

HEATH HAYES AND WIMBLEBURY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting

Held on Wednesday 5th February 2020

Hayes Green Community Centre, Heath Way, Heath Hayes

Present:

Cllrs. M.Buttery (Chair), J.Aston, D.Baker, J.Bernard, L.Bullock, P.Dadge, P.Ferraby, A.Fitzgerald, P.Haden, P.Hewitt, S.Thompon, D.Todd

In Attendance:

18 members of the Public

Temporary Clerk for Meeting: Mrs.L.Florence

Public Participation:

The main focus of the public participation was questions raised relating to the odour and smells from the Poplars Landfill site. This has been an ongoing problem for many years but has escalated since October. The meeting was informed that although the Parish Council have no power to enforce any action they have been instrumental in being involved in the process at both County and District level and have attended meetings where matters have been raised in an attempt to put pressure on the organisations involved to find a resolution to the problem. The Parish Council together with Hednesford Town Council and Norton Canes Parish Council have written jointly to Public Health England stating that we are not only applying for remedial action to be taken but also feel that an independent inquiry into the operation of the site particularly on the effect on public health now and potentially in the future. Important that once the situation is resolved that we continue to challenge the Environment Agency for their neglect of duty to the general public

Cllr.P.Hewitt gave an update on the steps being taken and stated that whilst he would not have all the answers to the questions being raised he would be happy to take these forward and find answers which would be communicated to residents. It was noted that pressure has been put on the Environment Agency who are responsible for the monitoring of this site and who are now taking seriously the views of the general public regarding this matter. It is important that this pressure continues.

Action: Clerk to take a list of questions raised which Cllr.Hewitt would take forward.

Cllr.P.Hewitt wished to praise the work that local resident Mrs.Kerry Morris had done in bringing everyone together to raise the profile of the issues at Poplars Landfill site.

Public Participation closed at 7.50 p.m.

Cllr L.Bullock proposed that Agenda items 5, 10 and 17 should be dealt with under Confidential.

Resolved: To move the agenda items stated to Confidential which excludes the public.

1. **Apologies, Consideration of any apologies received in writing before the start of the meeting.**

Apologies were received from Cllr.Mrs.D.Bennett.

Resolved: To accept the apology.

2. **Declarations of Interest**

Declarations of interest were received from:

Cllr.D.Todd - District Council Planning Committee (Agenda item 4)

Cllr.D.Todd - Senior Residents Support Group (Agenda item 5)

Cllr.L.Bullock - Five Ways School (Agenda item 5)

Cllr.S.Thompson – PTA for Gorsemoor School (Agenda item 5)

Cllr.P.Dadge - Cannock and Burntwood Community First Responders (Agenda item 5)

Cllr.P.Hewitt - Zumba Group (Agenda Item 5)

3. **To approve the Minutes of the meetings held on the 4th December 2019 and 8th January 2020 and consideration of any matters arising not on the agenda**

The Minutes of the meetings held on the 4th December 2019 and 8th January 2020 having previously been circulated were agreed.

RESOLVED: To approve the Minutes.

4. **Planning**

Cllr.L.Bullock informed the meeting that he had not yet been able to go through the planning applications received but would report back to the March Council meeting.

5. **Grant Aid – See Confidential item**

6. **Remembrance Sunday 2020**

It was reported that the working group had recently met and have started to go through the plans for the 2020 event. A list consisting of transport, food, location, police, road closure, marshalls were all discussed and this work will be ongoing.

Some discussion ensued on the police presence for this event and it was suggested that the Chairman should write to the Police and clarify what assistance could be made available for this event.

Action: Chairman to write to the Police re support for Remembrance Sunday event.

7. Newsletter

Cllr.P.Dadge said that a draft newsletter was not yet available as he was awaiting suggested content from Councillors. It was suggested to highlight the need for volunteers for marshalling at the Remembrance Day Parade. Also arrangements for the VE 75th Anniversary could be included in the newsletter.

8. Cannel Mount

An update on the Cannel Mount Project was given. Whilst the site had been cleared with the help of Kingsmead School last year, the site is now back in the same state. Cllr.J.Aston reported that the School are happy to help again this year. Cllr.J.Aston suggested that as the school are willing to be involved whether some kind of donation could be made for a Festival that they are arranging. There was some feeling towards how funds are administered and generally there is a precedent already set for schools to receive funds through the S137 grant scheme and no application has been received from Kingsmead for this financial year. Discussion ensued on whether a donation could be made to the School in recognition of their help with work on Cannel Mount.

Resolved: To give a donation of £250 to the School for the Festival.

Suggestion as to whether the Prince's Trust could be contacted to ascertain if they would be able to help with the Project. There would have been plans in place when the land was acquired and it was agreed to look into this to find further information. It was agreed that there needed to be a Management and Development plan to be in place. Suggestion about whether in the plans some allocation for car parking spaces could be included.

Cllr.J.Aston put forward some of the suggestions that had been suggested for the development of the site. Cllr.P.Hewitt said that he was concerned about the proposals suggested which appear to be very expensive. He saw no problem in being ambitious but need to be aware that it is a much bigger project than envisaged. Some discussion about the ownership of the adjacent site as to Taylor Wimpey or CISWO. It was agreed that contact be made with CISWO to explore this issue.

Action: Cllr.J.Aston to contact CISWO about the site.

