

HEDLEY ON THE HILL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 21st March 2022 at 7.30pm in The Feathers

Present: Cllrs Watkins, Douglas, Barnes, Renwick and Wolters. Monica Anderton, Clerk was in attendance; also one member of the public. Cnty Cllr Horncastle was in attendance until after his report.

1. **Apologies:** None

2: **Declarations of Interest:** None

3. **Minutes** from the meeting of 10th January 2022: These were **approved** as a true record.

4. **Matters arising:** a) Xmas electricity: The Clerk had queried a possible cost with the Feathers but had received no reply as yet. Cllr Wolters agreed to follow up:

b) Village Freeman: It was formally agreed that this process should go ahead for former councillors Penny, Rodgerson and Speak in view of their long service. A suitable logo was in preparation and once digitised, suitable scrolls would be selected with appropriate wording on them for a short formal meeting at a later date;

c) GF White would be asked to forward the specific comments that Highways had made about the original application relating to the Village Green in particular.

5. **Planning:** a) 21/04949/FUL – single storey side extension at 4 Claire Lea – council had no objections to this;

21/02377/FUL – retrospective car port etc. at The Feathers erected during Covid- Permission refused;

22/00312/FUL – New vehicle access track at Hedley East Farm: There was considerable discussion about this latest application, including from the member of the public. The consensus agreement was that although the new track was not to be tarmaced and was narrower, marginally; and a traffic report had been undertaken concerning the access point. there was little or no difference to objections that were made to the original application which has since been withdrawn; and the Council would object to the application.

6. **Communication Strategy:** The draft proposals were agreed by Council. More detail on the how to raise awareness in the Parish of what the Council does and the best ways in which to progress matters are to be detailed. The website may be assessed for ways to improve it; a GDPR policy will be produced; more use will be made of the Whats – app group; font standardisation on notices should be observed; better use of the notice board was also recommended. It was also agreed that the current Notice Board should probably be replaced and Cllr Renwick would look at an application for funding for a new one from the Boundary Wind Farm Fund. The Clerk would also send the log in details for the website to Cllr Wolters. The logo being designed for the Freedom scrolls would also get wider use on formal notices. It was also noted that care should be taken in any public notice that it is accurate and cannot be subject to any abuse.

7. **County Councillor Report:** Cllr Horncastle reported on several issues: the budget had been passed with no loss of front line services and a small increase in funding for C and U roads in the county; The Local Plan would finally be adopted on 30th March which will simplify planning matters; the County Council is doing as much as possible to help Ukraine by taking in refugees and sending aid.

8. **Telegraph pole:** A resident had raised the issue of the pole wires being tangled in the branches of the Millenium Oak. On a basis of comparative costs, it was agreed that regular tree pruning was the better, more cost effective option to continue with.

9. **Correspondence:** Circulated as emails: weekly E News from NALC;E- News from CAN; sundry emails regarding recent storm damage and lifting of Covid restrictions.

10. **Finance:** a) Balance as at 31st January 2022 is £3063.51

b) The following payments were authorised:

MFAnderton, Clerk, January 2022	149.89
MFAnderton, Clerk, February 2022	149.89
Spanglefish re website	89.85
Clerk expenses to date	28.14
Richardson & Sons, tree	114.00

c) To note National pay award for Clerks, backdated to 1 April 2021

11. Information received: Clerks & Councils Direct – January 22/ February

12. **AOB:** ~ Horticultural Show – Needs to be publicised in next few weeks along with Jubilee events;

~ New road signs will be asked for at each end of the village (from NCC) saying 'Caution Children'; Also to be asked to replace road name signs at Clare Lea and High View which are dangerously poor;

~ a number of smaller tidying up matters were noted, some of which are for the gardener and/or Councillors; and a couple more for the County Council;

~ drains a big problem; Dixon's gets blocked regularly from the Farm – also the one opposite School Row is blocked; trees on West Hill are going to be an issue if frequency of storms continues – needs to be drawn to NCC's attention re possible cutting back before they blow down;

~ Grass cutting: there was some discussion about the request from the gardener to increase his costs to the Council. Whilst recognising he does excellent work and also that costs such as insurance and fuel are rising, it was agreed that the number of cuts should be kept the same and the Council would offer him the lesser sum of £220 per cut and wait to see if he accepts the conditions.

~ A village tidy up will be organised pater in the year.

13: **Date of next meeting:** 11th April 2022 at 7.30pm in the Feathers.

Chair:

Date: