been cleaned and unblocked and it was advised the Parish Council request the farmer creates a ditch for water running from the field and onto the road, and a burst drain 60 yards up the road was causing problems. Flooding at Hedgeley Services had occurred with buried manholes cleared out. Potholes near to garage would be investigated as to ascertain who is responsible, if behind the tarmac pathline it would be the garages responsibility, and in front would be the County Council, and Cllr J Brown would carry out a site visit. There was a broken pipe and gully between Junction C82 and C83 and the road would need to be closed for repair. More images of potholes on the Beanley road, C82 and C83 to be forwarded to County Council. Blocked roadside drainpipe running downhill from Crawley had been attended to along with open ditch parallel to the railway line. Potholes on Beanley Wood road had been repaired, however at the junction the road is falling away before the railway bridge and this would also be reported to the Highways Inspector.

**To approve de-silting works to Powburn and Parish Council officially taking over responsibility for future works**

Hedgeley Estates had gifted the playground site on the south side of the Pow Burn to the community some years ago. In more recent times the Estate had also made the memorial garden ground on the north side of the Pow Burn available. The community are therefore in occupation of both banks of the burn and as such would be responsible for on-going maintenance of the burn. The Estates believe the Parish Council would be liable for at least a 50% share of the cost of desilting the burn, with a quote of £180 having been received. It was resolved the Parish Council would take over future responsibility, arrange for the contractor to carry out the work, and contact Hedgeley Estates and ask if they would be prepared to pay £90 towards the costs. J Carr-Ellison had offered a trailer to aid with removal of the silt. The channel may require widening works in the future.

#### **2020/23 County Cllr update**

New village 20pmh signage for Beanley and Bolton had been installed, with speed limit not being adhered to at all times. Residents of Crawley View were concerned the A696 outside their properties was slightly subsiding with vibration of lorries not helping. Highways Inspector had marked the road however no progress had since been made, and a further patch had been identified as in need of repair. Potholes and uneven surfaces towards Glanton past the first set of houses had also not been actioned. Planters had been placed at Powburn and Bolton, with Beanley planters to be placed in due course. The nine parish meeting was to meet with MP in March, however this had been postponed and an on-line meeting to be arranged, with agenda items being "Small business rate relief," and "Low mobile signal in parts of Craster and Eglington" – mobile signal in Hedgeley parish was deemed sufficient.

#### **2020/24 Planning**

##### **2020/24/01 Planning Applications received**

- No planning applications had been received.

##### **2020/24/02 Approval of Planning Applications received:**

- 19/04990/LBC & 19/04989/FUL: Shawdon Hall Estates, rear extension and internal layout changes to allow addition of third bedroom along with other sympathetic work including some areas of down takings and rebuilding of walls.
- 20/00281/MAST: Land South of South Hedgeley, prior notification for proposed Smart Metering pole and cabinets at ground level, all located in the grass verge.

##### **2020/24/03 Notice of Appeal**

- 18/01382/OUT: Land South of The Manse, Outline application for eight detached one and a half storery detached dwellings.

#### **2020/25 Finance**

##### **2020/25/01 The following accounts have been authorised since the previous meeting**

- Came & Company – annual insurance premium - £363.18
- Clerks's quarterly salary & expenses – £223.37
- HMRC – PAYE on above - £53.80
- Cardiac Science – defib pads - £34.74
- NALC – annual subscription - £104.01
- C Armit – planters - £240.00

It was resolved to authorise payments.

##### **2020/25/02 The following accounts are to be authorised:**

- M Wilson – compost - £135.99 – Cllr M Wilson declared an interest.
- ROSPA – play area inspection - £82.80
- C Miller – salary - £215.62
- HMRC – PAYE on above - £54.00

It was resolved to authorise payments.

#### **2020/26 Correspondence**

There was no correspondence.

**2020/27      Audit of Accounts year ending 31/3/20**

**2020/27/01    To consider and agree any actions arising from the report of the internal auditor**

There were no actions arising from the internal audit report.

**2020/27/02    To approve the Governance Statement**

It was resolved to approve the governance statement

**2020/27/03    To approve the draft annual accounts for 2019/2020**

It was resolved to approve the annual accounts for 2019/2020.

