

HEDLEY ON THE HILL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 13th February 2023 in The Feathers Inn at 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs Watkins, Barnes, Douglas, Wolters and Renwick. Monica Anderton, Clerk, was in attendance. Also: Cnty Cllr Horncastle and Gillian Marsh

1. **Apologies:** None

2. **Declarations of Interest:** None

3. **Cooption of Councillor:** Following the display of notice to register an interest to become a councillor for more than the mandatory 15 working days, there was only one expression of interest. The Council therefore agreed unanimously to co-opt Gillian Marsh to be the 6th councillor.

4. **Minutes** from the Council meeting of 9th January 2023: These were **approved** as a true record.

5. **Matters arising:** a) Waste bin: to be chased up - again; Still no news on this despite several emails. It will be chased again, with Cllr Horncastle being copied in.

b) Newsletter: No new Newsletter since last month. An informal meeting would put together the next edition, also looking at a calendar of events.

c) Defibrillator – Fine for now. The Clerk is still trying to organise some CPR training for the village;

d) Broad band: There was discussion about this. Cllr Douglas had finally got in touch with Craig Morley of Facto who basically said that Hedley was not included in current plans. Sylvia Pringle at NCC had seen this and indicated there may be a further chance of similar broadband but with another provider and that the voucher scheme would apply again. It will be some time before tenders are decided. Cllr Horncastle also indicated that he had tried on a number of occasions to get hold of the same representative without success. Gillian Carrol and Sylvia Pringle at County Hall are the best to liaise with on this matter. Cllr Horncastle pointed out that the scheme put into the Allen Valley worked very well for the most part.

6. **County Councillor Report:** Cllr Horncastle reported on a number of issues at County level, mostly to do with the budget likely to be approved for the next financial year. The new CEO Dr Helen Patterson starts work soon and there has been a refining of management leaders aimed at working more efficiently within the County. The Fire Brigades Union have accepted an offer from the County Council and will not strike. A number of services have increased pricing, mostly by 6-7% in most cases. The County have managed to save ~£17 million without making any cuts to services and a better than expected government settlement was offered. As in last year's budget there is a £2 25 million extra pot for rural communities.

There are still some 400 Ukrainians in the County. The Police precept has increased by 15% and is to go to fund 134 new officers.

7. **Correspondence:** Circulated as emails: weekly E News from NALC; E- News from CAN;

8. **Finance:** a) Balance at 30th January 2023 £2017.31

b) The following payments were authorised:

MFAnderton, February 2023 £152.49

Whittonstall Community Band (re Xmas)

£50.00

9. Information received: CPRE magazines

10. **AOB:** ~ Cllr Wolters will email people for a get together to discuss future events;

~ The Feathers will reapply to make the covered parking area permanent as it was during Covid with tables and benches. It was noted the Council should positively support this when it comes before them;

~ the Clerk reminded members they were part of the East Tynedale Forum. She agreed to circulate the Constitution and recent minutes of the Forum for information. Members can attend the meetings (quarterly) and the Forum also has a seat of the NALC County Committee, which is vacant at present.

11: **Date of next meeting:** 13th March 2023 at 7.30pm in the Feathers.

Chair:

Date: