

# HECK PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF HECK PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2020 at 19.00 in HECK PARISH ROOM

Chairman: Cllr L Watkinson-Teo

Clerk/RFO: Mr J R Hunter, 20 Blackthorn Close, Whitley, Goole, North Yorkshire DN14 0GE

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Present: Cllrs L Watkinson-Teo (Chairman); J Wright (Vice Chairman); G Mycroft; H Benson-Collins; J Lumb  
Clerk/RFO – JR Hunter. Selby District and North Yorkshire County Cllr J McCartney

No members of the public present

## Agenda items

### 012001. Welcome

- Chairman welcomed all present to the meeting and introduced John R Hunter who following interview by Cllr Watkinson-Teo and Cllr J Wright for the position as Clerk to the Council **proposed** that he be appointed as Clerk to Heck Parish Council. **Seconded:** Cllr J Wright **Carried** Unanimously.

### 012002. Apologies

- All Councillors were present at the meeting.

### 012003. Public Forum:

- To receive comments from electors on any agenda items. *Information only; clerk to take notes - no members of the public were present at the meeting.*

### 012004. Minutes of last meeting:

- The council resolved to accept the minutes as a true record of the Heck Parish Council meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> November 2019 and the Chairman signed as acceptance of the minutes

### 012005. To receive reports, for information only, from:

- a) District and County Councillor – reported on the current status of the application in connection with the Gale Common Extraction Project – following meetings with the North Yorkshire principal planning officer Felicity Hart and the applicants an extension to the date of the planning committee meeting during which the application would be considered was granted until 25<sup>th</sup> February 2020. The key issues being the impact of the project on the green belt and a requirement by North Yorkshire Planning that the recovered ash be transported in an environmentally friendly manner.

Cllr Watkinson-Teo offered the apologies from a member of the public who was unable to attend the meeting to provide comments and observations on the Stobart Bio Mass project. An open invitation has been extended to Cllr McCartney to make a personal visit to discuss the matter.

Cllr McCartney informed the meeting of corrections to the timing of crossing traffic lights at Hensall.

The potential and the timing of a possible development at Pollington was raised with some conjecture on the implications of the establishment of a new town; improvements in traffic flow, a new junction on the M62 and imposition of weight restrictions on the bridge at Heck.

A planning application has been made by Eggborough Power which is yet to be validated for the demolition and redevelopment of the site. The aim is that development will commence in July 2020 with the sighting of a new roundabout and the provision of a new sports field.

Cllr Watkinson-Teo enquired about the footpath repairs at Hensall. Cllr McCartney explained that the parish council had contributed £2,000 to a total cost that would amount to £10,000.

Cllr Watkinson-Teo advised of her email communication with Sharon Fox regarding the state of the footpaths and potholes in the village. An inspection was carried out imminently to assess the state of the pathways and determine the degree of degradation and whether the condition qualifies for repair work. Cllr Watkinson-Teo expressed her wish to ensure that a member of the Council attend and observe the next inspection.

- b) Police – as far as the Council are aware there have been no further incidents reported concerning properties in Heck. It was decided that in future should any issue arise requiring contribution by the police representatives will be specifically invited to attend and report under a specific item on the agenda.
- c) Other representatives

#### **012006. Planning:**

1. Applications – to discuss and **resolve** comments on any applications received  
– 2019/1269/FUL – Proposed conversion of existing workshop to create a dwelling, The Stables, Main Street, Great Heck – Heck Parish have no objection and abstained from comment.
2. **Decisions – none at time of agenda preparation**  
Updates – to receive updates on any planning matters/issues of concern and **resolve** any necessary action

#### **012007. Heck Ladies Group:**

- The next project for which involvement of the Heck Ladies group would be sought is the village annual spring clean in April.

#### **012008. RFO's report on closing balances; payments; preparation of accounts for audit**

- a) Current balances: The RFO present the report on the current financial position and status of the Heck Parish Council. Total income to date from precept and annual rentals was £5,073 compared with total expenditure of £4,982 generating as at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2019 a surplus of £91.00 and a balance of funds in the bank current account of £6,179.69.

The forecast income for the remainder of the year to March 2020 is £200 on account of Parish Room rent for the Parliamentary Elections in December and an estimated expenditure of £60 for light and heat, £50 for payroll preparation and £576 for the salary of the Parish Clerk. To this sum will be added further costs for replacement of street lighting and provision of litter bins which is budget at £1,600. The net result of which is that at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020 Parish Council reserves are forecast to be £4,500; £653 being set aside for defibrillator funds the balance being unrestricted reserves.