**2020/27/04    To approve the Accounting Statement and explanation of variances**

It was resolved to approve the accounting statement and explanation of variances.

**2020/27/05    To approve the Exemption Certificate**

It was resolved to approve the exemption certificate.

**2020/28      Superfast Broadband for rural communities**

A list of properties which do not have superfast broadband in the parish had been compiled with government money available to help with upgrading, however there are properties too remote, but vouchers in regard to wireless service could be available. Properties can be entered onto the Openreach web-site with the same postcode, with Openreach then providing a quotation, and inorthumberland can organise funding assistance. Cllr D Carr-Ellison did go through the process with Openreach previously and the cost had been unacceptable, therefore a group of properties had contacted Alncom who have the same access to grants and who had upgraded the system for Titlington and Titlington Mount.

**2020/29      Web-site Accessibility Regulations**

New regulations were coming into force regarding web-site accessibility for all users. The web-site administrator had put in many hours checking compliance and producing a draft web-site accessibility statement which the Parish Council discussed and approved, highlighting the Parish Council was not compliant with all requirements, and the issue would be looked into by the administrator. Thanks would be given to the web-site administrator for the many hours put into this.

**2020/30      Public Rights of Way – revised proposal to divert section of public footpath 13 & 14 on land east of Shawdon Hall**

Following the previous consultation carried out in October 2019 the County Council had received a revised application to divert sections of Hedgeley Public Footpath No 13 & 14 on land to the East of Shawdon Hall. The diversion application would be made under Section 119 of the Highways Act 1980, proposal to move a section of Footpath 13 from its current recorded route, applicant wishes to move the route of the footpath from passing adjacent to the main dwelling in the interest of privacy. Should the proposal be successful, the applicant would consider installing a surfaced path along the proposed new route. The applicant also wishes to move the route of Footpath No 14 which utilises a section of track which is one of the main agricultural and forestry tracks onto the tarmac surfaced North Drive. The proposals appeared very sensible and which the Parish Council would support.

**2020/31      To report any issues within the parish**

Cllr J Brown reported the corner at Beanley down to the tile sheds floods leading to dangerous road conditions, with a car recently skidding and ending up on the pavement. The area is swept on an annual basis by a local contractor, however the County Council road sweeper had not attended for a couple of years and it was agreed the Clerk would contact Neighbourhood Services and ask why sweeping was no longer being carried out. Covers on sump in the playground had not moved therefore Cllr J Brown of the opinion County Council had not cleaned this out, and suggested the Parish Council be made aware of when County Council attend site to accompany personnel. It was resolved to contact the County Council nearer the Winter for assurance the works would be carried out. A request had been received to plant a memorial cherry tree in the community garden and which was approved. Cllr J Brown reported he was leaving the parish but would remain a Cllr until the next election May 2021. An accident had occurred on Powburn

bridge due to speeding. The crash barrier on the bridge would benefit from repainting and Clerk would report to County Council. Steps on public footpath No 22 from C82 along railway line were dangerous as they were coming away and wood panels disintegrating, and repair was to be carried out with a possible addition of a handrail.

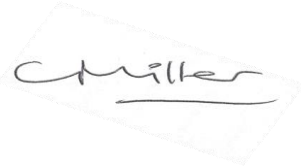
**2020/32 Future of the Plough Inn**

A court hearing with Hedgeley Estates and Punch Taverns regarding dilapidation issues would be held in the near future and the Estates were determined to keep the pub open in some form if possible, as final closure would be a poor outcome for the parish. A change of use to residential would be of financial benefit to Hedgeley Estate, but is not wanted. It is extremely frustrating regarding the length of time to deal with Punch Taverns and until this issue is dealt with the situation cannot move forward. A business proposal had been received for the Blacksmith's shop however the Estates do not wish to separate the building.

**2020/33 Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting of Hedgeley Parish Council will be held on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> November 2020 commencing 730pm and which it is hoped will be able to be held in the Breamish Hall, Powburn.

Claire Miller, Parish Clerk

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Miller', is written over a faint, rectangular stamp or watermark.

The meeting closed at 910pm.