9. Christmas Lights

Cllr.J.Bernard reported that he had attended a meeting with Hednesford Town Council and Norton Canes Parish Council to consider the review of the 3 year Contract for the provision of Christmas Lights. The Contract expired December 2019. The Co-ordinator had obtained quotes from other companies which were discussed. The general view of the meeting was that the 3-year Contract with Turnocks the previous providers had operated well and that they are local so are able to respond should there be any difficulties. There is a 2% increase for each year of the 3 year Contract. Should the Parish Council wish to take this Contract in

house then Turnocks would requote and the costs would be more. The quote provided is for the current number of Christmas lights, should Councillors wish to consider more for 2020 then the costs would increase. Due to the age of the current lights that were transferred from the District Council, it may be necessary within the next couple of years to replace them with new ones.

In addition to the Contract for the Lights, we pay the sum of £500 for the Co-ordinator Role who is employed by Hednesford Town Council to oversee the testing of poles and liaison with the Contractor re installation of lights and switch on. It was suggested at the meeting that due to the amount of work involved that this figure should be increased to £550 for each Council. Cllr.J.Bernard stated that the general view of the meeting was to have the status quo and that the increase was reasonable which Clerk's at individual Council's could not accommodate in their current working hours..

Resolved: To accept the quotation for a new 3 year Contract with Turnocks and agree the increase of £50 for the role of the Co-ordinator.

10. **Audit and Governance Committee** - See Confidential Item.

11. **Environment Issues**

Open Spaces -

Litterpick – the meeting was informed that the next planned litterpick was the 15th February. Looking to clear some of the car parks in the area which will contribute to plans for VE Day. It was suggested whether there was a role of a odd job man/lengthsman role to do this.

Information Leaflet - Cllr.L.Bullock referred to the leaflet which had in the past been produced and delivered to all residents in the village. The leaflet included a map of the area showing public paths and cycle routes and Cllr.Bullock suggested whether this should be reviewed and reprinted.

Walking Bus - Cllr.L.Bullock said that this initiative had not taken off in the way it was thought. This is due to not enough people wanting to use the system and a lack of support from parents. It was suggested that awareness re this project could be raised in the next edition of the Newsletter and ascertain what response is received. It was also agreed to contact the County Council and speak to the relevant Officer who is leading on this and ask for suggestions about how to get this project off the ground.

Action: Contact be made with the County Council re how to take forward the walking bus initiative.

Cycle Routes – an initial meeting with Burntwood Town Council and Norton Canes Parish Council had been attended by the previous Clerk to look at cycle routes and connectivity with other areas There has been no further meeting and it was agreed that contact be made to ascertain what the next steps are.

Action: Contact with Burntwood Town Council to ascertain next steps re cross border cycle routes.

12. Dementia Friends

Cllr.D.Todd outlined the planned events taking place which included afternoon tea each month. Bains the Chemists have been approached to alert people to the events taking place and that the group is now looking to build on the events for the future. Cllr.P.Hewitt said that he attends the Dementia Alliance meetings and he would be happy for this to be an agenda item for the future where he can feedback what is happening at County level.

13. Reports from Councillors

VE Day 75th Anniversary - Cllr.J.Bernard referred to this commemoration event that will occur between the 8th and 10th May which is a designated Bank Holiday as it was felt that the village should be involved in this event. Cllr.Bernard had made some enquiries relating to some embroidered poppy display that had been commissioned by another Parish Council and felt that it would be a good idea for Heath Hayes to consider something similar in recognition of the significant event. Cllr.Bernard was able to show the meeting the design of the display which was well received. Discussion ensued on locations where the displays would be and how many of them would be required. Cllr.L.Bullock suggested that a small budget be made available for funds to be made available for the purchase of 5 of the window displays and any other ideas that may come forward as part of this event. It was agreed that a small group of Councillors meet to discuss plans and report back to the Council. It may be possible to get the local schools and businesses involved.

Resolved: To agree to purchase 5 of the window displays at a cost of £300. A working group be set up to look into other plans for this event and to report back to full Council.

Miners Chain - Cllr L.Bullock raised the matter of an historic miners chain which had been carved from a single plank by a local man called Teddy Buckley and was 40 metres. Cllr Bullock felt that it should come back to the village to be put on display in the Library. It was originally on display in the Museum in St.Mary's Church in Lichfield but the history lies with Heath Hayes. He had looked into the history relating to this and there is a lot of information about the man. Cllr.Bullock felt that this was something that should be displayed in Library given that he was a local man. Discussion ensued and it was agreed that approaches be made to the Museum but that this would also need to be included on the Parish Council's insurance.

Proposed: Cllr.L.Bullock

Seconded: Cllr.D.Todd.

Resolved: To look into bringing this display back into the custody of Heath Hayes Parish Council and to be displayed at the Library. The Parish Council would take responsibility for the insurance.

14. Accounts for Payments

Accounts for February as per circulated list were authorised.

Proposed: Cllr.L.Bullock

Seconded: Cllr.D.Baker.

Resolved: To authorise the listed payments.

15. Items for Future Agendas

To consider the grant applications for 2020

(a) Consideration re use of technology and public engagement

(b) To discuss the mud issues on Hobart Road which is quite hazardous.

Consider the paper circulated by the SPCA re Parish and Town Councils' role in tackling loneliness and homelessness.

16. Date of next meeting: Wednesday 4th March 2020

SIGNED: DATE