

HECK PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF HECK PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON Tuesday 5th Jan 2021 at 19.00 via Video Conference

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 (Chair), J Wright (Vice Chair) G Mycroft; H Benson-Collins;
Clerk/RFO – JR Hunter.

No members of the public were present

Agenda items

062001. Welcome

- Chairman welcomed all present to the meeting.

062002. Apologies

- Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Lumb.

062003. 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.

062004. Minutes of last meeting:

- The council resolved to accept the minutes as a true record of the Heck Parish Council meeting held on 3rd November 2020 and gave approval to the Vice Chair to sign as acceptance of the minutes for posting onto the Parish website.

062005. To receive reports, for information only, from:

- a) District and County Councillor – apologies were received from Cllr J McCartney.
- b) County Councillor – the county councillor did not attend the meeting
- c) Other representatives – there were no other representatives in attendance.

062006. Planning:

1. Applications – to discuss and **resolve** comments on any applications received.
- Concerns were brought to the Council's attention about a development currently active at Chapel House, Main Street, Heck DN14 0BQ. As far as can be established there is no evidence of any planning application lodged with Selby District in connection with the building works believed to be the construction of an outdoor manège. Several HGV vehicles have been observed travelling to and from the property.

There are also large excavating machines deployed on the site. Several residents have expressed concerns about the development.

Action: The Clerk to communicate with Selby District Planning registering concerns about the development, requesting appropriate investigative action be taken in the absence of appropriate planning approvals.

2. Decisions –

There have been no decisions since the date of the last Council meeting in November 2020.

062007. Heck Ladies Group:

- Cllr Watkinson-Teo advised that the original plan of Heck Ladies to sponsor purchase of Daffodil bulbs for the village has been abandoned and the group are considering providing financial support at a budget of £400/£500 for the purchase of Christmas Lights for deployment in the village in 2021. In addition, the Ladies Group has confirmed its commitment to the funding of two bins at £200 plus VAT to be located by the Fisherman's car park and the Memorial garden. The Clerk advised that an order for the bins has been raised with Selby District Waste Department installation to be arranged when COVID-19 restrictions permit.

All further meetings of the group have been suspended during the present lockdown.

Action: Clerk to liaise with the Heck Ladies Group once the bins have been delivered.

062008. RFO's report on closing balances; payments; preparation of accounts for audit

- a) Current balances: The RFO presented the report on the current financial position and status of the Heck Parish Council. Accounts for the financial period up to 31st Dec 2020 were presented for review. A total of £5,228 has been received in the year to date from rental receipts and precept. This compares with a cumulative expenditure of £5,389 producing a total deficit at the end of December of £161. A projection of total income and expenditure for the year to March 2021 showed a total income of £5,303 compared with expenditure of £6,139 leaving the anticipated balance of Council reserves of £6,184 after receipt of VAT refunds.
- b) Payments to be made at this meeting:
There were no payments to be made in the period to date.
- c) Payments made between meetings:

01/10/2020 – Yorkshire Water – rates Parish Room = £73.79
20/10/2020 – British Gas – light and heat Parish Room = £9.32
17/11/2020 – British Gas – light and heat Parish Room = £9.79
- d) Payments received: none.

The retrospective payments were approved by the Council.

- 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 and make the payments listed above including any received since publication of the agenda.
- g) Precept – agreement of precept for 2021/22.**

The Clerk presented an update on the anticipate budget for 2021/22 projecting a total income of £6,262 compared with expenditure of £6,220. The budgeted expenditure does include contingency estimates for repairs and park maintenance and projected levels of costs are consistent with historic patterns. The Clerk summarised the impact on the Council Tax of a precept set at £5,700.00 based on the number of band D homes in the Parish now firmed up at 91.87 houses in the village. The tax would be £62.04 for the year an increase of 17.2% an addition of £10 more than the previous year.

Cllr Watkinson-Teo queried the difference in rental income for the year to March 2021 of £303 compared to the projected rental for 2021/22 of £562. The Clerk advised that the current years shortfall was the effective of the Councils deferral of the car park rent of the Bay Horse Brewery during the period of the lockdown.

The Councillors debated a possible increase in rental charges for council owned land in the village. It was considered that a rise of 20% in rental was appropriate at the point of the annual rent review.

Councillors resolved unanimously that the precept should be set at £5,700 for the year 2021/22.

062009. Correspondence received since last meeting. *For information only unless stated otherwise.*

- a) Cllr Watkinson-Teo informed the council of routine security checks that were being carried out by HSBC concerning the HSBC Parish bank account. Details of addresses, nationality, and tax status of members of the council who were registered by the bank as key controllers of the account have been requested.

Action: Cllr Watkinson-Teo to correspond with designated key controllers to obtain required information.

- b) An email from a member of the public had been received pointing out the state of the memorial garden adjacent to the train disaster site inquiring into the name of the body responsible for its upkeep. The Council speculated that the area is maintained by Network Rail.