- b) Payments to be made at this meeting: None
- c) Payments made between meetings: None
- d) Payments received: None
- e) Any payment requests received since agenda preparation – none received at time of agenda preparation
- f) Acceptance of report – the Council resolved to accept the details of the report.

**012009. Correspondence received since last meeting.** *For information only unless stated otherwise.*

- i. SDC – various emails – forwarded to Cllrs.

**012010. To receive information on the following ongoing issues and decide further action where necessary:**

***Glass Foam Manufacturing Facility at Sellite Blocks Limited*** – the proposed impending planning application by the owners Thomas Armstrong (Construction) Limited was discussed including details of conversations with the advisor to the project. The lack of understanding on the full nature of the proposal and its impact on the environmental on the land, on air quality and road usage presented some concern to Councillors.

**Action:** Following Cllr Watkinson-Teo's email the clerk to follow up communication with Thomas Armstrong (Construction) Ltd and invite them to a public meeting to present full details of the project and respond to questions.

**Status on the Gale Common Extraction planning application** was reported by Cllr John McCartney during the item 012005 a) above.

**Precept:** The RFO with reference to current levels of expenditure and anticipated rental incomes tabled a financial budget for the year to March 2021. In the course of reviewing financial requirements the council debated the current level set for allotment rents.

**Proposed:** Cllr Benson-Collins allotment rents be increase to £15.00 at the forthcoming anniversary of each contract renewal. **Seconded:** Cllr Watkinson-Teo. **Carried** Unanimously.

After due consideration the Council concluded that financial resource required to support day to day management of the Parish is £5,000. **Proposed:** Cllr Watkinson-Teo the Heck Parish Precept for 2020/21 be set at £5,000 to cover the annual costs including village maintenance such as streetlight repairs and replacement and hedge cutting. **Seconded:** Cllr Benson-Collins **Carried:** Unanimously.

**Action:** Cllr Watkinson-Teo and the RFO John Hunter signed the notification of 2020/21 Precept. Clerk to forward the duly signed notification of precept for 2020/21 to Selby District Council.

**Purchase of Litter Bins:** It was noted that the village has a requirement for two additional litter bins; at the Fisherman's Car Park and at the village Memorial. Given the Fisherman's Car Park is located on property owned and managed by the Canal Rivers Trust, the Council concluded that refuse collection on this site is the responsibility of the CRT to whom a request for the installation of litter bin should be addressed.

**Action:** Clerk to request submit request to Canal Rivers Trust for the supply of a litter bin.

**Streetlight Repair and Replacement:** The cost of repair to the streetlights in the village was discussed; notwithstanding a maintenance contract between Heck Parish and North Yorkshire Highways a quote of £710 per light had been offered for replacement. Cllr McCartney advised that it was entirely at the discretion of the Parish to whom to place contracts and it was in their right to obtain quotes from suitably approved private contractors. The basis of billing for electric supply to the streetlights was also explained; actual electrical usage is not metered but is based purely upon inventory of the type of bulb and estimated average consumption figures. For this reason, it is important that an accurate inventory of light fittings is carried to ensure charges are appropriate.

**Action:** Clerk to investigate the current contracts in connection with street lighting in the village. Cllr Watkinson-Teo to email Clerk with copy of communications with Peter Balls outlining details of required repairs and replacements to Heck Parish lighting.

**Village Hedge Cutting:** A quote of £600 has been received that covers hedge cutting throughout the village in June. Given legal restrictions that prohibits any access during the nesting season from March to August any comprehensive cut would have to be actioned in September. The hedge on Main Street is substantially overgrown

**Proposed:** Cllr Watkinson-Teo subcontractor be requested to carry out cut on Main Street as soon as possible January or February at a budget of £200 **Seconded Cllr J Wight. Carried.** Unanimously.

**Action:** Cllr Watkinson-Teo to contact the hedge subcontractor and request the cut on Main Street.

The state of the hedges to be reviewed in September and further discussion and action to be taken as appropriate including approaches to District and County Councils to investigate their respective responsibilities in the management of the hedges and verges.

**Changes to the Bank Mandate:** Cllr Watkinson-Teo has formally notified the bank of the changes to the bank mandate specifically the addition of details of John Hunter as Clerk to the Council. It is to be noted the Clerk is not a cheque signatory; the current signatories being Cllr Watkinson-Teo, Cllr J Wright and Cllr J Lumb with any two signatories required for each cheque payment. Should the need arise Cllr Mycroft and Cllr Benson-Collins will be added as further cheque signatories.

