



Hapton Parish Council

Monday, 11th February 2013

Present: Councillor Birbeck (in the Chair), Barritt, Dawson, Kayley and Lakeland.

Others: Borough Councillors Barker, Cunningham and Greenwood, S. Watson (Clerk) plus 4 residents.

Parish Council Agenda

Councillor Birbeck opened the meeting and welcomed everyone.

12/13/122 Apology for absence

Apologies were submitted on behalf of County Councillor Sharon Wilkinson.

12/13/123 Declarations of Interest / Code of Conduct

There were no declarations of interest. Borough Councillor Cunningham informed the meeting that she had an interest in Planning Applications as she was on the Borough Council Planning Committee and would not take part in any discussions on applications.

12/13/124 Minutes of the last meeting held on the 14th January 2013.

The minutes of the last meeting were submitted for approval as a correct record. It was noted that Councillor Birbeck was unable to attend the Memorial Service and Councillor Lakeland was unable to attend the John Harbour meeting.

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Hapton Parish Council meeting on the 14th January 2013 are approved as a correct record.

12/13/125 RESOLVED: That the meeting would close to welcome comments from members of the public.

A resident raised an issue of dog fouling on the strip of land near her property on Water Street, but the identity of the culprit has not been determined. The dog Warden has been asked to this area previously. It was noted that the Dog Warden now had an assistant and has fined over 40 people recently. Councillor Cunningham agreed to pass the issue onto the Dog Warden which tends to happen around 10:30 to 11:00pm each evening. It was noted that the area has a dog bin so there was no reason not to clean up. It was also noted that there are dog fouling issues by the old people's grass verges and on the lower part of the park.

A resident asked if the Parish Council was aware of a proposal to move the speed limit sign on the A679 as a spokesperson at the County Council had said this was being considered. The sign was previously moved from this area due to a fatal accident lower down Burnley Road. The resident was concerned that re-locating the sign would leave them in the 60mph zone due to frustrations of drivers. It was suggested that a SPiD camera could be used in the area but there is currently no insurance for this. The SPiD was purchased by the Parish Council and St John's Resident's Association. Insurance costs approximately £200 a year. It was also asked if Burnley Road could have a police speed camera and police stops on mornings and evenings as it was suggested that there are accidents due to speed. The County Council is to be contacted for an update, the issue of speeding on Burnley Road is to be a Police and Communities Together priority for February. Councillor Birbeck agreed to contact the Police and a website article and poll will be published.

12/13/126 The meeting was formally re-opened for business

12/13/127 Update on Website

Councillors Lakeland and Birbeck's photographs have been published and a couple of articles have been written. The logo has been re-drawn and a new letterhead template can now be devised.

12/13/128 Update on Recreation Ground

Borough Councillor Greenwood provided an update on the Recreation Ground project following a meeting with Simon Goff and Councillor John Harbour. The Borough Council has agreed to level the field at a cost of £8,000 by moving topsoil from the area designated for the skate ramp. The contractors will be contacted about a revised quote for just the drainage and it is envisaged that both elements could be achieved within the budget. The Borough has been informed of the Kite Festival date. If a revised quote cannot be achieved, Sports England will be contacted to agree a way forward. The Parish Council formally thanked Councillor Greenwood for the time and effort she had put into the Recreation Ground project.

The Borough Council has been asked to repair the dry stone wall, they suggested removing the wall and replacing it with a wood and wire fence, however they have agreed to repair the wall and install hawthorn hedges to protect it in future. It was suggested that less aggressive hedging could be sourced, however it was felt that hawthorn would make the best protection. A hawthorn bush overgrowing the play area

needs to be removed and the Borough Council will be asked to do this whilst repairing the wall. It was noted that the playground equipment has been purchased at a cost of £14,000, however, due to a good deal this has resulted in more and better equipment than first envisioned. It was agreed that there would be no bushes planted on the bowling green. The Recreation Ground plans are to be published on the website for residents to make comments on. It was also noted that there are currently no plans for the existing playground site, however it is hoped that funding can be sought for a changing room facility in the future. The woodchip on the current play area is to be recycled to the new play area, the Borough Council have suggested back filling this with sand and provided a picnic bench to create an area for infants and young children. It was noted that the gates need to be fixed to prevent dogs using the sand, Councillor Cunningham will provide some dog fouling stickers.