Action: Enquires to me made by councillors with village residents to ascertain the history of the memorial garden. Cllr Watkinson-Teo to investigate the ownership. liaise with them to initiate maintenance action and update the member of the public who originated the query.

- c) An email received from the project co-ordinator of the Safer Streets Initiative advising that 14 homes had registered with the scheme totalling 15% of households in the village. Home visits to conduct security surveys are planned for the month of January 2021. Noted.

062010.To receive information on the following ongoing issues and decide further action where necessary:

062010.1 - Environmental Health Issues and concerns in the Parish–

The meeting noted there was no update on the planning applications from Sellite or Brocklesby and several objections had been lodged including comments from the Parish Council raising its own concerns on behalf of the village.

It was also noted that Mill Balk Quarries has recently changed ownership and is now operated by Ashcourt Group Limited a company based in Hull. Concerns were raised regarding the familiarity of the new owners with the planning conditions attached to the site. In particular, the direction and timing of lorry movements through the village especially morning and evening during school terms. In addition, the appropriate maintenance of fuel storage tanks given their proximity to aquifers in the locality.

Action: The Clerk to write to the Ashcourt Group welcoming them to the village with a polite reminder of the planning conditions to which their operations in Mill Balk Quarries must adhere.

062010.2 – HGV movements -

Cllr Wright advised that in collaboration with Cllr Benson-Collins lorry movements in the village continue to be logged. Also, several attempts have been made to communicate, with little success, with the manager of the regional Lorry Watch Scheme an initiative of trading standards. Attempts at phone calls have been made since October and answer phone messages left with no response.

There have been 50 lorries moving through the village in November and 40 in December followed by quieter periods punctuated with a number of lorries carrying heavy blocks. It was considered that given the current lockdown there is little value in counting vehicles during the restrictions. Nor are there any curfew limitations on traffic movements.

Action: Cllr Watkinson-Teo to email Highways Area 7 advising of the Parish Councils unproductive attempts to engage with the Lorry Watch Scheme requesting their assistance in establishing communications.

The Clerk updated the Councilors on the status of the Gale Common Ash Removal judicial review. Three Parish Councils are joining in partnership to seek legal advice about the viability of an application for judicial review. Cllr Watkinson-Teo expressed the Parish's continuing support for the action that is being taken whilst making it clear that as a small parish it was unable to offer any financial contribution. It would however support efforts to engage with communities in advocating the use of alternative options to move the ash including canal barges.



062010.3 Signage on A19 -

The Clerk advised that approaches have been made to Area 7 Highways questioning the potential of the deployment of heavy lorry traffic restriction signs within the village. It was noted there were signs on the A19 on the North and South carriage ways just before the Balne Moor junction setting out HGV restrictions however there were concerns that the positioning of the signs so far from the entrance to Heck would render any legal remedy impotent.

Cllr Watkinson-Teo reminded the meeting that this issue had previously been addressed by the Council with North Yorkshire Highways who had provided assurances that the remote location of the restriction signs does not provide a legal loophole. HGV lorries breaching the speed limits would be subject to the full penalty consequences of the law.

Action: Cllr Watkinson-Teo to forward copies of the email addressing the issue to Councillors.

Cllr Mycroft noted that following some repair work to Long Lane between Springdale and Bridge Farm the 30mph road marking had not been repainted.

Action: Clerk to advise Area 7 Highways of the omission to repaint the 30-mph road marking.

062010.4 North Yorkshire, Police, Fire and Crime Commissioners -

The update on the progress of the Safer Streets Scheme was reported during the review of the agenda item 062009 Correspondence received.

062011. Action taken since last meeting. *For information only.*

Follow up actions have been discussed under the relevant agenda items.

062012. Councillors' Forum:

Cllr Benson-Collins raised the state of trees on the public footpath on Booty Lane that were in need of cut back as they remain a possible hazard to pedestrians.

Action: Clerk to notify North Yorkshire Highways of the state of the trees along the public right of way and request remedial action.

The Clerk informed the meeting that letters had been sent to transport operators of Kelkay, Hargreaves, Sellite, Stobarts, Celcon, Plasmor, and Brocklesby reminding them of the HGV restrictions through the village. In the absence of a direct letter in response calls have been made to the transport managers of the companies sharing the continuing concerns of the Council over breaches by lorries travelling through the village. Assurances were received that drivers would and are being reminded of the legal restrictions.

The Clerk stressed the importance of records of lorry violations being maintained and constant complaints directed at offending companies with concrete evidence of time, date and vehicle registration that will provide impetus for action by transport managers.

062013. Items for the next agenda

Any items for the next agenda should be forwarded to the Clerk.

062014. To receive further comments from members of public. *Information only clerk to note comments – no MOPs present.*

062016. To confirm date, time and place of next meeting. – Tuesday 2nd March 2021 starting at 6:30 pm

062017. Closure of meeting at 8.35pm

Signed: *J R Hunter* Date: 26/01/2021. Clerk and RFO to Heck Parish Council

LAURA WATKINSON-TEO

[Signature] . 26/01/2021