**012011. Action taken since last meeting. For information only.**

- i. Update on actions from clerk and councillors

Booty Lane: Cllr Mycroft briefed the Council on the results of enquiries with the Land Registry and communication the technical officer of Countryside Access North Yorkshire. The parcel of land referred as Sunnyside is owned by North Yorkshire County Council. The route of Booty Lane is not presently owned but is recorded on a definitive map as a public footpath and as such the County is responsible for the surface of the footpath. Since the land is free from current ownership the Parish Council could choose if they wish to register the land following which they would take on responsibility for its management and control; the likely costs and implications were to be considered.

**Action:** Cllr Mycroft to investigate likely costs and legal fees associated with the adoption and registration of ownership of Booty Lane by Heck Parish Council.

The purchase of a litter bin for the Railway Memorial was considered; Cllr Wright questioned the ownership of the land and speculated that this was the property of British Railways and that if such is the case suggested British Rail be approached to provide an appropriate bin. It was noted that the quantity of refuse by the memorial is compounded by HGV drivers who are in the practice of overnighing at the adjacent park.

**Action:** Cllr Wright to communicate with North Yorkshire Highways to establish ownership and responsibility for the land and layby at the Rail Memorial garden. If the land is owned by British Rail then write requesting that they provide a waste bin. In addition, North Yorkshire Highways be reminded of their undertaking to erect a No HGV Parking sign at the Memorial Garden layby.

Given the cost of streetlighting replacement it was decided to hold the L19 lamp replacement until the next financial year.

A party had expressed interest in purchasing the Council owned parcel of land adjacent to the Mount. Councillors debated the financial implications of the sale; legal fees, the costs of planning applications and land values. Given the limitations placed upon the Council in the use of funds generated from the sale of capital assets and the ramifications on any future precedents that may be set it was resolved to respectfully decline the offer.

**Proposed:** Cllr Watkinson-Teo decline the offer of sale of land adjacent to the Mount. **Seconded:** Cllr Benson-Collins **Carried:** Unanimously.

**012012. Councillors' Forum:**

- *Councillors to raise any matters of concern or interest. No decisions can be taken on any matters raised*
- Councillors discussed the impending closure of Pollington Bridge for maintenance and repair work that is scheduled to be carried out between 27<sup>th</sup> January 2020 and 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2020. Concerns were raised about the impact of increased traffic arising from the diversions routed through Great Heck; traffic volumes that will be in addition to the current levels passing along Main Street and Long Lane that is already burdened with HGV movements of up to 500 per day that often exceed speed limits. It was considered that the ever present issue of speeding through the village will be compounded by the extra flow; such is the affect that the Council hold the view that this warrants the regular deployment of police van speed camera checks along the route particularly on Long Land and Main Street. In addition, in recent months there have been occasion when the current experimental curfew restrictions on HGV lorries during the hours of 11.00pm and 6:30 am have been breached.

**Action:** The Clerk to make representation to North Yorkshire police for the regular deployment of police speed camera checks at suitable locations in the village including Main Street and Long Lane.

**Action:** Information of those HGV movements that have been logged operating in breach of current restrictions to be reported to Area 7 Highways requesting appropriate action.

- During the discussion in connection with the proposed planning application by Thomas Armstrong (Construction) Ltd questions were raised concerning ownership of land adjoining the Sellite facility. Councillors speculated on likely candidates concluding that reference to the Land Registry would provide the information.
- The recent sale of Plasmoor Quarry was considered and potential intentions of the new owners in the use of the land was flagged as an area of interest to the Council.

**012013. Parish room to playground footpath**

– Weeding around the Parish Room will be planned in the Spring in conjunction with organisation of the litter pick and Spring Clean.

**012014. Items for the next agenda:**

- Information on Glass Foam Manufacturing at Selitte
- Investigation of new bins at Fisherman's Car Park and Rail Memorial
- Adoption and registration of land on Booty Lane
- Deployment of police speed camera vans

**012015. To receive further comments from members of public.** *Information only clerk to note comments – no MOPs present.*

**012016. To confirm date, time and place of next meeting. – 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2020**

**012017. Closure of meeting at 9.00pm**

Signed: *J R Hunter* Date: 20/01/2020. Clerk and RFO to Heck Parish Council