The Viola bid is still being considered and the deeds, audited accounts and a letterhead are needed. Councillor Birbeck will chase up a copy of the deeds from Southern Solicitors.

12/13/129 Reports from representatives of outside Bodies

Councillor Lakeland attended the Police and Communities Together (PACT) meeting, but the Police were absent so the meeting was cancelled, Councillor Barker agreed to follow this up, there was no further report.

The Heritage Group is progressing well and has spent an afternoon in Burnley Library, the next meeting was due to be held the next day and an update on the website and pictures are expected. It has been suggested that the castle site may have been a manor house and Councillor Lakeland asked residents to provide any information they may have on the castle. A resident informed the meeting that she had a copy of the Song for Hapton by Sam Floyd when he was six years old and would let the Heritage Group have this.

12/13/130 Finances

The following bank balances for January were noted.

- Fundraising Account £1,914.65
- Expenses £ 345.98
- Env. Account £5,359.55
- **Total** **£7,620.18**

Budget report and bank statements were circulated.

Resolved: The bank balances and budget report are noted, the Clerk's Salary for January of £159.61 is approved for payment.

An invoice has been received from Turf Solutions for the site inspection and Councillor Greenwood agreed to check this with the Borough Council.

12/13/131 Planning Applications

There were two applications, the first from Mr. K Bansal for a proposed construction of a new farm building, the plans were circulated. It was noted that the application only required permission due to its location to the highway. It was suggested that the plans appeared to allow for a future conversion to a residential property or business storage. It was asked why a building was needed when the land was not being farmed.

RESOLVED: That the Parish Council objects to the application on the grounds that it is too near to the highway for farm usage or animal storage and the Parish Council is of the opinion that the building will not be used for the purpose intended. The building would be more in keeping if it was set further back and an industrial building is not in context with the residential buildings in the vicinity.

It was also mentioned that the old access is still usable as an access when the previous application stated it would be closed and hedged off and the applicant need to meet previous permission before being granted a new permission. A planning officer is to be invited to a Parish Council meeting to discuss the application further, it was also noted that there is still a caravan on the site.

The Parish Council had no objections to the Hapton Methodist School planning application and it was noted that objections had been submitted for the old pub applications and this would now go to the Committee for a decision.

12/13/132 Correspondence

- Burnley Borough Council, Precept notice
- Glasdon Catalogues

The concept of a precept was explained and that a project would need to be agreed and costed before a precept could be charged. A Lengthsman Scheme was suggested to carry out handy-man jobs around the village and plant up flower beds. It was agreed to carry out a resident's consultation and invite an Officer from the Borough Council to a future meeting to explain the rules of precepts.

The Correspondence was noted.

There are currently 3 vacant allotment plots which would be advertised. It was suggested that allotment tenants could be invited to a meeting to discuss allotment issues.

12/13/133 Visual Audits

It was noted that work had started on the Burnley Bridge and protection nets had been installed.

The reported missing tarmac on Burnley Road has been fixed and salt has been put on Hambledon Road.

There are 3 tyres in the lay-by just before Westhall Farm and there is a window out in the telephone box.

Councillor Barritt thanked the Clerk for keeping Councillors up to date on the issues and thanked Borough Councillor Greenwood for all her work on the Recreation Ground and other projects.

12/13/121 Date of next meeting

The date of the next Parish Council meeting will be held at 7:00pm on Monday 11th March 2013 at the Community Center.

The meeting closed at 8.40pm and all present were thanked for attending.