

Minutes of ordinary meeting of Hedgeley Parish Council commencing at 730pm on Wednesday 2nd November 2022 in the Breamish Hall Powburn

Those Present: Cllr M Wilson (Chairman), Cllr N Birnie, Cllr M Clark, Cllr D Carr-Ellison, Cllr J Frater, Cllr I Smith, W Pattison (County Cllr), C Miller (Clerk)

2022/73 Apologies for Absence

Cllr J Bennett

2022/74 Co-Option Vacancy

There had been no applications for the co-option vacancy.

2022/75 Declaration of Members Interests

There were no Declaration of Members Interests.

2022/76 Opportunity for members of the public to raise any matter on the agenda

There were no matters raised from members of the public.

2022/77 Meeting with Colin Hall, Environment Agency

Colin Hall welcomed to the meeting. There were still areas in the parish liable to flooding, and a householder had forwarded ongoing concerns regarding blocked drainage at the lowest point in Powburn. Colin advised there were three gully suckers County wide. Problems did occur due to a lack of resources and he would report issues to Northumberland County Council. The EA tackle resilience, and have to be aware of surface water due to bigger downpours during shorter lengths of time, with more impact during the Summer months due to dry ground. Contingencies should be put in place with a Community Flood Plan considered. Warnings through the EA flood advisory message system could be organised, with a responsible community group required to act on the warnings. A geographical location indicating vulnerable areas would be provided, along with direct links to the EA incident room. Volunteers would be classed as zero responders and on the ground before Class one responders arrived. A Hedgeley parish plan or separate plans for each area of the parish can be created. There is still odd flooding at Bolton, however this does not endanger homes, with problems mainly in Powburn. The EA can visit residents individually to offer advice on flooding issues. Colin thanked for his attendance. It was resolved a Community Flood Group should be set up, with volunteers to be sourced.

2022/78 Minutes of previous meeting held Wednesday 3rd August 2022

It was resolved that the minutes of the previous meeting held Wednesday 3rd August 2022 be accepted as a true record.

2022/79 Works to create barbecue area

Work had not been started and which would now entail engagement of a contractor. Matter to be re-considered in the future.

2022/80 Speeding traffic

Volunteers were willing to be trained in the use of the speed gun which was located in the parish, and once trained, speedwatch could be organised. It was resolved to contact the Police Commissioner and ask for parish data relating to the mobile speed watch, which had not been seen as regularly county wide.

2022/81 To consider road issues within the parish and update on issues previously reported to County Council

As reported above, parishioner had written with concern regarding flooded drains near to the bridge. It was resolved to report the issue via County Council Highways, and advise resident to do the same. County Cllr to also forward information to County Council Officer Graham Bucknall. Road repair required on crossroads (Beanley, Bolton, Glanton, Eglingham, C82) with Clerk to report to County Council. Cllr M Wilson to provide road numbers to Clerk. Crossing points at Glanton road problematic (County Cllr advised further road works should be in the County Council Highways programme) – however Clerk to report to County Council.

2022/82 To receive update on proposals for a generator for the Breamish Hall, to assist in occurrences such as Storm Arwen

Northern Powergrid had a resilience fund which could be accessed to provide generator points. Community Action Northumberland could assist with a feasibility study to install solar power for the hall. Breamish Hall Committee to deliberate the best course of action to take.

2022/83 County Cllr update

County Council had created an inequality plan, with people in Northumberland on average dying 7-12 years before those in deprived areas of London. There was considerable poverty with Blyth and Berwick on a par, and child poverty in South East Northumberland. A study of several children in the county currently being carried out. In order to make improvements it has to come from the community within, a real community push, such as creating a Whatsapp support group. Mental health is a huge issue, and the suicide rate had practically doubled in Northumberland.

2022/84 Planning

2022/84/01 Planning Applications received

- 22/03337/MAST: Land Northeast of Vodafone Communications Mast Titlington – prior approval for proposed EE 25m high Swann 5SH tower on proposed 5.85m x 5.85m x 1m concrete foundation and associated ancillary works.

Clerk to advise on any relevant information in the newly adopted County Council Local Plan regarding number and locality of masts.

2022/85 Finance

2022/85/01 The following accounts are to be authorised:

- C Miller – salary/expenses - £264.31
- HMRC – PAYE - £61
- Cipher Medical Consultancy Ltd – defib pads - £47.94

2022/85/02 To approve quotation of £1079.78 (nett) for repairs to play area

It was resolved to approve the quotation of £1079.78 (nett) for repairs to play area.

2022/85/03 To approve budget 2023-2024

It was resolved to approve the budget 2023-2024.

2022/85/04 To approve precept 2023-2024

It was resolved to approve the precept of £6,000 for 2023-2024.

2022/85/05 To consider engagement of personnel to check play area/carry out minor repairs

At the present time, it was resolved not to consider engagement of personnel to check play area/carry out minor repairs.

2022/86 To receive update on the future of the Plough Inn

Sale of building had fallen through due to ever increasing costs.

2022/87 Urgent Business/Items for next agenda

Hedging at the Manse required cutting – Clerk to report to County Council. A blue park is often parked at bottom of bank on Glanton to Powburn road. People are permitted to park in that location, however in adverse weather this could cause problems. Cllr M Wilson to have a diplomatic word.

2022/88 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of Hedgeley Parish Council will be held on Wednesday 1st February 2023 commencing 730pm in the Breamish Hall, Powburn.

Claire Miller, Parish Clerk

Chiller

The meeting closed at 2110pm.

DRAFT